

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

JANUARY 13. Orata, schooner, 91 tons, Johnstone, from Hobart Town the 31st ultimo, with sundries. Passengers—Mr. Willford, Agent, Church.

DEPARTURES.

13. Transfer, brig, 173 tons, Munro, for Hobart Town, with sundries. Agents, Campbell, Bell and Co.

PROJECTED DEPARTURES.

Lapwing, schooner, 93 tons, Barker, for the Bay of Islands, with sundries, this day. Agents, Campbell, Bell and Co.

VESSELS ENTERED OUTWARDS.

Lady Macneil, ship, 587 tons, Douglas, for Calcutta, with troops, &c. Agent, F. Mitchell.

Envoys.—The following shipping intelligence, we copy chiefly from the London Mercantile Journal of 8th September, and The London New Price Current of the 11th September, viz:—

The Champion, Spencer, was entered outwards on the 27th August for Sydney. The Hawk, Brown, was entered outwards on the 27th August for South Australia.

The William Hughes, Dunkin, was entered outwards on the 27th August for Port Phillip. The Gremlin, Richards, was entered outwards on the 27th August for Hobart Town.

The Premier, Brownrigg, was entered outwards on the 27th August for Sydney. The Royal Mail, Batsey, was entered outwards on the 4th September for South Australia.

The Marquis de Dour, was entered outwards on the 6th September for Sydney. The Prince George, was entered outwards on the 27th August, in consequence of having sustained injury at sea.

The Petrel was laid on at Liverpool to convey emigrants to Sydney. The New Zealand, was laid on at Liverpool to convey emigrants to the Downs for Launceston on the 20th August.

The Jacon, Fielding, was loading at Liverpool for Sydney 1st September. The Arrow, Halsey, was loading at Liverpool for Sydney 1st September.

The Mary, McAulay, was loading at Liverpool for New Zealand 1st September. The York, Legg, was laid on for Port Phillip and Sydney, to convey emigrants.

The Thomas Crisp, was loading for Launceston. The Miranda was advertised to sail for Hobart Town.

The Marquis of Hastings was chartered for Port Phillip and Sydney, with passengers, and was to sail about the middle of October.

The Argyle was to leave about the beginning of November with emigrants for Port Phillip and Sydney.

The ship Naird, Manning, was laid on at Liverpool for Port Phillip and Sydney 28th August.

The ship Brothers, Wheeler, for Sydney, the ship Georgiana Stephenson, and the ship Trepier, Keane, were laid on at Liverpool for Port Phillip 28th August.

The ship John, from Port Phillip 6th March, arrived at Hobart Town.

The ship George, from Launceston, arrived at Bristol on the 30th August.

The ship Georgiana, from Sydney, arrived at Liverpool on the 24th July.

The ship Naird, from Sydney, arrived at Liverpool on the 24th July.

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is obviously and specially meant, to object to the dismemberment of New South Wales, or to the sub-division of it into independent provinces, with distinct governments of their own; and that is precisely what we said, it did object to.

To the dismemberment of the Colony of New South Wales, our article as strongly objected as the petition, and that too, perhaps, in more explicit terms; but we maintained, at the same time, that the integral division of this Colony into districts for the purposes described in the new regulations, could not be absolutely construed into a dismemberment. That the integrity of its government and territory was quite compatible with the proposed division of the Colony into districts, and with the institution of the new regulations, was all that we meant to say.

Does Mr. M'ARTHUR mean to contend, that either he or the petitioners could competently or rationally object to any design on the part of the Home Government, if such were entertained, of establishing "new settlements in Australia, under distinct governments of their own?"

As we understand it, in its territorial extension, is a much wider and more comprehensive term than New South Wales. "Australia" is the generic term that includes all the other minor British Settlements or Colonies on the coast of New Holland; which are all categorically comprehended under the head of Australian Colonies; and it would, we presume, be absurd for Mr. M'ARTHUR and his co-petitioners to have objected to the establishment of these settlements, when they were first started, as to object to the creation of any number of "new settlements" in other portions of the Australian Territory beyond the special limits of New South Wales.

In saying, therefore, that the petition did not object to this, we should think, we could not possibly be in error.

But, Mr. M'ARTHUR alleges, in the second place, that we mistated the expression he made use of, in course of one of his speeches on this point, at the meeting in the School of Arts. He quotes our words, where we said that "MR. JAMES M'ARTHUR assured the meeting that he, for one, was not at all opposed to the formation of new settlements, or to their having distinct governments of their own. The expression which Mr. M'ARTHUR says he used, was "the establishment of provinces, with Courts of Justice, and all the institutions essential to their local regulations and government."

