

had much injured the early forage crops, but subsequent mild rains had caused the wheat and young barley to look well,

AFRICA.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

'Papers from the Cape to the 15th November, bring intelligence that the Usury Bill. has been withdrawn, in consequence of the Governor having declared in council his resolution not to grant his assent to it.

The Vestes had sailed on the 11th November, for Port Natal, to bring back the troops, stores, and every thing belonging to the government.

MAURITIUS.

We omitted in our last to mention the facts which gave rise to a misunderstanding that had taken place in this island, between the officers of two French vessels of war, and the commander of a British merchant ship, all lying in the harbour of Port Louis, in which dispute the authorities of the island became ultimately involved : but as the affair is likely to assume an aspect of importance, we think it right to place it on record. The facts of the case appear to be briefly these. One of the French vessels, the *Isère*, having displayed her colours, and placed the British flag at the bottom of all, Captain Driver, of the *Greenlaw*, an old master of the navy, retaliated by lowering the tricolor flag under the bows of his ship. This was quickly observed by the French commander. An apology was demanded; and further, that the French flag should be displayed at the mast-head of the *Greenlaw*. These requisitions his excellency, Sir W. Nicolay, did not consider unreasonable, and Captain Driver being sent for, he at first refused, but ultimately consented to comply therewith. Every required concession was made, and Sir W. Nicolay, in his turn, demanded reparation for the affront originally offered, by the arrangement of the flags on board the *Isère*. This was first excused, and then refused; and the French commander was then given to understand, that the governor would compel him to hoist the flag, for which purpose, preparations were accordingly made, Still they refused to comply : the governor

prohibited all communication between the ships and the shore, and an order to this effect was conveyed to the French ships. Notwithstanding this, Captain Le Babier de Tinan, commander of the *Isère*, attempted to pass the guard, and when asked for his pass, answered only "that his epaulettes were his passport." He was, however, arrested, conveyed to the guard-room, and there detained by the officer on duty, until the morning. He complained loudly of the illegality of his arrest, called himself a prisoner of war, insisted on giving up his sword to Major Wilson, and requested to be placed under lock and key. At six o'clock in the morning, an order arrived from the governor for his release, upon which he returned to his ship.

The governor having declined all communication with the captains, the two French ships of-war sailed for Bourbon the 19th of September. The whole affair is now under the consideration of the two governments.

The increase of crime in the Mauritius is said to be great, and the *Mauricien*, publishes the following corroborative table, which shows the number of persons condemned in each month by the tribunal of correctional police. The number condemned was in

| | Indians. | Creoles. | Lately emancipated. | Total. |
|-------|----------|----------|---------------------|--------|
| Feb. | 9 | 2 | 15 | 26 |
| March | 16 | 4 | 25 | 45 |
| April | 10 | 0 | 25 | 35 |
| June | 14 | 0 | 35 | 49 |
| July | 19 | 4 | 47 | 83 |
| | | | others 13 | |
| Aug. | 3 | 1 | 28 | 32 |
| | | | others 4 | |

The punishment awarded to these persons has been imprisonment, varying from twenty-four hours to five years. The number of thefts exceeds that of other crimes by a great proportion.

GAMBIA.

By accounts received from the river Gambia, dated November 3, it appears that the French have committed the most violent and unjustifiable attacks on British trade in that quarter. To make the case more generally intelligible, it is as well to describe the position and extent of the French and British possessions in the western part of Africa. The Senegal, which was restored by England, by the treaty of

