

zation" in South Australia, and the sudden prosperity and singular fortunes of that province ; the subsequent adoption of the experiment of disposing of public lands by sale at comparatively high prices, and applying the proceeds in great proportion to the conveyance of emigrants, throughout a large part of our dependencies ; the establishment of a new board of functionaries for the management of this particular branch of the public service ; the beginning of two new settlements, with the most sanguine anticipation of success, at Port Philip and in New Zealand ; the abolition of the assignment of convicts, with its important, although probably temporary, effects on the economical state of the convict colonies. And lastly — even while I am now writing — a reform of the colonial system of commerce, more extensive than the boldest statesman had hitherto ventured to propose, is under debate in the legislature, and seems to be the measure on which the conflicting parties of the day have taken issue. The mere enumeration of these events, each of them pregnant with important consequences, will show how much of political experience has been crowded into the occurrences of two short years. Nor must I neglect to mention the impulse which has been given to the course of events, in itself rapid and urgent, by the new views and new energy which have presided in the colonial department of our government. It will be found, when its operations are impartially reviewed, that never has the same degree of attention been paid to the details of colonization ; — never, at any former period, has government been so willing to take the initiative in extensive operations, to form and ex-