Now, even giving Mr. M'ARTHUR the full benefit of his own version of his speech, we do not by any means think that we have done him any injustice in the sentiments which we have ascribed to him. By "provinces," we may understand either independent Colonies, such as South Australia, and Swan River, or extensive districts, or subdivision of one large Colony. If Mr. M'ARTHUR intended the former of these meanings, then our construction of his speech was essentially correct; and if he intended the second, then we cannot see that we have been guilty of any misrepresentation of his sentiments;—for if he would not object to the establishment of subordinate provinces with all the institutions of local self-government, we have surely a right to infer, a fortiori, that he would not, and could not reasonably object, "to the formation of new settlements," as we represented him to say, "or to their having distinct governments of their own."

With regard to the actual dismemberment of the Colony, we are as much opposed to it as Mr. M'ARTHUR is, as may be seen from the premises of our first article on this subject; but as to the other topics in his letter, we must defer noticing them in this number, obliged, as we are, from the space occupied by our English Intelligence and other matter, to postpone the sequel of our review of the petition and proceedings of the Meeting at the School of Arts till our next.

English News.

The news received per Ganges from England, 12th September, is somewhat meagre and sufficiently unsatisfactory.

The Eastern Question is still unsettled, Mehemet Ali has refused to submit to the terms determined on by the Four Powers, and from the preparations which are being made, there is every appearance of war.

In France, Spain, and Portugal, revolutionary symptoms are ever and anon exhibiting themselves, as will be more particularly shown by our extracts below.

With regard to commercial matters we have selected the most important notices from various papers. We would refer particularly to an article in our fourth page, taken from a London Commercial Paper, and to the prices of Colonial produce, as given below from The New London Price Current, of September 11, the latest in the Colony.

Our private letters state, as a current rumour in high quarters in Paris, that the Bank of England was about to suspend cash payments; and to request of the Bank of France a loan of 80,000,000 francs, (£3,200,000) which would be readily accorded.—Times, September 7.

The excitement in the Stock Market has rather abated but prices may be noted a shade

lower. Consols left off at 87½ buyers for money and 87½ to 8 for account. Bank Stock was 108 to 107. Exchequer Bills 10s. to 12s. premium.—Morning Herald, 10th September.

In the Foreign House the closing quotations for Spanish Active with the overdue Coupons were 2½ to 3; Portuguese Five per Cent 31 to 4, the Three per Cent 21 to 3, the Brazilian 70 to 80. Mexican Old Bonds 25 to 3, the New 26 to 7; Columbian 2½ to 3. Dutch Two and a half per Cent 49 to 50, the Five per Cent 98½ to 94. Belgian 98 to 100.—Ibid.

London and Birmingham Railway Shares were 66 to 6, Great Western 13 to 14 premium. South Western 5½ to 2½ per share. North Midland Old Shares 19 to 17 discount, the New 1 discount to 1 premium. Brighton 12 to 11½, Blackwall 2 to 1½ discount.—Ibid.

COLONIAL MARKETS.—The depressed state of the money-market and the disturbed state of politics in Europe have produced much heaviness in the mercantile markets since our last, and prices in almost all cases have exhibited a declining tendency. There is, however, a small quantity of produce only pressing for sale. In the wool market there is yet much quiet, owing to the bad state of trade in manufactures, but prices are not lower than they were. Colonial Gazette, September 9.

OLIVE.—Since our last report holders of common descriptions of fish oils have displayed firmness, and former rates have been maintained, but there has been only a limited business transacted for home use, and few purchases have been made for export. Cod is however not obtainable under 20s.; Pale Seal 31L. At auction eighty tons Southern only partly found buyers at 26L. 10s. to 12s. for good and fine quality, being its former value. The stocks being by no means large, and the clearances from the warehouses good, cause holders to be sanguine in their expectations. Sperm has been in increased request, and first quality has advanced to 100s., at which some parties will not sell; the stock on the decrease, there being a large consumption going on, and supplies come in slowly. Lined Oil has been taken sparingly, and prices have further given way, parcels on the spot having been disposed of at 28s. to 28s. 3d. Rape has been less in request, and is procurable on easier terms; sellers of pale at 39s. 6d., and brown 38s. Palm has sold steadily, fine quality at 38L to 38L. 10s. For East India Cocconut a steady demand has existed, and 32s. paid for good quality. For Olive there has been an extensive demand, and prices have improved, sales in Gallipoli made at 63L, and Spanish at 54L to 55L per ton; common sorts have been the most in request.—New London Price Current, September 11.