Paris, 1814, with reservation of a right of trading for gum at Portendic, is the principal French possession. The island of Goree, situated about one hundred miles to the south of the Senegal, and restored by the same treaty, also belongs to France, and these comprise the whole of her possessions on the west coast of Africa, and are consequently the only two places with which she has an exclusive right of trading. The river Gambia is the only British possession in the same quarter, which was secured to the English by the treaty of 1783, and retained by the treaty of Paris. The taking possession of Albredar, on the north bank of the Gambia, in 1819, by the French, seems to have been the first successful invasion of British rights in that quarter. The facts of the late aggression (which are corroborated by affidavit) are as follow :-There is at St. Louis, on the Senegal, a French chartered company, trading with a settlement called Gallam, which is about 1,000 miles up the river. The charter of this company having expired about three years ago, was renewed by the French government on condition that the company should form new settlements at the Cazamanza, a river which joins the Gambia on the south. On this river the French government agreed to build forts, and afford necessary protection. The Portuguese have occupied the **Cazamanza** from the earliest days of African discovery, without attempting to exclude others from a free trade, and the English have been in the constant habit of navigating its waters to carry on commerce with the natives. In pursuance of the agreement between the company and the French Government, a naval and military force proceeded to the Cazamanza, selected for settlements such places as would be best adapted to draw the trade from the Gambia, and erected forts. The merchants of the Gambia, feeling their trade in peril, addressed the British Governor on the subject, who promised to represent the matter at home. Whether any notice was taken of the affair is not known, but the French carried on their proceedings for two years without impediment, and not a single British Government-vessel has been sent to the **Cazamanza** to watch what the French were doing, or to protect British property. In the course of last August, while two

English vessels were at anchor off the town of Sedjeu, and the supercargo was carrying on trade with the natives, two boats full of French soldiers came alongside one of them, and took forcible possession of her, upon which she was left by the supercargo and crew in the hands of the French. The fact is, that although the sovereignty of Cazamanza is admitted by Europe to belong to the Portuguese, the French, having increased their establishment to four factories, claim an exclusive right to trade with the natives, and this aggression has been a manifestation of their claim. On application being made to the Governor of Senegal, he replied to the Governor of Gambia, that the French had undoubted rights in Sedjeu, including that of removing all foreign ships that persisted in trading there, and coolly recommended the English Governor to order ships proceeding from St. Mary's to Cazamanza to abstain from going to Sedjeu, till "our respective governments have decided the question."

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

THE CANADAS.

The steam-ship Liverpool, and the packet-ship Oxford, brought Canada papers to the middle of December.

The governor-general, on the 3d of December, opened the session of the provincial parliament of Upper Canada. The leading features of his address were, the determination of her majesty to maintain the subsisting connexion between her North American possessions and the United Kingdom; that there was no ground for apprehending a recurrence of the frontier aggressions; that the legislative re-union of these provinces with Lower Canada would be brought as early as possible under their consideration; as would also the conditions of the public departments; that her majesty had concluded an arrangement for opening a communication by steam between Great Britain and the British possessions in North America, the whole of the expense of which was to be borne by the parent state. The attention of the house of assembly was particularly called to the financial condition of the province, and the necessity for enabling the revenue to fulfil its obligations, and defray the necessary expenses of the government. They

were congratulated on the healthy state of their banking interest, when contrasted with the neighbouring states, and were further informed, that the surrender of the casual and territorial revenues of the crown in exchange for a civil list would be again submitted, by command of her majesty. To this address from the throne, a warm and congratulatory reply was sent up from the legislative council.

On the 7th, the governor-general transmitted a message, bringing the subject of the union of the two Canadas formally before the parliament. The terms of reunion to which the assent of the house of assembly was desired, Were-

1. The equal representation of each province in the united legislature.

2. The grant of a sufficient civil list.

3. That so much of the existing debt of Upper Canada as has been contracted for public works of a general nature, after the union, be charged on the joint revenue of the united province.

By subsequent intelligence we find, that the legislature of the upper house has adopted the bill to unite the two provinces.

A despatch had been received from Lord John Russell, dated Downing-street, 16th Oct., and published for the information of parties concerned. The object of it is to announce-

“ That hereafter the tenure of colonial offices, held during her majesty’s pleasure, will not be regarded as equivalent to a tenure during good behaviour, but that not only such officers will be called upon to retire from the public service as often as any sufficient motives of public policy may suggest the expediency of that measure, but that a change in the person of the governor will be considered as a sufficient reason for any alterations which his successor may deem it expedient to make in the list of public functionaries, subject, of course, to the future confirmation of the sovereign.

