ACTIVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOME OFFICE, AND PENDING MEASURES OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT.

The two events which are certainly approaching are—first, such a state and conflict of the two divisions of the ministerial -the Radicals and the pure Whigs-as will probably lead to another dissolution of the government, and this also at a time when no public leader of competent strength and connection will be willing to undertake the responsibility of the administration. The second apprehended evil is that of the temporary suffering and depression of three very large classes of the community—the merchants, the manufacturers, and the agricultural interests. All the consolation we can afford under this head is, that their state

of distress will be temporary only.

Our commerce, our manufactures, and our agriculture, are the three great channels which supply our national means for feeding and employing the labouring community of the country. It has always been our effort to deal equally between them. Whilst we have always maintained that our main reliance must be upon agriculture, and therefore upon the due remuneration of the farmers and graziers, we have at the same time always acknow-ledged the relative importance of our merchants and manufacturers. It appears by the parliamentary reports, that the number of our labouring manufacturers in England only, exclusive of Scotland, is in round figures 500,000, of whom 260,000 are employed in our cotton works, and 240,000 in our other three manufactures namely, in our woollen, linen, and silk manufactures. Again, the whole declared value of our exports in these four staples was in 1846, 51,279,000%. Our cotton export was in round figures 18,000,000L Such we acknowledge to be the importance of our commerce and manufactures, and such, therefore, must be the proportionate distress of any serious decline in these staples of national income and supply.

Now one further sign of an approaching improvement in our prospects is, that the present state of our cotton manufactures has already excited that attention of the people and of public men which is the sure earnest that some due remedial measures are about to be adopted. The present evil is the short and uncertain supply of the raw article from the United States, and such a consequent rate of price of raw cotton in the British market, as concurs with other causes to compel the manufacturers to stop their works. What, indeed, would be the consequences to our cotton factories, if the accident of an American war, the rebellion of the slaves in the Southern States of the American union, or the vicissitudes of the seasons, should at once cut off the supply of cotton, and thus stop all our establishments? Now the present year has at least threatened something very like this. few more of such years," says the Manchester Examiner, "would lay in ruins the first fabric of manufacturing and commercial enterprise the world has ever seen. Our mills are daily stopping under this scarcity and high price of raw cotton, and if the same short supply is to occur for the next and two following years, there will be an end of this great staple of British commerce and manufacture.

Now what is the proper and immediate remedy for this appre hended evil? Is it not obviously in seeking and establishing a fund of supply more immediately within our own reach? In other words, in encouraging the growth of cotton in our own colonies, and more particularly in India, which in former times, and those within our own memory, has grown it as plenteously as the United States, and which also, under due encouragement, and a better system of administration, could return with the greatest facility to the same extent of growth, and thus render us comparatively independent of the markets of the United States.

We observe with much satisfaction, that this suggestion has been very powerfully cast up by the Lancashire traders and manufacturers themselves and we entertain the strongest confidence, that it will meet the instant attention of the government. At the same time it seems to us to be taking too long a view, to anticipate for future years the same continuance of cotton deficiency. The cotton scarcity in the United States is like the late corn scarcity in Europe. It is the unhappy incident of a single harvest, and may be abundantly repaired by the produce of the next year. But it is still prudent not to become too dependent upon foreign states, and above all, in the supply of a raw article of such importance, to be duly prepared against such probable incidents as a war with the United States, or an insurrection amongst the blacks in Georgia, Virginia, the Carolinas, and the other slave states. It is scarcely probable, that our government can submit to the incorporation of the Gulph provinces of Mexico with the dominions of the United States, and it is almost certain, that the Americans

will not sign a treaty with the Mexicans upon any other terms.

It affords us also much pleasure to add, that nothing can be more active than the admistratison of the Home Office under Sir G. Grey; and that this able and intelligent Secretary of State is open to every suggestion from every respectable quarter—by which we mean all parties coming forward in their own concerns, in aid of the sufferings of particular classes, and in public improvements. The law of poor settlement, and the improvement of the general condition of the labouring community, are the two present subjects which seem to occupy the attention of Sir G. Grey and his department.