OLIVE.—Sperm, first quality 100L per ton; Head Matter, 101L per ditto. WHALE-OIL, 112L to 120L per ton. Wool, fine, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per lb.; good, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per lb.; middling, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d.; ordinary, 1s. to 1s. 2d.; in the grease, 7d. to 1d.; Lambs, 1s. 3d. to 2s. 6d. per lb. Wool, Caroline per foot, 4d. to 5d.—Ibid.

The Manchester papers confirm the views taken under this head in respect of the recent failures there. The most considerable of these that of Mr. Henry Forth the commission agent, is set down from "good authority," as stated, and about which there can be little question, at from 50 to 60,000L in amount of liabilities, which are precisely the sums mentioned at the time as the probable extent, when alluding to the absurd misrepresentations of an evening whip paper, in which they were variously stated at from 250,000L. to the monstrous amount of 400,000L. It transpires also that the share dealings or speculations of the house were to nothing like the length asserted, although even at 10,000L. of dead stock investment of that sort, which appears to be acknowledged, the amount would seem sufficiently large for any concern actively engaged in business, unless endowed with a considerable surplus of unemployed and unproductive capital. As to the effect on the share market here, it was doubtless greatly exaggerated in some of the papers. The truth is the accounts of these failures were received at a moment the stock and money markets were seriously affected by other and more weighty causes, and consequently any, however inconsiderable, addition of unfavourable intelligence was sure to be made the most of by those interested, so as to increase the gloomy apprehensions entertained. The Manchester failures were exhibited in their proper light at the time as merely accessory and not leading causes of the panic prevailing in the market. They exercised the more influence however because under the circumstances associated with other events of more threatening import, just as the last failure is commonly said to break the back of the overladen beast of burden.—Morning Herald.

The latest accounts of the disturbances in Paris are of a much more serious nature than any which we have yet received. The Republican chiefs of sections are said to have assumed the direction of the strike. On Monday, symptoms of revolt were apparent in the formidable Faubourg St. Antoine, and attempts were made to construct barricades; but the rioters were dispersed by a large show of troops. In some parts of the city the shops were closed, and the streets were occupied by the National Guard.—Colonial Gazette.

Private letters from Paris are sanguine with respect to the probabilities of an accommodation of differences on the eastern question, and singularly enough the measures taken by the Government on account of the disturbances among the workmen are cited in support of the opinion. For, it is argued, that these are regarded with a certain favour as tending to withdraw the public mind from the consideration of external affairs, and the agitation which they had before given rise. It is remarked that a grossly exaggerated importance has been assigned to the assemblages of the working classes, and says one writer, it was really ridiculous to see troops of the line, artillery, gendarmes and national guards parading and encumbering the streets to the number of tens of thousands and all against a few bodies of unarmed workmen, who would have been easily dispersed in your city (London) by a score of policemen. Under cover of the commotion thus produced and encouraged it was supposed the government contemplated making such advances or concessions as would lead to the re-establishment of more friendly relations,

with the other great powers on the Three-Egyptian dispute. It is to be observed however, that this after all is little better than guessing work in the writers, although worth referring to as tending to show how opinion sets in Paris among the more active commercial classes and stock speculators.—Morning Herald.

The news from Madrid (2nd September) are similar to those from Paris, an insurrection having broken out in that capital. "The national guards had remained under arms all the previous night, and had been joined by a part of the regiment of the Queen Regent, which had escorted Captain-General Aldega, who had left Madrid early on the morning of the 2nd, with twelve pieces of artillery and some cavalry. The regiments which have fraternized with the people are the King's, the Provincial de Mindonedeo, and the Queen Regent's, and also a part of the gendarmes, and as they effected their junction with the national guards they were greeted with loud cheers. The provincial junta also relied on a great portion of the division commanded by General Conde; and the Constitutional Alcaides, in order to increase their military forces, had issued orders for the enrolment of volunteers into the national guard.—Morning Herald.

Lisbon has again been threatened with insurrection.—Colonial Gazette, September 9.

