

THE
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
MAGAZINE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA AS IT IS.

THE first ship-load of emigrants arrived in South Australia on the 27th of July, 1836.

The Colony itself was first proclaimed a British Colony by Governor Hindmarsh, on the 28th of December, in the same year.

It is now consequently six years and a half since the Colony was first proclaimed a British Colony, and seven since the first ship-load of emigrants set their feet on these shores.

Of this period, nearly three years elapsed, without allowing the settlers a fair opportunity of testing the capabilities of the soil and climate of the Province, delays having occurred up to the year 1839, in the survey and appropriation of the land.

Striking out, then, the first three years of our colonial existence, the whole land under cultivation in 1837 being $7\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and, in 1838, 81 acres, we take our stand at the above-named period, namely, 1839, and proceed to an impartial review of our pastoral and agricultural progress for the last four years.

Tables exhibiting our pastoral and agricultural progress
VOL. II. 2 G.

have already been published, but have not hitherto found their way into the *MAGAZINE* :—

Progress of Cultivation in South Australia from the year 1837, up to December, 1842, inclusive :—

	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.
	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.	ACRES.
Wheat	20	120	816	4723	15,281	
Barley	1	28	258	1032	2934	
Oats	5	30	246	578	760	
Maize	$\frac{1}{4}$	10	60	71	847	972
Potatoes	$1\frac{1}{2}$	20	75	227	528	758
Turnips and crops not specified ..			70	971	} 460	252
Gardens	6	25	60	135		
	$7\frac{1}{4}$	81	443	2724	8168	21,645

Table showing the progressive Increase of Stock from January, 1838, to December, 1842 :—

	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.
Sheep	28,000	108,700	260,160	242,055	363,000
Cattle	2500	7600	15,100	16,696	23,400
Horses	480	800	1060	1650	2000

Our object in the republication of these tables, is, to call attention to one or two facts in connexion with them, which must strike the most superficial observer as important, but which we do not remember to have seen exhibited hitherto with the prominence they deserve.

A census of the whole population was taken at the close of 1840, and the gross number in the town and country districts amounted to 14,610 souls, 4,448 of whom, as appears from the Emigration Agent's reports, arrived in the course of the year, but, as no returns were obtained from some of the remote country districts, 16,000 souls were by common consent allowed to be the nearest approximation to the actual numbers.

Assuming the correctness of the foregoing data, our real progress in the two great branches of colonial industry and enterprise, namely, pastoral and agricultural pursuits, may, with few words, be put in a very clear and convincing light.

In 1839, with a population, increasing, in the course of the year, from 8,000 to 11,000, we had under cultivation 443 acres, or at the rate of one acre for every twenty-one men, women, and children, in the Province.

In 1840, with a population, increasing, in the course of the year, from 11,000 to 16,000, we had under cultivation 2,724 acres, or at the rate of nearly one acre to every five men, women, and children in the Province.

In 1841, with a population of 16,000 souls or thereabouts, we had under cultivation 8,168 acres, or a fraction less than two acres for every individual man, woman, and child in the Province.

And in 1842, with a like number of souls, namely, 16,000, we had under cultivation 21,645 acres, or at the rate of a little more than one and a third-acre for every man, woman, and child in the Province.

Gratifying as these results are, we cannot but look upon 1839-40 as the years in the which the real impetus to the interests of agriculture was given, the advance during these two years, with a fluctuating population, being first from 81 to 443 acres, and next from 443 to 2,274 acres—or in a five-fold ascending scale, a ratio of increase to which it has never since arisen, but to which we confidently believe it would have reached, but for the discouragement of our farmers, partly from the want of assistance to enable them to carry out their projects, arising from the depression of the times, and partly from the want of remunerating prices for their produce.

Our inference from this is, that, but for the check imposed upon the Province by the stoppage of emigration, at the close of 1840, and the consequent depression upon all classes of the community, there would have been at least 13,620 acres under cultivation in 1841, in place of 8,168, and 66,100 acres in 1842, in place of 21,645, the five-fold ratio of increase having been disturbed, not in the way of acceleration from the want of other employment as is sometimes alleged, but in the way of reduction from the causes above specified, and for which, we think, no other sufficient reasons can be assigned.