“ These remarks do not extend to judicial offices, nor are they meant to apply to places which are altogether ministerial, and which do not devolve upon the holders of them duties in the right discharge of which the character and policy of the government are directly involved. They are intended to apply rather to the heads of departments than to persons serving as clerks,

or in similar capacities under them ; neither do they extend to officers in the service of the lords commissioners of the treasury. The functionaries who will be chiefly, though not exclusively, affected by them, are the colonial secretary, the treasurer or receiver-general, the surveyor-general, the attorney and solicitor-general, the sheriff or provost-marshal, and other officers, who, under different designations from these, are entrusted with the same or similar duties. To this list must also be added the members of the council, especially in those colonies in which the legislative and executive councils are distinct bodies.”

This is followed by a suggestion, that it may not be unadvisable under certain circumstances to compensate the present officers for their disappointment, even by pecuniary grants, when it may appear unjust to dispense with their services without such indemnity.

FORFEITURE. -The Quebec Official Gazette advertises for sale the lands of nineteen persons who have been convicted of treason, and some of them executed. Among these are the names of André, Papineau, and Cardinal, and Joseph, and Louis Dumouchelle.

The Legislative Council of Upper Canada has adopted a series of resolutions for the legislative union of the two provinces, with which they waited on the Governor-General. His Excellency received them very graciously. The Council had also resolved, that an address should be presented to the Queen, praying Her Majesty, that after the union of the provinces, Upper Canada should have a majority in the united assembly ; that the English language should be used in the proceedings of the legislature ; that the seat of government should be in Upper Canada, and that no change should take place in the existing constitution ; that the seats of the members of the Legislative Council should be permanent, as provided for in the act of 1791 ; that the Speaker of that body be not eligible unless he be a member thereof; that the qualification of the members of the House of Assembly should be provided for ; that the courts of judicature should be maintained as they now are, until altered by the united legislature, and that a new division of the counties of Lower Canada should be made by the Imperial Government, so as to se-

cure a due proportion of representation to the British inhabitants of that province.

The religious census of Upper Canada, so far as returns are made, is as follows :—

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Episcopalians - - | 79,754 |
| Presbyterians - - - | 78,383 |
| Methodists - - - | 61,088 |
| Roman Catholics - | 43,209 |
| Baptists - - - - | 12,968 |
| Twenty-three other | |
| Denominations - | 22,806 |
| No professed Religion | 34,760 |
| No returns for - - | 67,558 |
| | 400,526 |

NEW BRUNSWICK.

NORTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY.—A letter from Madawaska of the 25th of Nov. states, that news has been received that the Americans, supposing that our government intended sending troops to occupy a block-house of theirs situated about nine miles up the Fish River, very coldly sent up a party of three men, and burnt this strong building to the ground. It appears they have erected another and very strong block-house a few miles higher up the river, which is occupied by about twenty men.

The Woodstock New Brunswick Times, of the 7th of December, states, that Sheriff Ritnam, of Haulton, passed through there the previous week, on his way to Aristook, with a warrant, it was said, for the apprehension of the warden, in which, however, he did not succeed. The same paper adds, “ We do not take the liberty of advising or dictating to our executive, yet we do think, that, in order to avoid a repetition of the scenes of last winter, it is absolutely necessary that a strong force be stationed in the vicinity of the Grand Falls. ”

The British authorities have thought it necessary, in consequence of hostile rumours from the Maine boundary, to station a regiment of regular troops, the 11th, at Temisquata Lake, for the winter.

Lieut. Col. Mudge, and Mr. Featherstonnough, the commissioners appointed by Her Majesty to survey the disputed territory between New Brunswick and the state of Maine, have closed their labours for the season. In the space of three months since their arri-

val, they have examined the surface of the country from the western termination of the Bay of Chaleur to the western sources of the Penobscot and Claudiere, the whole of the Alegash country, from its source to its junction with the St. John's ; the line of the Roostock, from its extreme sources to its mouth, and that of the St. John's river, from its sources in the islands which divide it from the waters of the Penobscot along its whole course to the sea. To this laborious investigation they have added a critical examination of the line claimed by Maine as the true boundary in the treaty of 1783 from the Etchemia river to the Metis lakes. this last portion of the work being effected under circumstances of great difficulty, and attended with great personal sufferings. The line of country comprehended in this description extends to about 700 miles ; along the whole of which, barometrical admeasurements have been carefully taken.