DEVONPORT.—The St. George, 120 guns, was launched at Devonport on Thursday. It is estimated that thirty thousand persons witnessed the ceremony. Upwards of three thousand were on board the St. George, 120, which was brought from her moorings to a part of the harbour whence a good view of the launch could be had. Admiral Warren entertained 250 guests at his house during the day. The launch of the St. George, in 1827, and she is constructed on the principles of Sir Robert Seppings. The cost of the vessel is for labour, 15,613l.; materials, 17,176l.; total, 32,789l.—Colonial Gazette, September 6.

It is reported that the greatest activity prevails at the naval departments at Plymouth. The Catalina, 84, was commissioned on the 29th, by Captain Sir S. Roberts, C. B. The Bombay 84, is ordered to be masted without delay; she is expected to be masted immediately. The Weymouth 32, the Clarence 84, the Vanguard 84, and the Foudroyant, 72, are reported as ready for speedy commissioning.—Colonial Gazette, September 6.

PORTSMOUTH.—At Portsmouth there are at present no ships ordered for service except the Arcton 120, The Queen, 110, is to bear the colours of the St. George, and is preparing for the purpose. The Portsmouth correspondent of The Brighton Gazette says:—Earl Minto and Sir W. Parker, accompanied by the Secretary and Surgeon of the Navy have been here since Friday on their annual tour of inspection. The Lordship will depart on Wednesday morning, in the Admiralty steam yacht Firebrand, for Plymouth and Milford, Cork and Leith; at which two latter ports, it is said, frigate guard ships will in future be stationed. The Lordship is accompanied by Sir David Dunn, his secretary, and by a party of his staff. Their Lordships inspected her on Sunday, and directed that she should in the immediate future go to Cork, and thence to the Mediterranean. She takes out for the fleet a large party of officers and men, and is accompanied by one hundred prisoners are ordered to be entered for harbour duty in the guard-ships at the several ports, to admit of the men, now in them, being drafted to sea-going ships.—Colonial Gazette, September 6.

SHERIFFS.—An order for preparing the list of the rate, 120 guns, for sea, arrived at Woolwich, on Thursday night. She was accordingly taken into the basin at half past twelve o'clock; thence into one of the dry docks, with all her masts, guns, stores, and everything on board. The water was pumped out by steam engines, and the bottom examined, and her copper repaired where necessary; and she was ready to go to sea the same evening. The following day she was taken out of the dock, and the usual process of docking, undocking, caulking, and examining the bottom, and repairing the copper of a first rate of 120 guns, with all standing, was completed in the short space of twenty-four hours; and had it been necessary, it could have been completed even in less time.—Times, September 2.

WOOLWICH.—The ship of the line London, of 92 guns, is ordered to be launched, at Woolwich, on Monday, the 23rd. The steam, which was originally constructed after a plan of the late Sir R. Seppings, has been removed and replaced by one of the latest construction, the present master shipwright of the Chatham Yard. The following are the dimensions of the London, extreme length, 241 feet, extreme breadth, 54 feet 3 inches, length of lower deck, 160 feet 6 inches, height of masts, 208 feet.—Colonial Gazette, September 6.

In concluding our extracts, we have much pleasure in submitting the following from The Perthshire Constitutionalist, of August 26, relating to our much respected fellow-colonist, T. Walker, Esq. It will be seen by it that even in the remote parts of the United Kingdom, the affairs of this colony are exciting considerable interest, and that the justice of our claims as to the restitution of our land-fund are admitted.

In another column we have given a brief review of the Emigration Fund for 1840, and last, of a public dinner given in mark of respect to Thomas Walker, Esq., and an acknowledgment of his services to the colony, on his departure from New South Wales for his country, where he intends to sojourn for a few months. The public opinion of the colony, on the 12th of March, and since that period Mr. Walker has safely arrived in his native country. We notice this occasion partly that Mr. Walker's friends at home may see in what respect he has been generally and justly appreciated by the political observers of the day. The Editor of The Colonist has founded thereon. The proceedings at the dinner were strictly non-political, but it is pretty evident that Mr. Walker is "expected" to exert himself for the improvement of the political condition of the colony. The chairman admitted that "from no man had they received more" than from their guest, and at the same time insinuated a hope that he would exert his energies in "obtaining the rights they expect." By these, the journalist first, he was understood to mean the "political rights of representative government."