All that needs to be said, in reference to our pastoral progress, is, that the increase has been, and still is, equal to our most sanguine expectations.

In 1841-2 alone, the increase of sheep was from 242,055 to 363,000; of horned cattle, from 16,696 to 23,400; of horses, from 1,650 to 2,000; and of sundry small stock from 6,000 to 12,000; a ratio of increase steadily kept up not-

withstanding the larger demands for consumption than heretofore occasioned by the greater cheapness of provisions.

On our exports and imports a few words remain to be said. Preparatory to this, however, attention is requested to the annexed tables, upon which the utmost reliance may be placed:—

Return of Wool exported from the Province of South Australia during the season of 1842-3:—

BY WHAT VESSEL.	NO. OF BALES.	CONTENTS OF BALES.
		<i>lbs.</i>
Waterwich	7	1,200
Dorset	14	3,790
Sultana	1035	360,825
Sarah and Elizabeth	408	111,318
Taglioni	988	235,026
Countess of Durham	482	152,656
Total	3034	854,815

Return of Oil and Whalebone exported from the Province of South Australia during the season of 1842-3:—

BY WHAT VESSEL.	OIL.	WHALEBONE.
Sarah and Elizabeth	124 casks	134 bundles.
Countess of Durham	2 casks	54 bundles.

Return of Corn, Meal, and Flour, exported from the Port of Adelaide, during the period from the 1st January to the 30th April, 1843:—

			£	s.	d.
Wheat	44 bushels, to	London	11	0	0
"	16 "	Chatham Islands	4	0	0
"	63 "	Sydney	15	0	0
"	829 "	Guam	230	0	0
"	3324 "	Mauritius	831	0	0
Flour	11 tons	New Zealand	183	0	0
"	10 "	Singapore	150	0	0
"	26 "	King George's Sound	390	0	0
"	34 "	Chatham Islands	530	0	0
"	26 "	Sydney	400	0	0
"	15 "	Mauritius	200	0	0
Oats	60 bushels	New Zealand	17	0	0
"	50 "	Chatham Islands	10	0	0
"	24 "	Mauritius	5	0	0
Barley	25 "	Ditto	3	0	0
"	104 "	Hobart Town	30	0	0
"	558 "	Sydney	137	0	0
Bran	8560 "	New Zealand	18	0	0
"	2000 "	Mauritius	5	0	0

Total Value £3169 0 0

Abstract of Imports and Exports, showing the Amount of Imports for Home Consumption, and the Amount of Colonial Produce exported, at the Port of Adelaide, for the Half-Year ending 31st March, 1843 :—

IMPORTS.

	£	s.	d
Total Imports	47,884	2	9
Re-exported	9420	11	0
Consumed in the Colony	38,463	11	9

EXPORTS.

Total Exports	47,716	11	2
Exports, produce of Sth. Australia	38,296	0	2

A return of the total imports and exports of the Province for the year ending September 30th, 1842, was first published in December last, the gross amount of imports, as appears from these tables, being £169,534 0s. 8d., and the gross amount of exports £75,248 14s. 0d., but no distinction having been kept in those returns, between the *bona fide* exports of the Province, and the re-shipments of British and foreign goods, we can only approximate towards the actual exports, but this, we think, after a careful analysis, may be done with sufficient accuracy, by setting them down at the upper value of £40,000.

On comparing this with the above table of imports and exports for the half-year ending March the 31st, 1843, a great advance, it will be seen, has been made towards restoring the balance between our imports and exports, the total imports consumed in the colony being £38,463 11s. 9d., and the total exports, the produce of the colony, £38,296 0s. 2d., the return of exports for the first half-year of 1843 being nearly equal to the returns of the whole year for 1842, but, in connexion with this, it is to be remembered, that but little of our oil and wool for the season remained at the date of these last returns, and that our dependance for the further increase of the year must be mainly upon shipments of grain, and other farm or dairy produce.

