

Marquis of Sligo and Dr. Bancroft. * * * This happy, splendid, and peculiarly favoured little parish may boast of its Guinea corn,† but we must recollect the precarious and *uncertain* cultivation of that grain ; and (do your best) it will give *but one crop in the year*, whereas the Victoria wheat promises three, if not four, crops annually, and seems to *grow equally well in the arid plains of Vere and the humid mountains of Clarendon and St. Ann's*. The wheat produced in **Vere** was planted at Hill-side Estate on the **22nd** of March last ; it came up on the **27th** [fifth day] ; the first ears came out on the 9th May [fifty-eighth day] ; it began to ripen on the 6th of June [seventy-sixth day], and was cut on the 20th [ninetieth day] ; and might have been cut a day or two earlier, but for the frequent rains, which made it too wet to be taken in. The portion sown in **Clarendon** was on Mount Moses Plantation : it was planted in March, and reaped in June. In St. Ann's, Mr. King *planted it on the 30th of March-on the 2nd of April* [third day !] *it was up*, and continued to grow very fast. In about *two months* from the time of sowing, it began to show head, and blossom and improve ; *on the 30th of June* [ninety-second day], it was *quite ripe and full, and decidedly equal, if not superior, to the sample sown*. The only attention it received was once **weeding** between the drills, which proved quite **sufficient.**''

I consider it a work of supererogation to descant upon the advantages which must accrue to the West Indies by the timely introduction **and** cultivation of wheat. The most stolid or the most superficial reader must perceive them. Let him only consider the enormous return of **30,000** for 1, or 30,000 bushels for 1 bushel of seed sown ; the ease with which wheat, barley, and oats are cultivated, compared with the **labour** necessary to bring the cane to maturity; the inconsiderable capital required for the successful cultivation of wheat ; the enormous outlay in the shape of "works" before a cane can be ground or a pound' of sugar made ; the certainty of the profitable return of the one, the precarious nature of the other ; the vast consumption in the West Indies alone of flour and **wheaten** bread ; and last, not least, the great length of time which wheat may be preserved fit for food, compared

† **Guinea corn** (*Holcus Sorghum*) is a native of Guinea, but extensively cultivated in some parts of Jamaica. It **does** not seem to thrive on the north side. It is best planted between September and November, and is ripe in June. It ratoona. The returns are from thirty to forty bushels an acre; but the crops are uncertain.

with the perishable nature of sugar-its unfitness for continuous food, its greater price, and liability at all times, owing to the large capital requisite for its successful cultivation, to degenerate into monopoly, and, consequently, to keep the people led by capital-held by capital-enslaved by **capital—driven** by capital-and, finally, starved by capital, Now, if these facts are borne in mind, there can be but one opinion on the necessity of immediately setting to work seriously to introduce the cultivation of wheat on an extensive scale in the West Indies. It must benefit all parties-proprietors, **labourers**, merchants, and mechanics, With his wheat-field, a poor man may defy the giant speculator, smile at the lordly millionaire, **contemn** the wealthy landholder, and defy even, the arch-fiend poverty himself. The **labour** of his hands, the assistance of his children, and the occasional help of a **neighbour**, would enable him to **live** comfortably and happy, despite the imposition of fiscal exaction and the burden of necessary taxation. And, under such circumstances,

“**Beatus ille qui** procul negotiis
(Ut **prisca gens** mortalium)
Paterna rura bobus exercet suis,
Solutus **omni fœnore.**”

I am, Sir,

Sour obedient Servant,

EDWARD BINNS,

Bellevue, Hounslow.

Ed. Simmonds's Col. Mag.

NOTES OF A RESIDENCE IN VAN DIEMAN'S LAND,
IN 184243;

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXISTING SYSTEM OF COLONIAL DISCIPLINE AND
EMPLOYMENT, AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS EFFICIENT IMPROVEMENT.

BY A LATE COLONIAL POLICE MAGISTRATE.

(Continued from p. 156.)