It is farther stated that whatever differences of opinion may exist as to details, all parties are anxious for the attainment of the leading object, and agreed on the necessity of a representative legislature. The moral condition of the colony may be approximating towards a standard entailing it not less to the privileges of representative government than our colonies in North America or the West Indies; and certainly the introduction of a still more numerous "free and reputable population," by giving an impulse to emigration from the mother-country would strengthen their claim to all other legitimate rights and privileges. We are not aware, however, that the subject has yet excited the warm general interest in this country, and it may require the exertion of Mr. Walker's best energies to awaken it; but certainly, if it is ascertained that without a representative government all the "steam power" in words will not save the colony from retrograding to the condition of a mere government, the sources of labour will be annihilated—the land fund become extinct—and none of the advantages and improvements so fondly contemplated ever realized—it is time for the legislature at home to think of it. We do not pretend to be particularly acquainted with the subject, but certainly if the benevolent would really produce opposite effects, and it is of importance to this country to have thriving colonies, it would be worth while even to sacrifice something for the consummation of such a purpose.

Original Correspondence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FREE PRESS.

Camden, JANUARY 14, 1841. Sir.—THE FREE PRESS of the 9th inst. has only reached me by this morning's post, and I have no time in calling your attention to what appears to me an erroneous view, contained in the leading article upon the petition adopted at the public meeting on the 7th January.

In the first place, it is broadly asserted, that "the petition does not use any objection to the supposed design of the Home Government to establish new settlements in Australia, under distinct governments of their own." In answer to this, I beg to refer you to the petition itself, which sets out by representing the feelings of anxiety and alarm that have been excited by the introduction of two bills into Parliament, proposing to establish new settlements in Australia, and to limit New South Wales to nineteen counties, and concludes by entreating "that Her Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct, that the measures which have been proposed, as before stated, for the dismemberment of this Colony, may not be carried into effect."

In the second place, the leading article states, "that Mr. James Macarthur, at the meeting, that he, for one, was not at all opposed to the formation of new settlements, or to their having distinct governments of their own."

Whereas my words as reported in the same paper were, "that the petitioners viewed with satisfaction the intention of Her Majesty's government to establish townships, and invest them with municipal governments, while at the same time, they considered it indispensable that these townships should be continued under the general government of New South Wales."

It is the more anxious to direct your attention to the subject, because I have all along thought that the great object of the petition, as well as of the public meeting, and the previous proceedings in the Legislative Council, was to enable the friends of the colony at home effectually to oppose the introduction of New South Wales into petty separate governments, and to secure to it an extent of territory commensurate with the public establishments it has to support.

The fact, as stated by the petitioners in dispute, is that a vast amount of capital both public and private, has been expended in the other Towns and districts hitherto settled under the persuasion, that the territorial limits of the colony upon the eastern coast would not be materially curtailed; and should the intention of the Home Government be carried into effect, in such a manner which I have little doubt was contemplated by some one possessing great influence at the Colonial Office, (although not I believe by Lord John Russell or Mr. Vernon Smith) the basis upon which that capital has been laid out, would be swept away, and, in my opinion, the most serious injury to the colony produced, not only upon the present interests but also upon the future greatness of this community.

I perfectly concur in the justice and sound policy of the proposed limits of all Crown lands sold to supplying that land with labour, so far as that principle can be carried into practice; and upon this ground the colony of New South Wales has a valid claim to that portion of the land fund which has been misapplied to the maintenance of the establishments essentially British, and the expense of which ought in strict justice to be borne by the Imperial Government. The Archbishop of Dublin, in his Grace's letter to the petitioners, justly observes, "it is with your warmest friends upon this point, and the British public is evidently disposed to listen favourably to our claims for the restitution of the large amount withdrawn from our Emigration Fund for the purchase of Gaols." For this reason, I think the colonists should lose no opportunity of reiterating their claim. This is a case to which Cato's maxim Delenda est Carthago is strictly applicable.

As regards uniform price for Crown lands, granted as I have little doubt will be found in practice, in this colony, I have no doubt that it will be tried, and after a time it will probably be abandoned, but the introduction of this principle, "would be no ground for the petitioners to demand the dismemberment of New South Wales."

It is against this projected dismemberment, which, although it has for a time been given up, will assuredly be revived unless we strenuously oppose it, that the united and vigorous efforts of our Emigration Fund, and the petitioners, should be directed. Unprofitable as some an opinion may be to the people of Melbourne, at the present time, I am firmly convinced that the present welfare even of their fine province, and its permanent interests, would be promoted by continuing under the general direction of a central government in New South Wales.