Our prospects, on this score, however, are highly encouraging, and such as afford great grounds for congratulation to all who have the interests of the colony at heart.

TO THE COMET.

FIRST SEEN MARCH 1ST, DISAPPEARED APRIL 5TH, 1843.

Whate'er thou art, this truth Divine
Is legible and plain—
'Tis Power Almighty bids thee shine,
Nor bids thee shine in vain.

MYSTERIOUS visitant, whose lucid light
Through the dark vault of Heaven we nightly trace :
To this our favour'd land, ere Europe, or
The scientific sons of Albion's isle
Thy being e'en suspected (in their pride)
Thou com'st : a stranger to the eyes of men,
From regions infinite, and space profound.
But on what mission bent, thou beauteous star ;
Art thou a messenger from Mercy's seat,
Sent to teach "this perverse generation
Wanting a sign from Heaven," now to believe,
And turn their minds and hearts from worldly ways ?
Cast from the hand of dread Omnipotence
Whirl on, thou glorious spirit of the vast
And boundless void ; ages on ages roll
Thy still enduring, never-ending course.
Compared with thy tremendous rolling speed
Even the cannon's ball but slowly moves,
Its very sounds but tardy in its flight,
Thou rival of the lightning's flash, poured forth
Like some vast, glowing, deadly thunderbolt,
Descending from on high.

Pass on thy way, pure emblem of a hand
Divine ; before thee lies infinitude—
The boundless ocean of the universe.
From thy bright nucleus a shining stream
Of silvery light proceeds, which in those dark,
Now long-past ages, thy appearance clothed
With superstitious terrors and false fears,
And spread o'er all mysterious, wond'ring awe.
Placed in the concave of that dark abyss,
To us an obscure, unknown wilderness,
Though swarming with those multitudes of worlds ;
Thou rid'st, companion of a thousand suns,
Though neither intermingling nor confused.
Thus thou wert lost in the immensity
Of yonder bright and glorious firmament,
Did'st not thou draw a light superior
From other orbs (before whose magnitude
Earth shrinks to nothing,) and send forth a train,
Spreading through myriads on myriads
Of leagues—the semblance of eternity.

IRREGULAR PAGING

Thou blessed sign, show forth and glorify
The power of thy Maker!

But still, 'tis
Not yet giv'n to us to know thy essence.
Art thou a globe of that electric fire
Said to pervade all nature, or a mass
Of matter meteoric and condensed?
An airy form of clouds and dewy mists,
Or of ethereal gaseous vapour? for
Thy shadowy tail but serves in truth to show
The living brightness of the solid stars.
Thy light's but borrowed from the solar rays—
Th' effulgent halo of the god of day—
At whose approach to gladden our small earth,
Thy late pure light is 'minished, wanes, and dies
Before the fervour of his ardent beams.
Perhaps, as a globase world of compact waters,
The glowing heat acts on thy liquid form;
Boiling thou roll'st along, through fields of air,
Leaving behind a lengthened, liquid train
Of mighty steam, dispersed throughout all space.
Departing hence, thou dartest onwards to
The regions of eternal night, shorn of
Thy lengthen'd train, and gradually condensed
Into a harden'd mass of pond'rous ice.
Myriads of thy train among our planets
Unceasingly revolve, though few are known
To come within the scope of mortal sight.
Of these bright orbs, in olden times 'twas thought,
That justice and superior power had form'd
A place of endless punishment for sin.
Whirl'd from intenses cold and icebound chains
Back to an all-devouring fearful heat,
The spirits of the damn'd in thee reside
Through all eternity; a warning held
To followers of vanity and sin—
Lovers of this world's gear, and pleasures void,
Unsatisfying joys and vicious ways—
That rush with headlong haste along these paths
That lead unto a hell beyond the grave.
Oh bright but transient beam! now seen, now gone,
Combining with those everlasting fires—
When night lights up her starry train of worlds,
Orb within orb revolving, ever bright—
To mark the presence of that "Great First Cause,"
And spiritual essence of a love
Extending over all.