14th November.-Went yesterday to Adams's at Halstead, the only "great unpaid" within a dozen miles of me, to dine. Adams's farm is a grant of more than two thousand acres, a small part of which is-cleared, the rest the original forest. I am afraid he is not so good a practical farmer as is desirable ; but I understand that his father, who is a rich beneficed clergyman in Essex, now and then sends him a cool five hundred or so, which, with the very excellent management of Mrs. Adams, -who seems to think nothing of the privations and many inconveniences of a Bush life, I hope keeps everything right. They have an interesting family of seven children, the youngest about twelve months old, one of the finest boys I have ever seen. They were, I believe, all born in the colony ; but if any accident should drop them at their grandfather's rectory in Essex, they would not be known **from** the true home-breed.

I returned this morning, and found that one of my packages had been received from Hobarton. Amongst other things, it contained a **Stilton** cheese which had been put up in tin fourteen months before. On opening it, it proved to be in excellent condition. I cut it up, and sent part to Cruttenden, Parsons, Grueber, Adams, and others, as a small acknowledgment of the civilities I was continually receiving from them.

16th November.-A regatta was getting up at Hobarton, which I thought some of the great folks had very improperly **endeavoured** to interfere with; and as all such public amusements ought, in my opinion, to be encouraged rather than opposed, I sent them (although I had no chance of being there to enjoy it) a subscription of a guinea,

18th November.-Went to Cruttenden's to dinner, to meet an old friend of his, Lieut. Josh. Steele, R.N. who has been out here as a settler for many years. Steele knows John **Stigant**, R.N. an old friend of **mine** ; and many years ago, when they were in the West Indies **together**, they used to meet at Jack Duer's, who subsequently lived at Chichester, and who was so well known and respected by everybody **who**

hunted with the Hambledon Hounds in South-east **Hants**, or with Col. Wyndham in West Sussex. Steele knew many naval men whom I also knew, and we soon got very **cozy**.

Received an invite to join a bachelor's ball at Hobarton, to be given the day after the regatta ; and on my replying that I had for many years lost my qualification as a bachelor, the committee very handsomely sent me an invitation as a visitor, which I regretted I could not accept.

21st November. - A small company of black cockatoos have made their appearance. They are supposed to be migratory, as they are only seen at this season ; and I am assured that no nest of young ones has ever been discovered, They are very handsome—the tail-feathers partly black and white, under the wings a little yellow, and their chests black and yellow ; their screech, when flying, is like that of the white **ones**.— The magpies here *are* also handsome, but are not so regularly marked as ours at home, particularly on the back : they are always welcome to the farmer, as they destroy great quantities of slugs and insects that would otherwise do great damage to the crops.

Cruttenden has begun his sheep-shearing. The wind is unusually high and cold. I advised him to give them a night in the barn after shearing, which must be at least useful in such weather ; but so very little is thought here of the loss of a score or two of sheep, that they were turned out. He has also begun mowing his English **meadows**—that is, meadows laid down with English grasses : the crop seemed rather light. His free **Kentish** man takes the lead, and is already getting his assigned **labourers** out of their lazy Government step—which they don't much approve of, but cannot help. Cruttenden does not much like the present 'low price of wool in England, so very different from what for some years they have been used to ; but the **flock-masters** here are in hopes that the peace with China will give a lift to the manufacturers, increase the demand, and consequently raise prices—though they do not anticipate the high ones which they once obtained,

23rd November. - Walked over to Gruber's to tea and sleep ; very hot wind, and the dust disagreeable. A gentleman **from** Hobarton, who was going round the country, came to tune their piau, a very handsome grand of **Broadwood's**—the first and only one that had ever appeared at Prosser's ; his charge was two guineas—he slept there, and in the morning at breakfast we were joined by our district doctor, Blyth, an Essex man, which made the largest breakfast party they had ever had at Brockley, the name he has given to his estate, after one possessed by his family in Old England. We have had a most windy, boisterous fortnight ; indeed, more so than any one can remember at this time of the

year ; but the last day or two, some warm showers and sunshine have put us all in good **humour** again.