The packet - ship Siddons, which sailed from New York on the evening of the 28th ult. brought the President's message to the 26th Congress ; we extract that portion of it which relates to the long unsettled boundary question.

“ For the settlement of our north-eastern boundary, the proposition promised by Great Britain for a commission of exploration and survey, has been received, and a counter-project, including also a provision for a certain and final adjustment of the limits in dispute, is now before the British government for its consideration. A just regard to the delicate state of this question, and a proper respect for the natural impatience of the state of Maine, not less than a conviction that the negotiation has been already protracted longer than is prudent on the part of either government, have led me to believe that the present favourable moment should on no account be suffered to pass, without putting the question for ever at rest. I feel confident that the government of her Britannic majesty will take the same view of this subject, as I am persuaded it is governed by desires equally strong and sincere, for the amicable termination of the controversy.

“ To the intrinsic difficulties in questions of boundary lines, especially those described in regions unoccupied and but partially known, is to be added in

our country the embarrassment necessarily arising out of our constitution, by which the general government is made the organ of negotiating and deciding upon the particular interests of the States, on whose frontiers these lines are to be traced. To avoid another controversy, in which a state government might rightfully claim to have her wishes consulted, previously to the conclusion of the conventional arrangements concerning her right of jurisdiction or territory, I have thought it necessary to call the attention of the government of Great Britain to another portion of our conterminous dominion, of which the division still remains to be adjusted. I refer to the line from the entrance of Lake Superior to the most north-western point of the Lake of the Woods, stipulations for the settlement of which, are to be found in the seventh article of the treaty of Ghent. The commissioners appointed under that article by the two governments, having differed in their opinions, made separate reports, according to its stipulation, upon the points of disagreement, and these differences are now to be submitted to the arbitration of some friendly sovereign or state. The disputed points should be settled and the line designated, before the territorial government, of which it is one of the boundaries, takes its place in the Union as a State; and I rely upon the cordial co-operation of the British government to effect that object."

The subject of the late disturbances on the borders, was also commented on in the message, but too much at length for our limits to allow us to add.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.

Accounts come down to the 8th ult. They continue extremely satisfactory, both with respect to the state of the island generally, and the harmony with which the new governor, (Sir Charles Metcalfe,) and the legislature worked together. The subject which chiefly occupied public attention was the state of the island currency. This is in the greatest possible distraction, arising principally from three causes.—

1st. The importation of a large amount of English silver, recently le-

galized by royal proclamation, and now the circulating coin.

2nd. The "currency" value of 6s. 11³/₄d. affixed to the dollar, at which rate the English two-penny and four-penny pieces cannot circulate as aliquot parts.

3rd. The embarrassment of the island currency checks, which has grown into a paper currency, circulating from hand to hand, and which, after being returned for payment, are again reissued. Under this state of things, the House of Assembly has gone into committee on a bill for assimilating the island currency to that of Great Britain.

VOTE OF THANKS TO WM. BURGE, ESQ.

House of Assembly,
Friday, 25th October, 1839.

Resolved—"That the zeal and ability evinced by William Burge, Esq., our talented agent in the late contest with Her Majesty's ministers, to maintain the rights and privileges of this house, and to preserve the ancient constitution of the island, entitle him to the warmest acknowledgments and most grateful thanks of the people of Jamaica, and of this house in particular."

Resolved—"That such acknowledgments and thanks are now unanimously voted by this house, on behalf of themselves and their constituents, to Mr. Burge; and that his honour the speaker be requested to convey the same to him, in the most acceptable manner, by the earliest opportunity."

By the House.

JOHN G. VIDAL,
Clerk to the Assembly,

TRINIDAD.

-Nov. 27.-A public meeting of the merchants, planters, and inhabitants had been held, to take into consideration an answer which had been received from the Colonial Office, in reply to the remonstrance transmitted from the island against making the government subordinate to that of Barbadoes, and placing a lieutenant-governor there, instead of a governor. The purport of this answer was to decline making any change, more especially as a counter-memorial had been forwarded at the same time from a portion of the coloured inhabitants, approving of the new arrangement, and deprecating any alteration in it. A series of resolutions were

passed at the meeting, and ordered to be **forwarded to the** Colonial Office, repeating their former opinions, and requesting a reconsideration of the subject of an independent governor.