TRIAL FOR MURDER IN IRELAND.

The Irish papers furnish the following account of a trial which took place a few days since at the Sligo Assizes. We almost question whether the records of savage life furnish a more

Matthew Gara, Eleanor Shacket, Bridget Burke, and James Shacket, were arraigned for the wilful murder of Michael Burke on the 2nd November. Ann Giblin, a girl about 13 years of age, and daughter of the prisoner Burke, was the first and chief witness. She was much affected, and cried, "Wirra, wirra! let me to my mother!" She had to be held to the table. She Knows who were in the house the night Michael Burke met with his death. Her mother was there; James Shacket, and Eleanor Shacket, and Matthew Gara were there; her sister, Mary There was no one in the room where they are their supper but her mother, Burke, the children, and herself. Nelly and Jemmy Shacket came into the house after supper. Witness went for a teacup to Dennis Cryan's to drink whiskey out of. Nelly Shacket brought a bottle of whiskey with her into the house. She brought the tea-cup into the house, and Nelly filled it with whiskey. She gave it to Burke. Jenny Shacket, Nelly Shacket, and Burke were drinking, and her mother was drunk. Burke was drinking until he was drunk. When he was drunk they put him to bed. Witness held the candle. Her mother was at the room door when They all then knelt down and said their prayers (sensation). The Shackets told their mother not to do so. They prayed to God to help them to do it. They then went to the garden. Shacket went out first and her mother after him. When they put Burke to bed they went out and brought in Gara. Her mother was with them. When they brought Gara in her mother

gave him Whiskey.

The scene here was dreadfully affecting, the child crying, "Oh, Scott:—

wirra, wirra, mother, will you speak to me? Where are you?" The child was allowed to go to the dock, and then the prisoner and child embraced each other, the child crying, "Now, mother

dear, come along with me; oh, mother, dear, what will I do?"
Witness, in continuation: When they came into the house out of the garden, James Shacket had a hatchet; he had it in a handkerchief under his arm.—Counsel: Did James Shacket do anything with the hatchet?—Witness: Oh, he killed Burke with it.

The poor child again became fearfully agitated, and the exam-

ination could not be proceeded with for a long time.

Examination continued: It was Gara and Shacket killed Burke; she saw Shacket strike him with a hatchet on the head. She saw Gara take the hatchet, and he struck the deceased with it. mother was at the time at the door. She was sick and fainting. The prisoners all came down together. Ellen Shacket took a rope off one of the cows. They went out of the house, and she saw Ellen Shacket tie one of her mother's hands. She asked her if she'd like to get a lump on her face with the tongs? They then sent witness up to the mountain to alarm, and say there were robbers in the house. They told her not to call at Dennis Cryan's till her return. Dennis Cryan's is the house next to hers. The jury, after an hours deliberation, found a verdict of Guilty.—Baron Richards immediately sentenced the prisoners to be executed on the 21st September.—Bridget Burke was recommended to mercy, as she was drunk. The prisoner who betrayed most emotion was Ellen Shacket—she had an infant in her arms during her trial, about three months old, of which she was delivered since her committal. She became deadly pale on the announcement of the verdict. There was a slight quiver discernible in the upper lip of her husband; but the widow of the deceased was quite unmoved. None of the prisoners made any statement when asked why sentence of death should not be passed on them.—Bell's Weekly