28th November.—**When** Cruttenden was last in Hobarton, he saw the Lieutenant-Governor about the Road Act, and had a consultation with him and the Attorney-general respecting a defect in it, which it would **require** a short Act of Council to remedy: as there was not time then to effect that, the Lieutenant-Governor assured him, that if at our meeting we passed resolutions appointing commissioners, and empowering them to act as far as they could do, he would order a survey, and send a party of prisoners to commence the work. We had our district **meeting** to-day, and on my explaining to them the exact position in which we stood, they were induced to pass the necessary resolutions, constituting the commissioners, and I hope that we are now in the right way. Ours is the only district where so much progress has been made in carrying out a measure which, with the necessary alterations, cannot **fail** to be of the greatest use to them ; and in nothing more than that it is the first step to the management of their own affairs, which the sooner they arrive at the better. Cruttenden, in honour of the meeting, had given an invitation to **all** those of “the pale” to dine with him. We had only a small muster, as many who had a distance to go preferred at once returning. Dr. **Blyth** told us that on riding along the road from Pittwater to Prosser's, he had seen a cow and calf lying dead, which he supposed had been bitten by a snake. There are two **or** three sorts of snakes here, whose bite is more or less venomous, and it is said that the bite of the diamond snake is always fatal. One of our men a few days since killed one that was between five and six feet long: a small reward should be given for killing them, which would soon lessen their numbers,

2nd December.—Some time since, it was reported to me that a **ticket-of-leave** man and a **free** woman were living rather closer together than many of their neighbours approved of. I sent for the parties, and, after questioning them, recommended that they should get married, which they consented to ; I obtained the necessary consent for the man, and about **two** months ago they went to **Sorell**, twenty miles, to the nearest clergyman, for that purpose : on their return it was very bad **weather**—the poor woman took a cold from which she never recovered, and to-day she was buried, making the first death in my district since I have been here, and the third interment in the burial-ground, which has been fenced in above two years. The man had gone to some expense in **fit-**ting up his cabin previous to his marriage, which it was understood had then exhausted his means ; and it was now proposed to raise a subscription for him to defray **the** funeral expenses, when about ten pounds

were collected, to which I gave ten shillings. It was pleasant to see the alacrity with which the other men gave their subscriptions ; indeed, whether upon a large or a small scale, there is no want of donations to assist those who may be temporarily in need of them.

3rd December.-This is ——'s birth-day ; the last I spent on board the **ship** on my voyage out. I have invited two or three to dinner, when we shall not forget to drink his health, and long life and happiness to him and his family.

5th December.-Our views under the Road Act are progressing **capitally**. Directly after the meeting, Cruttenden, who had been elected Chairman to the Board of Commissioners, went to **Hobarton** to **inform** the Lieutenant-Governor what had been done, which he so much **ap-**proved of-the Road Act being a child of his own, although a rather **ricketty** one-that he agreed to send at once a Government Surveyor down to survey and lay out the road, and to-day Mr. **Milligan**, who has been placed at the head of what is called the Probation Department, came here to make arrangements for the immediate sending a body of convicts to begin the work. I find already that I shall have some **difficulty** in keeping up the good understanding that has hitherto prevailed, as differences of opinion begin to show themselves about which side of the river the road ought to run ; I have strongly advised leaving it entirely to the Surveyor, which I hope will be followed. If anything would reconcile me to staying another year or two in this county, it would be -the prospect that now opens of having something useful to superintend which would be worthy of my attention ; but if I find that the work is to be carried on in the old, stupid jog-trot style, I shall most unquestionably adhere to a resolution I had formed of **finally** leaving here in about a month on my return to Old England.

6th December.-Mr. **Milligan** left this morning to report to the Lieutenant-Governor, and we are to hear **from** him in time for our next meeting, a few days hence. I take some credit to myself for all these proceedings, as I am quite sure that if I had not continually **urged** them on, principally by giving proper explanations of the Act, nothing would have been done. Very great prejudices have existed against the Act, as they choose to consider it a first attempt at direct taxation, to which they have an insuperable objection, and ours was the first meeting that had succeeded in putting it in action.

Two more free men, one woman, and **two** children, came down to-day to Cruttenden's. Our doctor has engaged a man and his **wife**. The **feeling** is getting very general all over the country in favour of **free emigrants**, and it is decidedly right ; there is a fellowship and **under-**

standing amongst the prisoners and those who have been so, that must be broken down, or the settlers will one day have cause to regret it. An opinion is very prevalent, and to which they often give expression, that the country having been cleared by them, they have the greatest right to it, and if a "Spartacus" should ever spring up amongst them and a servile war be the consequence, it may prove most disastrous to all the best interests of the country; the true, and, indeed, the only way to ultimately prevent the possibility of such a catastrophe, is by such an extensive and continued immigration and settlement of **free** people, as will form a **preponderating** majority, and leave the prisoners, or those who have descended **from** them, no chance of success.