ANTIGUA.

By a letter addressed to the editor of the Antigua Weekly Register, of the 3d Dec., it appears that a **Roman Catholic** priest had arrived in that island, and performed service in a private house in St. John's, and was busily engaged in soliciting contributions from the Protestants generally, as well as from the few Roman Catholics in that place, towards the erection of a Roman Catholic chapel in Barbadoes.

The same paper gives a singular account of a whirlwind which passed over a tract of ground in the neighbourhood of **Holmfirth**. Its effects were first noticed on the morn above **Hepworth**, where a person who was riding on horseback was swept from his saddle to a distance of several yards. When it arrived at Hepworth it played a singular prank to the astonishment of an old woman, who had been washing

some crockery ware, and which she had just placed in an inverted position on a wall in front of her dwelling-house : her pots appearing as if instinct with life, mounted in the air like paper kites, were clashed against one another, and whirled away in floating fragments. The phenomenon in a rapid and powerful progress was next observed by destroying a large oak tree. A horse, which was sheltering beneath it, galloped off in an indescribable fright. A large ash-tree near the same place had its top taken off, and was carried to a considerable distance ; and as the wind rushed down the valley, several other trees were carried away. It then reached the foot of a lofty hill, called Cheese-gate-hall, where runs a considerable stream of water. Here the passive element was swept from its course, and wheeled into the air in dense sheets, which were visible for some time, but at length were lashed into foam, and blended with the following rain.

A shock of earthquake of considerable duration was felt at St. John's, on Wednesday, the 20th Nov. in the evening. The weather was bleak, wintry, and stormy.

FOREIGN COLONIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRENCH POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AFRICA.

The war in Algeria still continues. The Toulonais, of the 5th inst., states that an engagement took place on the **31st** ult. in which the Arabs brought into the field against the French three battalions of regular infantry, 1,500 cavalry, and one piece of artillery. The infantry of the Emir was surrounded, cut to pieces, or driven by the French cavalry across the Chiffa. The piece of cannon, three banners of the Bey of Miliana, and **400** muskets were captured by the French, and **300** of the infantry and **100** of the cavalry remained on the field. The passengers who arrived in Toulon on board the Fulton steamer reported that the French had only six officers and 32 rank and file put *hors de combat*. A reinforcement of 3,000 men had been forwarded from Algiers to

Mostaganem, and another to Oran, against which place it was believed Abd-el- Kader contemplated a serious attack.

General **D'Houdetot**, the king's aide-de-camp, embarked at Toulon, on the **5th**, for Algiers, where he is to take the command of the first brigade of the army. Troops of all arms continued to be embarked at Toulon and Marseilles for Africa.

It is stated that Marshal Vallec has written to the minister of war not to send any more troops over until the spring, and then to throw all the forces that may be required at once on the shores of Africa. At present the war seems confined to petty encounters and affairs with outposts.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE FRENCH COLONIES.—The Temps says that in virtue of the ordonnance regulating the employment of the 65,000 f.

voted by the Chambers for the measures preparatory to the abolition of slavery in the colonies, 33 priests are to be sent out, and 13 chapels are to be established. The number of the Frères de Ploermel and the Sœurs de St. Joseph are to be increased to 45. There are also, it says, to be three new substitutes of Procureurs du Roi at Martinique, three at Guadaloupe, two at Bourbon, and one at Cayenne, who are to be specially charged with the protection of the slaves.

MARTINIQUE AND GUADALOUPE.—Some alterations have been made in France with reference to the tonnage duties on shipping and duties on merchandise entering these colonies. Generally this seems intended to diminish the former excessive amount, and to remove prohibitions, with the exception of tobacco, the duties of which have

been surcharged at the desire of the colonists themselves. Amongst the articles formerly prohibited were Madeira and Teneriffe wines, which are hereafter to be admitted at a rate of duty.