But art thou to our lowly globe, or these
Ever revolving words alone thus sent?

Or, in thy orbit carried through vast space,
 Dost thou to other planets tend thy course—
 To other suns and worlds, to us unknown,
 Show thy phosphoric or refulgent rays ?
 The orb of day, the father of the light
 And genial heat, to all those distant worlds
 That circle ever round him in their course,
 'Tis said, replenishes his ebbing fires
 Through ages pour'd, in never ceasing streams
 On all the hosts of heaven, that come within
 Th' extensive range of his attractive power—
 From thee ; for when thou thy perihelion
 Dost approach, at each long revolution
 Round his denser orb, part of thy vital
 Whole is by him attracted, lost, and quench'd,
 Till blotted out from the fair face of heaven,
 In long expectant ages yet to come,
 Thy name's at last forgotten ; perhaps new-formed
 Worlds thy place will then supply, that a good
 Creation may not miss thee from her works.
 E'en were eternity the lot of such
 As we consider in our lowly state
 But mortal, these wond'rous globes combining
 Heat with light, would doubtless still be
 Formed in never-ceasing order, to take
 Their place among the heavenly train.

These, among many other things,
 Man thinks he has a right to know, and that
 He shall at last attain. Be not deceived ;
 Somewhere shall human knowledge surely stop,
 For the Almighty God above, the One
 Supreme, the Sovereign Lord of all, has said—
 " Man, thus far shalt thou and no farther go."
 Then let us to superior wisdom bow,
 Nor be dissatisfied, because designs
 Inscrutable we cannot understand.
 Oh man ! designed for higher purposes,
 Though born in sin, created truly for
 A long eternity of bliss—be thou
 Indeed assured, nothing was made in vain.
 Our finite minds must ignorance confess,
 For knowledge is withheld this side the grave
 That in the other world shall be disclosed.
 Humility best suits our fallen state—
 Humility and praise.

NATURE AMATOR.

April, 1843.

LECTURE ON ENGRAVING.—No. II.

DELIVERED AT THE THEATRE, BEFORE THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,
ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25TH, 1843, BY THOS. WILSON, ESQ.

PART THE FIRST.

I HAD the honour in my last lecture to draw your attention to the general nature of the Art of Engraving on Copper, placing before you a sketch of its presumed origin. I treated slightly of its infancy and progress in Italy, its native country, from the discovery of taking impressions on paper till the practice of it in its perfection at the close of the fifteenth, and the beginning of the sixteenth centuries, by Marc Antonio Raimondi; and I then proposed to inquire what had taken place contemporaneously in Germany, in the progress of this new art, omitting all dissertation on the claims of that country to its discovery.

If Italy is now known to be the cradle of the art, Germany may be considered as its strong and healthy nurse; for the latter must have profited by the invention at a very early period, because a vast number of impressions from copper-plates were soon after diffused throughout that country; and these impressions appear very decidedly to have issued from a far more perfect apparatus than those of Italy. Not only so, but they were also circulated in a greater number of each subject, printed with a uniformly black and strong ink; even the earliest specimens give proof of great practical skill in the management of the new art. This has rendered the claim of Italy to the honour of the original discovery so open to debate; but its consideration does not throw any real weight into the German scale.—So far, however, as the mechanism of the art is in question, the Germans exceeded their Italian competitors.

An artist, a goldsmith it would appear, whose plates are generally marked with the date of 1466, claims our first notice.

The year in question has been assigned as the earliest date on any print from a copper-plate; but I have possessed a curious specimen by this same artist, clearly dated in 1464, which is, therefore, the earliest known impression with a date: the Italian prints of the same period not bearing any date, and rarely either mark or monogram.

This master's performances appear to be in all respects original, and his method of engraving quite peculiar. It is executed with small prolonged dots, produced by means of the graver. Rare as are his works (and they appear to be all from his own designs), the number is very considerable; a