EXTRAORDINARY INVESTIGATION IN THE DRAPERY TRADE. An important movement has recently been caused amongst several branches of trade, more particularly that of drapery, in the course of which facts of a startling character would appear to have been elicited, affecting the honesty of our home trade, and tending in their consequences to operate injuriously upon our relations with foreign markets. The question first arose from a desire on the part of a few of the retail dealers to obtain the co-operation of the wholesale houses in the more equitable measurement of various goods, inasmuch as under the existing system the public are constantly defrauded to an immense extent. A meeting for the pur-pose of investigating into some of the allegations made against the wholesale houses has taken place within the last few days in the presence of several exporters and others interested in the question. At this meeting sealed packets of goods from many of the wholesale houses were examined, and the result showed that there was much reason for complaint. Among other instances, reels of cotton thread marked "warranted 100 yards," were found to measure respectively 92½, 89, 86½, and in some cases even 25 per cent. less than the quantity indicated by the stamp, while in no single in-stance did the measurement reach the full standard. In tapes the deficiency was found to be still more considerable. It is usual to make white tapes in lengths of nine yards, one dozen of these lengths being packed in a parcel, and then issued from the whole-sale house with the vendor's mark upon it as "warranted." On measuring the "nine-yard lengths" it was found that in every instance they fell short. In some descriptions the nine-yard lengths were under seven yards, in others under six, whilst another sample, where the tape itself had been stamped at the end in indelible ink as nine yards, there was found to be but five and threequarters. Other goods were submitted to the same ordeal with like results. It appeared from inquiries on the subject, that for some length of time the manufacturers have been improperly accused of being the guilty parties in these transactions; but their account of the affair is, that they are compelled to follow the in-structions of the wholesale houses in making up parcels, or to run the risk of the transference of the custom to some less scrupulous trader. The wholesale houses, in their turn, extenuate their conduct by reference to the competition which exists, and which compels them to adopt this questionable system. But by this system it is contended, they not only bring undeserved suspicion on the retail dealer, but ruin also on the small shopkeeper (frequently females, who, ignorant of the custom alluded to, measure out small portions of the various articles at which they calculate a fair aliquot price, and thus in the long run find themselves serious losers, without knowing how or why. In the foreign markets loud complaints have for years been made against these practices, more especially in Leipsic. In reformation of this system meetings are in course of organization throughout the country, and the principals of some of the wholesale houses have intimated their desire to lend their influence towards the establishment of a sounder

system of trade.—Morning Chronicle.

SMALL-POX IN SHEEP.—A very fatal disease, and, it is believed, new to this country, has lately made its appearance among sheep. It is the small-pox of that animal, and in its first stages more particularly many fall victims to it. It is desirable that the public should be apprized of it, in order that the necessary precautionary measures may be adopted to prevent its further propagation. It was introduced by some Spanish sheep imported from Hamburg, and has already found its way into many flocks. Several sheep affected with it have also been exposed for sale in Smithfield Market. At the Royal Veterinary College experiments have been instituted, by which its infectious and contagious nature have been completely proved, and others are being carried on with a view to check its progress and to lessen its fatality.

America.

A BLOODY BATTLE-AMERICAN LOSS LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND MEXICAN LOSS FIVE THOUSAND - PEACE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED - GENERAL VALENCIA PRONOUNCED AGAINST SANTA ANNA AND PEACE.

Washington, September, 14, P.M. "Dispatches for the Government have this moment been re The intelligence heretofore received is fully confirmed. ceived. On the 29th ult. the American forces, consisting of 7000 men, met the enemy at Charbuzes, three or four miles from the capital. The Mexicans were 32,000 strong, and posted behind an immense battery of heavy artillery. After two hours' bloody conflict our gallant troops swept every thing before them, mainly at the point of the bayonet. The American loss was less than a thousand, while that of the Mexicans is estimated at five thousand, and amongst the killed are many distinguished men, both generals and civilians. The armistice was agreed upon, and five commissioners appointed on the Mexican side, at the head of whom was Herrera. The commissioners had two meetings, and were to hold a third on Monday, the 30th. Valencia escaped with two companies to Taluca, and has since pronounced against Santa Anna and peace."

The following is a detailed account of the movements of General

On the 14th instant, a reconnoissance made by Colonel Duncan having satisfied General-Scott that a road for artillery could be cut from Chalcoa to San Augustine, General Worth's division moved in that direction on the 15th, followed by Generals Quitman, Pillow, and Twiggs. By this move a new line of operations was taken on the southern and western sides of the City of Mexico, and the strong work of Penon and Mexicalsingo, on which Santa Anna had bestowed immense labour, were completely turned.