We learn from Paris that the committee of the delegates from the manufacturers of beet-root sugar have waited upon the minister of commerce, and inquired of him what were the measures the government intended to propose on the subject of the duties. M. Cunin Gridaine informed them, that government would propose to the Chambers an equalization of the colonial and domestic duties, and the establishing one uniform duty of 49f. 50c. per 100 kilogrammes; at the same time allowing to the beetroot sugar manufacturers an indemnity, the amount of which was not yet settled.—*Feuille de Cambrian.*

HOME INTELLIGENCE.

THE TRADE TO THE RIVER PLATE.—A memorial has been presented to Lord Palmerston by a deputation of the British merchants, &c. interested in this trade, setting forth that the trade with Buenos Ayres has been completely suspended for nearly two years by the blockade of that port by a French squadron. That the amount of British capital now locked up in Buenos Ayres is not less than from a million to a million and a half sterling, which is invested in commodities of a perishable nature. — That these have already undergone great deterioration, and are only preserved from entire destruction at an expense of £20,000 per month.—That a further amount of British capital, invested in British manufactures, estimated at not less than a million sterling, has been interrupted in its transit from Great Britain to Buenos Ayres, and deposited at Monte Video, whereby, from deterioration, &c., heavy losses have been sustained, and that the goods, in their character and assortment, are unfit for any other market.

The memorial setting forth the reasons at length, complains in strong terms of the conduct of the French,

which they state to be vitally injurious to British subjects engaged in that trade, and which, if not timely arrested, threatens the permanent occupation of both Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, whereby British commerce in these ports would be annihilated, British subjects ruined, and British interests and British confidence become the sacrifice to French intrigue, French injustice, and French ambition. It inquires of Lord Palmerston, “If any negotiations are now pending between the French and Buenos Ayres governments, and what are likely to be the results of such negotiations, if any such are pending.” But if all negotiations are broken off, it then strongly urges that every influence be used with the French government to induce permission to be given to British subjects to bring away such property as belongs to them.

On the 7th instant the deputation was admitted to a conference with Lord Palmerston. They were accompanied by Mr. Cresswell, M. P., and strongly urged on his lordship the various points touched on in the memorial, and further, that her majesty’s government should use their influence with that of

France, in order, if possible, to obtain for the subjects of Great Britain permission to send vessels in ballast into 'Buenos Ayres, and bring away the property now there belonging to British subjects. To this his lordship replied by reading an opinion by the law officer of the crown, that it would be inexpedient for her majesty's government to ask such a boon. It was then urged that the law officer had taken a false view of the subject, with which, upon explanation, his lordship seemed to agree, and intimated that, if they would state in writing on what grounds they conceived such an application could be justly made, his lordship would again submit the subject for the consideration of the law officer of the crown, and, if he thought the government could with propriety make this application, it should be done.

A statement was accordingly drawn up, and forwarded through Mr. Cresswell. On the 9th instant Lord Palmerston, in reply, stated, that negotiations are going on between this government and that of France, on the subject of the blockade, but as the progress depended, in a measure, on other parties, he could not form any decided opinion as to what would be the result, but that he thought there was now more chance of a speedy arrangement than he had yet seen ; that the Admiralty had given orders in November for the British commodore at Rio to proceed from thence with a frigate to Monte Video ; that the French government had sent out a new agent to treat regarding the subjects in dispute; and that her majesty's government had sent Mr. Mandeville instructions to do all in his power to assist in the arrangement of the differences. His lordship's final reply, dated the 21st instant, states, "That he has referred to the proper law officers of the crown the letter of the 9th inst. ; but as, by the general law of nations, vessels are not allowed to come out of a blockaded port with cargo unless such cargo was on board before the commencement of the blockade, his lordship is of opinion that her majesty's government is not entitled to make the proposed application, and that such application, if made, might furnish an inconvenient precedent against Great Britain at a future time of war."

The Blenheim 72, Bonde 46, Andromache 28, all detained to reinforce the

East India station, are nearly ready for sea, and will go out of harbour in a few days. These ships take as many flat-bottomed boats for landing troops as they can stow, and also as much ordnance stores and missiles as their magazines will hold. Orders are received at Woolwich for the embarkation of a Captain, Lieutenant, and a strong party of Royal Artillery on board these ships, who are to take with them rockets of the largest size, Shrapnell-shells, &c. Sixty marines, with an officer, are also to embark on board the Blenheim, as supernumeraries.

