

is to say, 75,000 head of cattle, (sufficient to feed 90,000 people for one year, at the rate of 10lbs. of meat per week); and 400,000 sheep, (sufficient to feed 40,000 people,) will be boiled down for the sake of their tallow alone. And thus the startling fact is presented, that at a time when four millions of people are literally starving in Ireland, the land and stockholders of another portion of Her Majesty's dominions are consigning to the "melting pot" food sufficient for 130,000 persons for a whole year (at the rate of Colonial consumption) or for one million, if the quantity be considered in reference to the rate of consumption in Great Britain and Ireland.—*Paramatta Chronicle*.

**NORTH AUSTRALIA.**—Colonel Barney and family, accompanied by nearly all the official gentlemen connected with the new settlement of Northern Australia, left Sydney in the "Lord Auckland" on the 8th February. They expected to reach Port Curtis on or about the 15th. We understand that since Colonel Barney's return from his first expedition, his plans respecting the site for the new Colony have undergone great alteration. It is now proposed that the Boyne (of Oxley), which river comes into Rodd's Bay at Port Curtis, shall be accurately examined with the view of ascertaining its eligibility as a shipping port; and that a party shall proceed some distance up the stream to survey the interior. Should the result turn out unsatisfactory, Colonel Barney intends proceeding to Keppel Bay, and, if necessary, farther northward still, until a suitable place is found for the site of the future capital of the province. As soon as the preliminary arrangements for establishing the new settlement have been completed, Colonel Barney will at once take steps for the opening of communication between this place and the seat of his government; the necessary preparations for that purpose are now in progress, and we are assured that no time will be lost in bringing to maturity the plan to facilitate intermigration between the two places. We understand that the Government stock will not be removed quite so soon as was expected, in consequence of its not having been determined whether they are to be sent by land or by water. In all probability a small proportion of the stock, with a few

horses, will be forwarded by sea; and the remainder will be sent overland when the site of the settlement has been fixed. Subjoined we publish an extract from the official report of John Oxley, Esq., whose labours as a surveyor and explorer of the coast to the northward were communicated to Sir Thomas Brisbane, in the year 1824; and which we have no doubt will prove highly interesting to our readers. Mr. Oxley expresses a very decided opinion that Port Curtis and its vicinity does not afford an eligible site for a large establishment. From his description of the river named by him the Boyne, it is evident that it is not the same water as that on the banks of which the squatters have stations, for at the junction of the Stuart, and what is now called the Boyne by them, the width from bank to bank is considerably more than an eighth of a mile; and sixty miles lower down the channel, of course, increases in size, and the principal branch, called the Swan, or the Dawson of Leichardt, is met with coming from the westward. At this junction the river is upwards of 300 yards wide from bank to bank. We believe that the river has not been explored above twenty miles from this point. Such being the case, the embouchure of this large river must be looked for farther to the northward. Judging from the numerous low swampy lands in the neighbourhood of Keppel's Bay, as laid down in Flinders' Chart, there is some probability of the river disemboguing in that part of the coast. The anchorage in Keppel Bay is good, and the winds generally favourable for the shipping. Until, however, Mr. Burnett has succeeded in tracing this noble river down, it is useless to hazard any further conjectures as to its embouchure. The "Thomas Lowry," with the remainder of the first batch of officials, military, and stores, was to follow the "Lord Auckland" in about a fortnight. On her arrival at Port Curtis, should a flag be found hoisted on Gatecombe Head, she is to proceed to Keppel Bay, and join company with the "Lord Auckland," Colonel Barney having given instructions to that effect. We should not be at all surprised to learn that Halifax Bay is to be the site of the capital of the new Colony. This spot was recommended by Captain Wickham, and several other competent persons, as the most eligible