At seven o'clock on the 18th, General Scott arrived at San Augustine, and at ten o'clock General Worth was in full march for the City of Mexico by the main road. Majors Smith and Turnbull, Captain Mason, and other engineer officers, were sent in advance, supported by Captain Black's equadron of dragoons, to reconnoitre, when a masked battery was opened on them, and the first ball from an eighteen pounder killed Captain Thornton, 2nd dragoons, besides seriously wounding a guide. Colonel Garland's brigade was ordered to occupy a position in plain sight of the enemy's batteries at San Antonio, while Colonel Stark's brigade and Duncan's battery took another station in the rear, close by. A party was then sent out to reconnoitre, to ascertain the practicability of finding a road by which the village of San Angel could be reached, and the strong hold of San Antonio thus turned. This party had a skirmish with the enemy, killing five or six, and taking as many prisoners, without losing a man. The result of this re-Connoissance was favourable, and it was ascertained that a road could be made. About noon they opened upon the hacienda with could be made. About noon they opened upon the nacienda with round shot and shell. Nearly every shot took effect, but did no damage except to the buildings. At eight o'clock on the morning of the 19th, the batteries again opened on General Worth's position. So hot was the fire that the troops were compelled to gain shelter behind the buildings, but did not give up their

About nine o'clock, the divisions of Twiggs and Pillow were arout fine o clock, the divisions of Physics and Philow were ordered to march in the direction of Cronteras, and by ten o'clock in the forenoon were in plain sight of the enemy's batteries, and within the range of the heavier guns. The brigade of Colonel P. T. Smith was ordered to advance directly towards the enemy's works, whilst that of Colonel Riley moved towards a small village right, and thus cut off reinforcements which might be sent to Valencia from the city. An incessant fire was opened on Colonel Smith's command, and soon the rifles were engaged with the pickets of the enemy, driving them in. The twelve-pounder batteries of Captain Magruder, and the mountain howitzer batteries now commanded by Lieut. Callender of the Ordnance department, were pressed forward and opened on the enemy, but were so much exposed to a fire from heavier guns, that they were soon silenced. Lieutenants Johnson and Callender were seriously wounded. At three o'clock General Cadwalader was ordered out to support Colonel Riley, heavy reinforcements having been seen on their way out from the city, whilst General Pierce was sent to sustain General Smith. The firing from the enemy's batteries was inessant.

About four o'clock General Scott arrived, and seeing the immense strength of the Mexicans, at once ordered General Shield's brigade to support Riley and Cadwalader, and prevent, if possible, Valencia. But few of the movements of our own troops could be seen, though every motion of the enemy was visible. The order of battle of Valencia was most imposing. His infantry was drawn up to support the batteries, whilst long lines of the enemy's cavalry were stationed in the rear, as if awaiting the shock of the battle. Two separate charges of the latter were distinctly seen to be repulsed by Colonel Riley until he had fairly closed in. The firing from the enemy's batteries had not slackened; it had been a continuous roar for nearly six hours.

General Scott retired to San Augustine about eight o'clock, in the midst of a hard rain, and Generals Twiggs and Pillow came in about eleven o'clock completely exhausted.

On the morning of the 20th, General Worth was ordered to move a part of his division, Garland's brigade, to aid in the attack on Valencia, for to force this position was deemed indispensable. At seven o'clock a few discharges of cannon were heard, and the rattling of musketry, and some even said that in the distance horses of the enemy could be seen flying towards the city, yet few deemed that the batteries had been stormed and carried: yet it was so. General Scott, accompanied by General Worth, started for the scene of action, when they were met by Captain Mason with the joyful intelligence that Valencia had been completely routed, after a terrible struggle. The attack upon his works was planned by General Smith, and resulted in the capture of fifteen pieces of artillery, and some fifteen hundred prisoners, among them Generals Blanco, Garcia, Mendoza, and the notorious Salas also captured all the ammunition and camp equipage, whilst the road of those who fled was strewed with muskets. No less than seven hundred of the enemy, among them many officers, were left dead on the field, whilst the number wounded was far greater. The works of Cronteras were completely in the power of the American army.