In conclusion permit me again to repeat, that the great object of the petition, adopted on the 7th inst. is, in my opinion, to prevent the dismemberment of this Colony, and to secure its energies, which would be the inevitable result of subdividing it into several distinct petty governments.

I am, Sir, Your's obediently, JAMES MACARTHUR.

Domestic Intelligence.

COMMERCE.

The diffusion of correct information on the state of the Markets, is of primary importance to the advancement of our Commercial interest, and with a view to aid this object, we propose to adopt the plan pursued in various of the mercantile journals and price current throughout the globe, viz., that of publishing in a column weekly, the actual sales of the goods that may have taken place.

To effect this, we call on the various Merchants and Brokers, when it does not clash with their particular views, to intimate to us by Monday afternoon, the particulars of sales effected during the previous week, which we will then publish on the Wednesday morning.

To ourselves, this will moreover be a considerable relief in the way of correspondence, as they will be enabled to put their various constituents in possession of what has been transacted, by the transmission of a weekly number of our Journal. Besides this information we should feel obliged to the Merchants for any extracts of mercantile correspondences which they may receive from home or abroad, and which they may think of importance to the public or mercantile interests of this Colony. In addition to these sources of information, one Price Current, which will appear next Wednesday morning, will be regularly altered with the signatures of two of the most respectable and competent Brokers in the Colony,

The expression used by me, was the establishment of provinces, with courts of justice, and all the institutions essential to their local regulation and government.

all of which we conceive will render "THE FREE PRESS AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL," an authentic and commercial organ, which may be transmitted to any quarter of the world with perfect confidence.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15.

W. H. CHRISTIE, Esq., J. P., has been appointed visiting justice at the House of Correction, at Carlisle Barracks, and the police magistrates of the places undermentioned, to be visiting magistrates of the respective prisons in such places, viz:—Bathurst, Berriam, Melbourne, Newcastle, Parramatta, and Windsor.

The Governor has directed it to be notified, in consequence of an announcement made by the agent of the Fort Nicholson company in New Zealand, that certain plans were ready for inspection, and that the selection of allotments would take place on 4th February—that no such selections will be recognized by Her Majesty's government, nor any title whatsoever derived from the Fort Nicholson Company, beyond the limits of 110,000 acres taken in one continuous block round Port Nicholson.

A sale of town allotments in Auckland, New Zealand, is announced to take place on 4th April next.

Tenders are required for building the new gaol at Ombura.

THE COURT OF REQUESTS.

The following information relative to the Courts of Requests, will, we trust, be of service to some of our readers, especially the trading community:—

Names of Officers.—Sydney, Commissioner, R. Terry, Esq.; Registrar, R. Allen, Esq.; Bailiffs, Michael Dalton and Robt. Purcell, Parramatta, Registrar, George Langley; Balliff, William Hunt; Windsor, Registrar, Francis Charles Buller; Bathurst, Registrar, Anthony Registrar, Henry Finlayson; Balliff, Registrar, Liverpool, Registrar, J. Westcott; Balliff, T. Meredith; Campbell Town, Registrar, G. E. Burke; Balliff, J. W. Ailster; Berriam, Registrar, T. E. Ellis; Balliff, Noel Chapman; Melbourne, Registrar, William Taylor; Balliff, William Scoble; Bathurst, Registrar, William Curtis; Balliff, Robt. Lodge; Maitland, Registrar, J. W. McCully; Balliff, J. Kingsmill.

Courts of Requests.—WEEK AND WHEN HELD.—Sydney, the first Thursday in each month, but April and October; Parramatta, January 13, next sitting not known yet; Windsor, January 16, next sitting not known yet; Liverpool, January 11, next sitting not known yet; Campbell Town, January 12, next sitting not known yet; Gosford, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Newcastle, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Maitland, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Scores, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Bathurst, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Berriam, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Ombura, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Goulburn, first Monday in January, April, July, and October; Wollongong, not known yet. All summonses require to be taken out fifteen clear days before the sitting of the Court, with the exception of the Sydney Court which only requires to be taken out one clear day after the Court has finished its sitting.

Scales of Fees.—For any sum not exceeding £2, summons, 4s.; execution, 3s.; for any sum not exceeding £4, summons, 5s.; execution, 4s.; for any sum not exceeding £6, summons, 6s.; execution, 5s.; for any sum not exceeding £8, summons, 8s.; execution, 6s.; for any sum not exceeding £10, summons, 10s.; execution, 8s.; for every shilling, 6d.; for every copy of plaintiff's demand, 6d.

