

## REVIEWS.

*Cooksland, in North-Eastern Australia, the Future Cotton-field of Great Britain, its Characteristics and Capabilities for European Colonisation, with a Disquisition on the Origin, Manners, and Customs of the Aborigines.* By John Dunmore Lang, D.D., A.M., &c. London: Longman and Co. Pp. 496.

DR. LANG seems determined to make the most of his sojourn in England, for the benefit of the quarter of the world with which he is officially connected. We noticed a short time ago his "Phillipsland"—we have here a new work from his pen, and he further announces, for immediate publication, a third edition of his "Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales," bringing down the history of the Colony to the close of the administration of Sir George Gipps, in August, 1846. If we add to this his numerous letters to the English and Scotch press, and his addresses and prospectuses relative to his proposed Cotton Company, we have abundant proofs that he has not been idle, and we trust his indefatigable labours will result in advantage to the Colony. Publicity will necessarily do good, and particularly at this time, when free emigration has been resumed.

We have before remarked that we do not agree on many points with the doctor,—his bigotry and intemperate language are misplaced and injudicious. If he had merely confined himself to giving us the results of his experience, his opinions on the climate, the resources, the advantages of the Colony, &c., we should have been satisfied, and his book could have been studied with unalloyed pleasure. As it is, the valuable nature of the information furnished far overbalances the few blemishes and defects of hasty composition and unrestrained invective.

There is much too little, however, of the doctor's own writing in the volume before us, which is essentially a compilation from the writings and reports of Perry, Oxley, Wilson, Flinders, Sir Thomas Mitchell, Leichardt, and others. Indeed, our author candidly tells us his desire is rather to submit to the reader the testimonies of men of character and standing of all classes and professions, in regard to the physical character and capabilities of the extensive and important region which forms the subject of the work, than to amuse him with his own speculations. This is all very well—but we should like to have had more from the doctor's own pen; for, barring controversial topics, he is a sensible writer, and a man of varied attainments and large experience.

The doctor has a mortal antipathy to the military, and takes care to lavish abuse upon "soldier officers," "the scarlet-coloured and pipe-clayed understandings," but he consoles himself for their sins of omission and commission by the inquiry—"What else can be expected from the system of employing men, whose very business and profession it is to destroy the noblest work of God upon earth—his creature, man—in whatever unjust and unnecessary quarrels their masters may choose to strike up for their benefit?"

All constituted authorities, from the "thirty tyrants" down to the Surveyors General, come in for a share of the doctor's vituperation and reprobation.

He thinks that the Colonists should be mightily indignant "at the manner in which they are thus be-generated and be-colonized everywhere."

This is all very paltry, and what we should not have anticipated from a man of the doctor's common sense and depth of perception. Sneers and gibes at religion, and its observances, as by law established, are sadly, too, out of place in the mouth of a Christian minister—Presbyterian though he be.

But let us proceed to consider the work before us in its utilitarian character as a whole, rather than dwell upon the extreme partisanship and unguarded expressions which, in some cases, mar and obscure the descriptive text.