General Scott at once ordered General Worth to fall back on San Antonio, to turn and capture that work, and then push on towards the capital by the main road, whilst the main body of the army moved on towards San Angel and Cohoycam. General Twiggs had scarcely moved half a mile beyond the latter village when a rattling fire of musketry announced that it was actively engaged with the outposts of the enemy, and the heavy booming of cannon now gave token that the noted second division had fallen on another strong work.

A few minutes more and a tremendous firing from the right made it evident that General Worth's division was also actively engaged. He had completely turned the strong works of San Antonio, and while doing so the enemy had abandoned the place with a loss of three heavy guns, and had fallen back on a second stronger line of works. It was now one o'clock in the afternoon, and about the commencement of the battle. Such a rattling of fire-arms had seldom or never been heard on the continent of America, accompanied with such booming of artillery, and continued over two hours, when the enemy was completely routed from every point, and until those who were not killed or taken prisoners were in full flight for the city.

The strength of the enemy at this battle is known to have been at least 15,000, and many say 20,000, all fresh troops, and in a position of uncommon strength. Opposed to them were about 6000 Americans, jaded and broken down by marches and countermarches, and incessant toil at Charbasco. The Mexicans say that Santa Anna commanded in person, but that he retired early. The voung men of the capital, from whom so much was expected, nearly all fled without firing a gun.

The loss on our side has fallen most heavily upon the South Carolina and New York Volunteers, the 6th Infantry, and Smith's battalion, and the batteries of Captains Magruder and Taylor. The South Carolina regiment was nearly cut to pieces.

Thirteen Mexican Generals were killed and wounded.

More ammunition has been captured than General Scott has used since he has been in the country.



MOVE ON!

THE march of life should never stay, All things should onwards tend; Man should not clog progression's way, But strive to move and mend. The waters move in depths of ocean, The streams along the dales; And rivalets, with onward motion Through sweet and verdant vales Move on

The clouds move gently through the sky, The earth rolls ever on; Time swiftly in his course runs by, And years pass, one by one. Man, too, should strive to follow them In this their onward way. Permitting nought the tide to stem But ever, day by day,

Men may be wiser, if they strive-More virtuous, if they will; And who, within this world, would thrive, Must sim at higher still! Let priests stand firm by doctrines old, The wise will pass them by; Weak minds may cling with subtle hold, But strong ones valiantly

Statesmen in vain, of days gone by, May prate that they were best; Our goal must ever forward lie, Progression gives us zest. Our destiny is centred here, Deluded by no creed; know not terror, heed not fear, But still, with greater speed,

Like waters rolling to the ocean, Down mountains piled on high-Like clouds for ever in commotion, That move across the sky-Will we for ever onward press, Thus fetterless and free; And deeming virtue happiness, Our watchword ever be,

Move on !

A Geographical Dictionary of the Australian Colonies, illustrated with numerous maps and drawings. By William Henry Wells, Surveyor. W. and F. Ford, Sydney.

SUCH a work as the one before us has long been in request and the want of it has been severely and generally felt. We hail, therefore, with extreme pleasure its appearance, as we have every reason to think that it will prove a valuable addition to our colonial library. This book professes to give a succinct and correct description of all the localities of any importance whatever in the Australian Colonies. From the variety of topics which are necessarily embraced in a work of this nature, and the multitudinous facts which are contained in it, it may be inferred that many errors and omissions have been made which were to a considerable extent unavoidable. There can be, however, no peculiar objection to this publication on this score,—all works of a like nature are incorrect in some respects especially in a first edition. We shall before concluding, point out a few instances of omissions and errors having in our opinion been made, and we trust that the compiler will in a second edition which we have no doubt will be called for rectify such mistakes. The labour he has already had in collecting materials must have been very considerable, engaged as he has been in the task for eight years; and his research has been very extended, as the list of books which he consulted, about fifty in number, fully testifies. These are to a certain extent vouchers both for the completeness and for the correctness of the information which is given us. The number of the drawings is considerably smaller than we expected, and two of them, although the best of the four, representing East Boyd, and whale fishing at Twofold Bay, as they only relate to places of minor importance, should not have appeared to the places of minor importance, should not have appeared to the exclusion of others possessing more interest to the general reader. A view of Melbourne, of Adelaide, Hobart Town, or any such place would be infinitely preferable to either of them. In the maps we are completely disappointed,—a judicious selection has not been made, and those which are presented to us are very inferior,—in fact, utterly unworthy of the work. Our English friends will have but a very poor opinion of the artistic resources of the colony, if they judge by these maps. These faults, however, are remediable as we are certain that

better illustrations can be executed in the colony.

