

AUSTRALIA.—Considerable assistance is extended by government to certain classes of emigrants going to these regions. Great numbers are constantly embarking, many of superior rank and fortune, for New South Wales, Van Dieman's Land, and especially for the new colony called South Australia, which is, for the time, the greatest favorite of all—considered by many, to be a perfect Arcadia. We lament the delusion which many worthy people are thus practising on themselves, not because they prefer not Canada, but because we have seen in Canada the results of emigration prompted by similar fancies. Emigration from Great Britain on the part of people who are comfortable at home, undertaken without substantial, worthy, and well considered reasons and motives, is sure to lead to disappointment. Their extreme distance from Great Britain, the convicts, and the peculiar difficulties of communication in New Holland, will long exercise a retarding influence on these colonists. Trial by jury, which has been introduced into New South Wales, is rendered an intolerable nuisance through the admission of released convicts as jurors.

WEST INDIES.—The great experiment of complete emancipation is in progress, and has proceeded hitherto with remarkable tranquillity and success. In some of the islands no complaints or difficulties seem to have occurred. In others, particularly Jamaica, considerable difficulty and trouble has been occasioned as to the rate of wages to be paid to the free negroes, and as to their right to the enjoyment of their old provision grounds, which the planters dispute. Combinations have consequently been formed among both parties—the planters to keep down wages, the negroes to raise them. Justices of the peace are much complained of in this island, for the way in which they exercise their powers against the negroes. Faults there are no doubt on both sides; but no serious disturbance has occurred, and it is to be hoped that nothing will occur to mar the joy which all right hearted men must derive from this measure. Little, comparatively, had been done either by the Imperial or Colonial Government for the education of the slaves before their emancipation, and the tranquillity which has hitherto characterised this great and perilous change, must be ascribed in a great measure to the influence of Christianity so zealously diffused among them by missionaries.

SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.—The commercial matters in dispute between Mexico and France have not yet been adjusted. A conflict has occurred between Santa Anna, a Mexican general, and the French troops, in which both sides sustained considerable loss, but in the end the French withdrew from the fortress, San Juan D'Ulloa, and Vera Cruz. Santa Anna, who has a force of 7000 within ten miles of the city, commanded the departure of all French citizens, allowing those in the city eight days to prepare, and those in the interior sixty days. The French still maintain the blockade on the coast. A

British squadron under Admiral Douglass left Jamaica on the 15th December, to co-operate, it is said with the French in enforcing upon the disorderly republic a greater degree of security and protection to the commercial residents of their respective nations: others, however, conjecture that the British fleet has been sent to prevent the French from turning Mexico into a colony of France, as they have done Algiers. The British squadron is regarded by some as disproportionately large for such a service. It is possible that this demonstration of naval force on the American coast may be intended for an admonition to the government of the United States, to be more careful in the observance of treaties, and to restrain their lawless citizens from their wicked aggressions upon Canada. . . . The blockade of Buenos Ayres and Montevideo, by a French squadron under Admiral Leblanc continued to be rigorously enforced. (Dec. 4) There are thirteen French vessels of war in the La Plata—one of them of sixty-four guns. Negotiations have been going on for the settlement of differences, but as yet without any successful issue. The whole country seems to be a scene of anarchy and civil war. It may now be questioned whether the illustrious statesmen under whose administration Britain recognised the independence of the South American republics, would, (were he guided by philanthropy rather policy) be inclined to boast of his handy-work, were he now alive. "I looked," he exclaimed in one of his paroxysms of lofty eloquence, "I looked at the Indies, and there I have called a new world into existence, and thus redressed the balance of power." In these little republics revolutions and dictatorships succeed each other without end. The most enlightened men in the great northern republic of this continent, admit that the principle of self-government is not adapted to an unenlightened and vicious community. How, then, can it be adapted to the inhabitants of South America, than whom a more ignorant, and depraved race of semi-barbarians could not be found within the line of civilization. They live by preying on one another; and cannot be brought to respect the rights of nations without coercion and punishment. G.

CABINET OF SCIENCE.

Fossil Animalcule.—"Some of your readers may be gratified if I mention a discovery of some scientific interest which I have made within a few days past. They have all doubtless heard of those minute living beings discovered by the microscope in stagnant water, &c. and called 'animalcule'—millions of which may live in a single drop. But until very recently, who would have supposed it possible that the skeletons of these animals would be found preserved in the soils and the rocks! Yet there is a white and light substance very common in Massachusetts, beneath the mud in swamps,