THE STEAM SHIP COMBELL.—We regret extremely to have to announce to our readers the loss of the steam ship Combell, on her second trip to Port Phillip. She appears from the letter which has been received at the agents in Sydney that shortly before day-light on Saturday, 2nd January, she struck on a sandbank. As soon as it was daylight it was found that she was firmly fixed on the bank near Comer's wharf, and that the crew of the vessel were in the most imminent danger. The vessel was in safety and the most valuable of the movable property secured. There are however little or no hopes of ever getting the vessel off her engines may perhaps be taken out or picked up. She is insured to some amount but not high enough to cover the losses of those who embarked in the speculation. We trust however that these will not be very heavy.

THE NICHOLS, Esq.—In consequence of the rule promulgated on Monday last, for the future practice of the Court of Quarter Sessions, as regards attorneys and barristers, Mr. Nichols was called upon by the Chairman on Wednesday, to declare which branch of the profession he preferred to follow, in the event of his being an attorney or that of an advocate. Mr. Nichols made the latter his election, and appeared in the character of Counsel in a case with the Crown Prosecutor.

PORT MACQUARIE.—The Governor Hallett, wishing to have Mr. Bradley, lately landed here, second Officer at Port Macquarie, who was labouring under temporary derangement, having attempted to cut his throat. The unfortunate man was admitted into the Hospital, and the result of the operation, having obtained 750 barrels of salt since the 31st of January, 1840, when she left Sydney.

STAMPED COVERS.—By a notice from the General Post Office, Sydney, dated 1st November, 1840, it was signified that stamped covers might, from that time, be obtained at a charge of 1s. 3d. per dozen, in which to enclose Letters, which, being posted in Sydney, would exempt such letters from any further charge, to the full limits of the two-penny post delivery. His Excellency the Governor, now with a view still further to extend this accommodation, has been pleased to sanction a reduction of the charge to 1s. per dozen or 8s. per hundred, and stamps or covers may in future be obtained at this rate in any number, upon application at this office.—JAMES RAYMOND, Postmaster.

PORT PHILIP.—Mr. Justice Willis has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court, and Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions, at Port Phillip, pro tem. His Honor will leave Sydney during the next month. The first sittings of the Supreme Court will be held at Melbourne, early in March.

LIEUTENANT-COMMOR BARNET.—We are informed that the Commor Royal Engineer, late Major, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

LAND.—Mr. Lyons sold yesterday a farm containing 800 acres in Kangaroo Valley, near Wollongong, for 12000 or 3000 per acre.

INQUEST.—An inquest was held at Leburn's, Parramatta-street, on the body of a female named Boyd, between sixty and seventy years of age, who had died in the Benevolent Asylum on Tuesday morning. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that she had come to her death by natural causes, hastened, however, by intemperance. A verdict to that effect was returned.

The Free Press AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 1841.

Libertas sine Licentia.

Let it be impressed upon your minds, let it be instilled into your children, that the Liberty of the Press is the PALADIUM of all the civil, political, and religious rights of an Englishman.—JENKIN.

Colonial Politics.

REMARKS ON THE PETITION AND MEETING AGAINST THE DIVISION OF THE COLONY AND THE NEW LAND REGULATIONS.

In our last we corrected the error into which Mr. JAMES M'ARTHUR fell at the meeting in the School of Arts, when he stated that the measures of the Home Government for the division of the colony and the establishment of New Land Regulations were suspended by a subsequent despatch which had been received by Sir GEORGE GIPPS; and in this number we publish a letter from Mr. JAMES M'ARTHUR, not in answer to our contradiction of that statement of his, for he had not received our last number when he wrote, but in answer to our first article on the Petition which appeared in our paper of 9th inst.

In this letter, Mr. M'ARTHUR, alleges in the first place, that we were in error, when we stated that "the Petition did not urge any objection to the supposed design of the Home Government to establish new Settlements in Australia under distinct governments of their own." In reply to this, Mr. M'A refers us to the Petition itself, which sets out by representing the feelings of anxiety and alarm that have been excited by the introduction of two bills into Parliament proposing to establish new settlements in Australia."

Now, we admit, that the petition sets out with such a representation, but we deny that by any rational construction it can be made out to be a petition so ridiculous and preposterous a nature as to prefer a special prayer and objection against