We shall now notice a few inaccuracies which in glancing through the pages of the publication we have fallen in with, and we do so not with any desire of prejudicing the work in the estimation of the public, as works of this kind are pe-culiarly liable to errors, but with a view to point out the necessity for its careful revision. In giving a description of a town or any locality it is cer judicious statement of particulars, which shall leave nothing to be desired for, and yet contain nothing superfluous. Nor is this difficulty surmounted in the work before us. The chief fault which is apparent in the publication is the want of a methodical delineation of the characteristics of places. There is no rule attempted so far as we can see, to be adhered to. The descriptions are jumbled and chaotic, and the order used in speaking of one locality, is forgotten in the next, although the places are of the same sort. The consequence is that in describing a town for instance, many particulars are not given, which however are essential; and a trifling place often occupies a page, while more important places are despatched in a few words. Thus although we have an elaborate description of Hobart Town, no mention is made of its population, while in a much shorter description we are told the population

population, afterwards delineating its boundaries. cribing Campbelltown this order is changed; its whereabouts, and then of its boundaries, while the account of its population and the number of its houses are very awkwardly tacked on to the last line. These may appear trifling matters to some, and so undoubtedly they are when considered individually, but when they characterise a publication they become important, and in the present instance along with other trifling defects of a similar nature, they impart a slovenly appearance to the execution of the work. The author would have found it much easier to have laid down rules for describing places, giving similar particulars in a similar order. Thus when giving information respecting a mountain, the writer, after naming it, and reciting any particulars connected with its name, should state its locality, its height above the level of the sea, and the nature of its composition, concluding with any general particulars relating to it of an interesting and peculiar nature. But what information do we gain from such a description as this, "Tanguega. Is situated on the Nammoy river, in the district of Liverpool Plains, N. S. W." What is TANGULGA? A river, hill, town, village, mountain, creek, or any thing the fancy can refer it to. Of what use is it to insert such descriptions? Yet in the same page we find three or four names of the same visionary nature; and throughout the book there are numerous instances of names which suggest irresistibly the idea of disembodied spirits, possessing no fea-tures by which we can identify them. We know that there is tures by which we can identify them. We know that there is a mountain called Tangulda, near Liverpool Plains, and this knowledge enables us to make the supposition that this tantalizing Tangulga is a misprint for Tangulda. Some places, however, have the misfortune not to be mentioned in the work at all. Thus, although mention is made of a George's River in Tasmania, the George's River which flows into Botany Bay is forgotten, so far as we can see. Also the remarkable vol-cano called Wingen, at Liverpool Plains, which we think is entitled to notice in a work where the most insignificant station finds a place, is not alluded to. We could point out many other instances of omission, or at least what we cannot help considering omission, but these will suffice to support our remarks. As consequences of the want of a system by which to be guided, we find that the description of Dungog, a village containing 124 inhabitants and 25 houses, occupies the same space as that of West Maitland, a town with a population of 2409, and with 558 houses, that is, rather more than a page; while the important seaport town of Wollongong is despatched in five lines! But, what is more surprising, these five lines give us almost as much information concerning Wollongong, as is conveyed to us about Dungog in upwards of fifty! The compiler has, at least in one instance, sadly marred the alphabetical order, by which we were almost cheated into accusing him of having made several important omissions. If pages 60 and 88 are consulted, it will be found that the letter O is made to precede the letter L, by which transposition we are treated to the delectable description of Boyd Town, before being introduced to the Blackwattle Swamp, to Bligh, or to the Blue Mountains. Then, again, we were sadly puzzled to find out the description of Lake Alexandrina: we pored frequently and carefully over the columns of AL, but without success; when, luckily, we bethought ourselves of looking at the word Lake, when, to our gratification, we discovered the truant. But it by no means follows that all lakes are described under the term Lake Lake George, for example, is described in the proper place, viz., at the word George. The same contempt of perspicuity in arrangement is evinced in the description of Capes, and in other cases. This we consider a great defect in