In the House of Lords, on Tuesday, 22d instant, Lord Melbourne, in answer to a question from Lord Strangford, stated that he could not hold out any hopes of a cessation of hostilities in the River La Plata.

The Glasgow Chronicle announces that a number of Glasgow merchants have resolved to found an Association under the title of "The Scottish Colonial Society," on the model of the Colonial Society of London, so as to afford an opportunity to all connected with, and interested in our colonial dependencies, to meet and communicate information on colonial affairs, to diffuse a knowledge on the subject, to bring the influence of the society to bear on the better government of the colonies, both at home and abroad, and to awaken the public mind to a sense of the vast resources of the British colonial dominions, and the expediency of promoting emigration on a great national scale, to all our foreign possessions.

The Gazette of Tuesday the 15th inst. contains the following announcement, dated Downing Street, Jan. 10.

"The Queen having been pleased to constitute a Board of Commissioners for superintending the sale and settlement of the Waste Lands of the Crown in the British Colonies, and the conveyance of emigrants thither, under the title of 'The Colonial Land and Emigration Board,' her Majesty has also been pleased to appoint Thomas Frederick Elliot and Robert Torrens, Esqrs. and the Hon. Edward Ernest Villiers, to be the Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid.

"The Queen has also been placed to appoint Robert Torrens and Thomas Frederiek Elliot, Esqrs. and the Hon. Edward Ernest Villiers, to be the 'The

Colonization Commissioners of South Australia,' in pursuance of the statute, passed in the fourth and fifth year of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled 'An Act to empower his Majesty to erect South Australia into a British Province, or Provinces, and to provide for the Colonization and Government thereof.'

OPIUM EATING.—A correspondent of the Leeds Mercury says, "that in the county of Lincoln opium - eaters are quite common, and the consumption of that drug is lamentably on the increase. It is the practice in this part of Yorkshire (Knaresborough) not to sell the article without knowing the party, or what is going to be used for ; but in Lincolnshire the solid opium is kept weighed by all druggists in penny-worths, drachms, and halfdrachms, and sold as commonly as Epsom salts, without making any inquiry; and it forms a leading article with the trade. I have heard it remarked by people well able to judge, that you may calculate that every fourth customer who enters a druggist's shop in Lincoln, wants either opium, laudanum, or Godfrey's cordial : the two last are prepared from opium. Its sale is chiefly amongst the lower order of people, though many respectable people may be included. The quantity they get accustomed to is almost incredible : one young woman whom I served for three years, never took less than thirty grains every night ; one man could, and did when he could get it, take six ounces of laudanum every day. In consequence of the stoppage of the opium trade with China,

the price has fallen in this country from 17s. to 11s. 6d. a pound ; which I am afraid will increase the consumption. I am not aware how far it is already spread, but the whole of Lincolnshire appears strongly tainted with it."

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CANADA. - Several **despatches** have been lately forwarded from the Colonial Office, bearing to the Right Hon. C. Poulett Thompson her majesty's approval of his conduct in the government of the Canadas : the following is the latest. —

Downing-St. 18th Jan. 1840.

Sir,—I have received and have laid before the Queen your **despatch** of the 7th December, No. 18, enclosing a copy of the speech with which on the 3d of December you opened the session of the legislature of the province of Upper Canada, and also enclosing copies of the addresses which you had received in answer to it from the legislative council, and from the House of Assembly.

I have received her majesty's commands to signify to you her entire approbation of the very judicious terms in which your speech on that occasion was framed. Her majesty has observed with much gratification, that the two houses have exhibited so cordial a disposition to concur with you in your efforts for promoting the welfare of her majesty's Canadian subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. RUSSELL

The Rt. Hon. C. P. Thomson,
&c. &c. &c.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COLONIAL
MAGAZINE.

Leeds, January 10th, 1840.