7th December.—Heard a case to-day at Spring Bay of a claim for wages made by a ticket-of-leave man against his master, when **a** youngster who calls himself "**a** gentleman" swore a great deal harder than I think he ought to have done, which called to my recollection the old 'couplet of

"When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?"

15th December.91 have had several conversations with Mr. Meredith, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Grueber, and Mr. **Cruttenden**, about my construction of the "Road Act." The latter asked me to put down in writing what alterations I considered were necessary or desirable to give it a good **working** character, which, as he was going to Hobarton, he would show to the Lieutenant-Governor. I accordingly addressed to him the following letter :—

"Prosser's Plains, 15th Dec. 1842.

"My Dear Sir,—In looking carefully through the 'Road Act,' the following amendments appear to me to be indispensably necessary to give it a good working character :—

" Clause **6.**—**When** the main road from **Hobarton** to Launceston shall be wholly finished, or even as it now stands, it ought to be divided into six or more divisions or districts, which should be managed by Commissioners, the same as is proposed for the cross roads. Turnpike-gates should be erected on such parts of them as may be thought desirable; and if the tolls do not **suffice** for repairs, a rate should be made to make up the deficiency, as is done in England : the Director-generalship might then be abolished, and that useless charge upon the general revenue saved, or applied to a much better purpose.

"Clause 28.—The **existing** main, and **all** other roads, to be under the management and control of the local commissioners.

" Clause 30—Ought to provide for the immediate survey and laying out of a continuous and connected line of roads, so that every person interested may know the line that at some time or other will be taken ; this would lead to a great many local improvements which cannot otherwise be undertaken.

"Clause **31.**—**The** qualification should be the **possession of a real estate of**

£—— per annum ; as the clause now stands, any special juror may be elected for any district without having any interest in it.

“ Clause 32.—By this clause it is necessary that a requisition to the Police Magistrate to call a meeting should be signed every year; this is more than useless—it is ridiculous. It ought to be, that on a certain day in every year, the persons qualified as voters should meet of themselves, at the principal town of their district, then and there to choose commissioners.

“ Clause 33.—The qualification for voters should be extended to all persons who rent to the amount of £—— per annum ; the renters will have to pay a large proportion of the rates, and are as much or more interested in having good roads than the proprietors. The provisoes are good.

“ Clause 34.—At the meeting the voters shall elect their own chairman, who shall then have the list of voters handed to him. The commissioners should appoint their own clerk, who shall receive and keep the registry.

“ Clause 35.—Some of the districts are large, and it is desirable that there should be a commissioner for each division of it; the number should be extended to ten or twelve.

“ Clause 37.—The commissioners to be in office for three years; one-third to go out of office annually, but eligible to be re-elected.

“ Clause 40.—At the end, ‘and no more.’

“ Clause 50.—If the character given of the present Director-general of the Roads by Mr. Gregson, at a meeting of the council, be true, there ought to be no reference to him, or to any other so appointed. Indeed, all the surveys ought to be made by and at the expense of the Government, who are most deeply interested in the general and speedy improvement of the country, by which the remaining Crown lands would be infinitely increased in value.

“ Upon a rough estimate of the value of property in the district of Spring Bay, the amount of the rate would not at present exceed £100 per annum; and that or any other amount could be much better appropriated than in the payment of an unnecessary surveyor, or the other officers named in the Act.

“ In this, and all other Acts that are to be executed for the benefit of the people at large, you cannot too soon get rid of the machinery of justices or police magistrates; which will oblige the people to look to and rely upon themselves alone, to carry out all the improvements which the country requires, and is so capable of advantageously receiving.

“ I am, my dear Sir,

“ Yours very truly,

“_____”

“THOS. CRUTTSDEN, ESQ., Woodsden.”

This letter is almost too **strong** for Cruttenden; but if they mean to succeed, they must throw off their hitherto apathetic feelings, and instead of relying upon others, try what can be accomplished by putting their own shoulders to the wheel. I subsequently wrote half-a-dozen copies of the letter and gave to different parties interested.