In describing the Sydney Press, the writer states that the Courier, Times, and Squatter, rank among the list of newspapers. We found fault with him before for presenting us with undefinable shadows in place of substantialities, now his error is reversed, and he gives to "airy nothing a local habitation and a name." The projectors of the abortive attempts at starting new journals, have the satisfaction of seeing their bantlings enjoy at least an imaginary existence; or rather must they not be greatly chagrined to find that the evidence of their unsuccessful efforts will always stare them in the face, recalling unpleasant recollections? It is really a cruelly kind

The compiler's description of Port Essington, which by the way must be looked for under the word Port, is far too favour-able, and is evidently taken from the glowing accounts set forth at the time of forming the settlement.

The Asylum at Tarban is not now under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Digby, nor is Dr. Lee the medical officer. Dr. Francis Campbell, the author should have known, is now medical superintendent of the establishment, and we believe that Digby is retained as head-keeper. However this inaccuracy is excusable, as the change has so recently taken place.

The errors we have noticed, we are not at all suprised at indeed we were prepared for meeting more flagrant and outrageous ones. This work, and every one of a similar nature must go through several editions before it can be purged of all inaccuracies, and before omissions can be filled up. But there is a notable violation of decency in this work, which we fear will effectually injure its character. It possesses so much of the grotesque and ludicrous indeed that it is more calculated to excite laughter than any thing else, although we fear that the author will find it no laughing matter. Our respected friend Benjamin Boyd, who seems bent upon earning distinction some how, has it is evident managed through the medium and advocated. In what other way can we account for the fact that two of the four engravings represent the one East Boyd, and the other Whaling off the Boyd Town Lighthouse. This, however, is a trifle. Let us turn to Boyd Town and we shall find this El Dorado of Mr. Boyd's morbid imagination, occupying upwards of sixteen pages in its description. Did we say description? We might have excused that, and have merely found with it the general fault of superfluity. But nearly fourteen of these sixteen pages are devoted to the host of certificates setting forth the peculiar merits of Boyd Town, with the most of which said certificates, the public, on a certain occasion some four or five months ago, were nauseated in the columns of the Sydney Morning Herald. In this violation of propriety, we are at a loss which to wonder at most, the folly and egotism evinced in the continued of Launceston. In describing Liverpool the author informs obtrusion of himself and affairs upon the public, on the part us where it is situated, and then he proceeds to tell us of its of Mr. Boyd, or the suicidal conduct of the author, in thus

prejudicing the sale of his work, as will unquestionably be the case, by allowing it to become a vehicle for the advocacy of private interest. The gross impropriety of devoting so much valuable space to the consideration of this comparatively insignificant locality, in a book claiming a general interest, will be more apparent when we compare it with the description of Sydney, the Capital of Australia, which occupies scarcely three pages. Were it not that we trust to all this superfluous matter being expunged, and in consideration of the numerous merits of the work, we should most certainly condemn it as a party production, and wholly unworthy of public patronage. As it is, we recommend it to the public, not certainly as a publication devoid of faults, but as one which supplies us with a vast deal of information, of which we ought not to be ignorant, and which no other work can give us, and at all events as a work which is extremely valuable if we regard it merely as the rough material out of which a correct and perfect gazetteer of the Australian Colonies may be compiled:

We have almost forgotten to notice the introductory Poem on Australia, by S. P. Hill, which, despite some feeble lines, and trifling ideas, is one of the best pieces which we have seen produced in the colony. Indeed it took us somewhat by surprise, being much superior to most of the author's productions. The lines-

Far, far beyond, prolific regions spread, Where whispering winds have made their balmy bed, Disturb'd but by a LEICHHARDT'S daring tread. are extremely felicitous.

Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia, from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, during the Years 1844-1845. By Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt. Boone.

The expedition described in this book excited great interest during its progress. The smallness of the party, the scantiness of its equipment, and the enormous tract of country proposed to be explored, stamped it at its commencement with a character of rashness; and when several months had passed without any tidings of the travellers, the people of Sydney generally gave them up for lost. Two parties successively went out in search of them, or, failing their discovery, to ascertain their fate; but neither could get upon their track, or learn anything concerning them: and when at last they reappeared, after more than fifteen months' absence, the delight and gratitude of the colonists of Sydney took a very substantial form. Upwards of fifteen hundred pounds were collected for them by public subscription; and a gratuity of a thousand pounds was voted to them by the Legislative Council of the colony. Doctor Leichhardt has since received, too, the latest honours of the Geographical Societies of London and Paris. The successful issue of his perilous enterprise, the fortitude and perseverance displayed by the persons engaged in it, the advantages derived from it to general science, and in particular to the colony and society of Sydney, were the proper and sufficient justification of these well-merited rewards.

The details of the expedition, in which a distance of upwards of three thousand miles was traversed, are given by Doctor Leichhardt in this volume, and will be read with great interest. He was the originator, director, and animating soul of the enterprise, from its commencement to its close. He limited the party, in the first instance, to five besides himself; exacting from them the condition that they were to be contented with animal food, patiently to submit to every other privation, and resign themselves implicitly to his guidance: but, on similar conditions, he allowed four additional persons to join them at Brisbane. It seems clear that it was by these prudent precautions, by confining provisions and stores to what were actually necessary, and by keeping the expedition as far as possible in what Doctor Leichhardt calls "light marching order," they were able to encounter the difficulties of the broken mountainous countries through which they passed, to endure the unusual privations to which they were subjected, and at last to achieve success. They took with them seven-teen horses and sixteen head of cattle; and not the least interesting part of the Doctor's narrative relates to his brute companions. The bullocks were highly unmanageable at first; but ropes, iron nose-rings, and other artifices, were some check to their refractory bluntness; and the familiarity of constant association, and of common wants and dangers, seems to have made it at last quite a family party of "man and beast." The horses, the dogs, and the bullocks, came to have each their peculiar character, their marked individuality, their (as it were) personal interest for the men; and when the expedition fell upon its evil days—horses drowned, dogs lost, and bullocks of necessity killed—it was with no small grief they lost the old familiar brutish faces. The men of education in the party, beside the Doctor himself, were four, well acquainted for the most part with Natural History pursuits; the attendants were two aboriginal natives, a Crown prisoner of Sydney, and a sturdy young lad.

We shall not attempt to give any outline of what befell the expedition. Some notion may be formed of what they had to contend with, when the reader is told, that, having stored themselves with provisions for seven months only, which the Doctor had calculated to be sufficient for the journey, they were nearly sixteen months in reaching Port Essington. "I was deeply affected," says Doctor Leichhardt, describing his arrival at the latter place, "in finding myself again in civilised society, and could scarcely speak, the words growing big with tears and emotion; and even now, when considering with what small means the Almighty had enabled me to perform such a long journey, my heart thrills in grateful acknowledgment." He had arrived at Port Essington, too, with the satisfactory sense of having been engaged in no thankless or profitless labour. The result of his enterprise was thoroughly successful. It has added not a little to our existing stock of knowledge in the various departments of natural history; and has made discovery, in districts before untrodden, of an almost boundless extent of fertile country, replete with means for the establishment and growth of civilisation, and connecting the Australian Continent with the shores of the Indian Ocean.

We shall borrow a few extracts from Dr. Leichhardt's unassuming yet most striking narrative, to show the character of the hardships endured, the dangers braved, and the almost insuperable difficulties surmounted by steady fortitude. After the eighth month their condition began to be very critical.

"When we left our last camp at the Lynd, John Murphy's pony was missing. Charley went to look for it, and did not join