Sir—I have read the first number of your Colonial Magazine with great pleasure, and shall become a subscriber. Such a work has been much wanted, and I hope it will meet with that patronage it so justly merits. It is greatly to be lamented that there is so much **ignorance** in England on our colonial affairs ; for the time is not far distant when we shall have to look, principally, to our colonies for our foreign business.

The people on the continent of Europe and in the United States of America, ere long, will not only manufacture what they require for domestic consumption, but will compete with us in countries which do not manufacture for themselves. If we get our colonial affairs satisfactorily arranged, there will not only be a large emigration of our people, but a great number will go from France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, &c. They have now got a large quantity of labour-saving machinery, consequently those people thrown out of

employ thereby, will, like many of our own people, be obliged to seek a livelihood in a foreign country.

I was much gratified in reading your work on the colonies ; it will be daily more read, as it will become a work of reference on what relates to colonial affairs. In the new countries we have discovered and taken possession of, I could not help regretting that so many names of mountains, rivers, villages, &c. of the aborigines, should have been changed for *common personal names* of no notoriety, and whose services (if any) in another generation will be entirely forgotten. In the discoverers it has shown a great want of *good taste*. In some part of your works I think you have the same opinion : a work containing all the original names, by future generations, will be esteemed. I have lived many years in North America, and I have often heard it much regretted, that many of the sonorous Indian names had been changed for the most *vulgar* English names, either of places or persons. The people of Toronto, Upper Canada, showed their good taste in having York changed for its original name Toronto. Perhaps the people of Montreal may have theirs changed for its Indian name of *Hoche-laga*. A suggestion in your Magazine that *Indian* names should be preserved would be well received, and have its influence.

Our colony of the Cape of Good Hope is a rising colony ; but there is no specific name by which a person born there can be called, A "Cape of Good Hope man" is too long and unmeaning.* You, no doubt, know the original Indian name ; I do not. This introduced as a titular name, and by which a native should be called, would soon become general, and you would have the merit of giving a name to a country, that will hereafter be of great importance. New Zealand is another country similarly situated. Prefixing *new* to a country or place, appears to me quite ridiculous.

Currency—Our colonies have almost all different currencies, which creates great confusion. The Canadians have no coin to represent their currency. The consequence is, that they now, almost universally, use the United States currency of dollars and cents.

They now become accustomed to a decimal currency, and it would greatly be preferred to ours.

I have frequently suggested to them, to take our *crown*, and have it divided decimally, which they greatly approved.

As the *crown* is a current coin on the continent, I would suggest that its name should be changed to one that bore *some affinity* to our country. And *Albin*, or *Albion*, I thought would be appropriate. England, I believe, was first known to the ancients by the name of *Albin*. The time is now propitious for introducing a new coinage, being the commencement of the reign of our young and amiable queen. And the first coin should be issued on her birthday, on arriving at *twenty years* of age. I need not tell you how highly this change would be estimated by the colonies, and soon after by the people of England ; and as you justly say that "our language will become the *commercial* language of the world,"—I may say that this currency will become the most *extensively known* currency in the world, and will go hand in hand with our language.

The arrangements of division will be as follows :—

Sovereign, 4 Albins or Crowns—Gold Coin.

| Crown | Called { Albin. | s. d. | Silver and Gold Coin. | Hunds. |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|
| | | 50 | | 100 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | do. | 2 6 | | 50 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ | do. | 1 3 | | 25 |
| 1-5 | do. | 1 0 | (Shilling) | 20 |
| 1-10 | do. | 0 6 | (Tenny) | 10 |
| 1-20 | do. | 0 3 | (Tivey) | 5 |
| | | | (Hund) | 1 |

I call this *hund*, being the old Saxon for hundred; instead of using cent, as the Americans and French, being of different value, might lead to confusion, particularly in Canada.

The above division would be easily understood, and the only two coins *actually* required, is the hund (copper) and tivey (silver.)

As many of your readers in the Magazine will be ignorant of the weights, measures, and coins, of foreign countries, I would *respectfully suggest* that you introduce a table thereof attached to each number, and one bound in each volume, it would save the reader much trouble.

I have now to apologise for intruding upon your valuable time, but which, I hope, you will attribute to the true cause.

T. TERCORP.

* He is called an *Africander*.—ED.