The Richmond people are following our example about the roads, and are to have a meeting on the 31st of December. I hope they will carry it, as that will **complete** our line of road to Hobarton, when there will

be as pretty a ride **from** hence to Richmond for twenty-five miles as any **one** need pass over, and which cannot fail to stimulate and excite a **great** improvement of a country which is very much in want of it.

20th December.-I find that I shall be of no use here in carrying out the road-the old almost do-nothing course is to be pursued. I have therefore positively made up my mind to leave here the **beginning** of January, and I write to-day to the Colonial Secretary to that effect, which will give them time to look out for a successor ; for poor and mean as I think of the situation, there are many who will be glad to catch at **it**— and the less they will have to do, the better perhaps they will like it.

22nd December. - Two of Mr. Calder's men (who has been appointed by Government to survey the line of road) came to-day, and report that Mr. Calder himself will be here to-morrow. They have begun to pitch the tents which they usually have on their surveys-such things! a **gipsy's** is much better.

Cruttenden, who is returned, came over this morning, and reports having seen the **Lieut.-Governor**, who has promised to send the men directly, He says that he forgot to take my letter with him, but **had** explained all of it to the **Lieut.-Governor**, and had a consultation with him and other officials about the necessary alterations ; but I think he dropped all the allusions about the Director-general, who, it is supposed, is a **protégé** of the Governor-and if so, under the present abominable system it would be perhaps more than useless. **Cruttenden** says that nothing else is talked of in **Hobarton** but the roads, and that the Brighton people are going to have a meeting directly.

25th December.-Christmas Day, which, notwithstanding the difference of climate, is always kept here as a holiday by the men. Went to pass my Christmas at Grueber's, where I spent three most pleasant days. Mrs. Gmeber is a very lady-like, agreeable woman, and a capital pianist. The day after Christmas Day is his father's birthday, which we did all the honours to. This is probably the last time I shall be there: as I shall not take a formal leave of any one, I heartily wish them all they deserve--health, happiness and prosperity, and a "quiver full of young ones,"-they have already made a beginning. I have passed many pleasant days there, and was always received with the greatest kindness and friendly attentions. We shall not, I dare say, either of us, very soon forget our music and songs, particularly our special favourite "The days when we went gipsying," which we indulged in on Saturday evenings.

Considering that it was Christmas, which had always been treated as a sort of saturnalia by the men, there were very few complaints. I

admonished those who had a little overstepped the bounds of propriety, and discharged them,- a treatment they had been very little used to, but which, I am quite satisfied, will have a better effect than severer measures.

31st December,-This day concludes the week, the month, the quarter, and the year. To me it has been a very chequered one, but, on the whole, for myself I do not regret it-some things have happened which I could wish had been otherwise. I am certainly much disappointed and annoyed at my position here, so very different from what was held out to me, and which I came so far to fill. I shall get away next week if possible ; but we are so situated with business here that I hardly expect to do so until after the official visit of the Chief Police Magistrate on the 10th proximo, although I have a letter from him saying that that need make no **difference** in my arrangements.

1st January, 1843.-To-day I begin a new year, and conjecture is already **afloat** how it may end. I am making preparations for my departure **from** Prosser's, packing up my traps. I have engaged a bullock cart for their conveyance, and intend immediately I arrive in **Hobarton** to make an official tender of my resignation, which I dare say will be very readily accepted. I expect to get finally away from the colony towards the end of the month, and some time in May I hope and expect to be again in "**merrie** England," never more to leave it.

2nd January.-We have this morning begun to take the annual census for our district, as is done all over the country, agreeably to the Act of Council for that purpose ; this will be de second enumeration under that act, and a considerable increase is expected, principally from the immigration of free people as well as prisoners. Every year a large number of those who have "served their time," and become **free**, leave Van **Dieman's** land for the other settlements, where they hope their previous state of bondage may be unknown, and consequently to pass as original free settlers. This must not be wondered at, as no man can prefer working in a district, when **free**, **where** he has hitherto been in a state of forced **labour**.

The community here cannot progress so fast in population as **would** result **from** equal numbers in England. A very large majority of the prisoners are males, and the females, by their previous vicious habits and propensities, have at a comparative early age passed the time when the command to "increase and multiply" can be effectual.

Our Plains, usually so quiet, have been all alive to-day: two ox-teams with furniture for the half-finished house my predecessor vegetated in, which is taken by a man from- Pittwater, for a store, in anticipation of