

ENGLAND. LONDON.

A Parliamentary paper contains a table of the number of persons employed in all public offices, and the gross amount of their salaries. From this table we find that the number of placemen of the civil class, in 1797, was 16,207; in 1817, it was 24,414; and in 1827, it was reduced to 22,912. The gross sum paid in salaries to these persons, in 1797, was £1,374,551; in 1817, it was £3,167,441; and in 1827, it was £2,788,904. The reduction in the number and expense, however, since 1817, we believe is, in part only apparent, as many of the persons dismissed have been placed on the pension fund. But taking the number and pay as they stand, 22,900 persons form a prodigious corps of placemen. In the reign of George I., the army consisted of about 18,500 men, and the whole Peace Establishment cost £2,555,000. The corps of placemen, therefore, at present exceed in number, by 4,000 men, the whole army in the reign of George I. and the aggregate of their salaries exceeds the whole amount of the Peace Expenditure in his reign! But when we add to this about 5,000 officers in the army and navy, 6,000 or 7,000 persons on the half pay, and probably as many more in civil and military capacities in the colonies, we have a corps of upwards of 40,000 placemen (exclusive of the clergy) receiving one way and another, ten or twelve millions per annum—a thing unattained in the history of the world! Even this does not give a complete idea of the number of individuals government is able to provide for, since there are many public functionaries whose gains are derived from fees, or from emoluments which attach to the office, without regard to the personal abilities of the person who fills it.—Satan.

CONSUMPTION OF ARDENT SPIRITS IN ENGLAND.—It appears, by a recent statement made to the Imperial Parliament that in 1820 the number of spirit licenses throughout the country was 21,037; and that in 1827 they amounted to 42,530; being an increase of 11,000 in 7 years. During the same period the increase of alcohol was only 300. As to the increase of the consumption, it was stated that in 1820 it amounted to 12,000,000 gallons; in 1824 it was 13,300,000 gallons; in 1825 it was 17,700,000 gallons; in 1826 it was 22,900,000 gallons; in 1827 and 1828 it was 24,500,000 gallons for each year!!!

The crake factory at Shepton Mallet is again at work, which had some effect in relieving the parish rates, but they are still heavy, in consequence of the stoppage of the silk and lace works; the machinery of the latter, which a few years since was erected at the cost of upwards of 30,000L, has been sold for little more than 1400L.—Devizes Gazette.

Sir Sidney Smith was most cordially received by his Majesty at the Levee on Wednesday. After having kissed hands, his Majesty, notwithstanding the crowded activity of the room, took Sir Sydney by the hand, and gave it a hearty squeeze.

Most persons are aware of the Duke of Wellington's early active habits, in proof of which a correspondent mentions that his Grace was seen, a few mornings since, between six and seven o'clock, walking down Thames-street, arm in arm with a gentleman, making a personal examination of the proposed approaches to the new London Bridge.

Snow fell in London on the 5th of May. The Marquis of Anglesea, Steward, Commander sailed this morning, with a hundred and ten passengers, a large quantity of horses, sheep, cattle, and merchandise, for the new settlement at Swan River in New Holland.

His Majesty's schooner Pike, 12, Lieutenant G. W. Wigley, captured a large smuggler on the Irish coast, on the 15th ult., and carried her into Cork. She was commanded by a man named Patterson Gibson; had a cargo of 400 bales of tobacco, and a considerable quantity of spirits on board; and some bales of tobacco which had been previously landed were afterwards discovered in a core outside Cork harbor. It is expected the fortunate officer will share £1,200 from his prize, which had once before been seized, condemned, and sold, when under the same person's command, as an illicit trader.

The ancient Church of St. Dunstan, in Fleet-street, is to be taken down immediately. It is the oldest religious edifice in the metropolis, having been erected in 1237.

Sir Walter Scott's new novel, Ann of Geisterstein was published in London on the 22d of May.

They are said to be seven thousand street walking beggars in London; and their daily earnings—if the word may be so applied—are calculated to amount, in the aggregate, to seven hundred pounds sterling, or two shillings each.

During the late floods in this part of the country, the following affecting instance of the attachment of a bird to its young was witnessed in the garden of a gentleman living at Tovil. A king-fisher had reared its fragile abode according to the plain but beautiful forms of nature's architecture, and was sitting with maternal solicitude and constancy on seven eggs, containing the germ of her expected progeny. The water gradually rose, and threatened to overwhelm the mother and her brood—but, faithful to the dictates of nature, and despising danger when duty was in question, she patiently sat on her nest, and perished in the water rather than desert her charge.—Maidstone Journal.

Advices from the Cape of Good Hope to the 8th of March had been received, which state that vegetation had suffered from the dry weather, and that immense flights of locusts had devoured the early crops of barley, and Indian corn.

Advices from St. Petersburg to the 20th of April, in relation to the late assassination of the Russian embassy, at Teheran, state that the Persian Government had no part in the transaction and that it eagerly offers to make the most complete satisfaction the case will admit of. The English Ambassador had sent to the Shah, demanding the immediate surrender of the murderers, without which no foreigner could feel safe in their dominions.

The Sultan is said to be most anxious to re-establish a good understanding with France and England. The London Courier says the means for doing this, are entirely in his own hands. France and England have no wish to crush Turkey, or to prevent her becoming a great and independent Empire; it is rather their interest that she should become both. The only obstacle to an amicable arrangement appears to be the question of the independence of the Morea and the Cyclades, over which the Sultan has lately assumed jurisdiction.

DUTCH GIN.—The exportation of Geneva from Holland to various other parts in Europe, besides many in Asia and America, exceeds 92,000,000 of gallons per annum. A principal share might belong to this country, where fuel is cheaper, and machinery better understood, provided government would afford the same facilities as are given to all other descriptions of manufacture.—Letter in the Times.

Barbary Powers.—It is said that a grand project is in contemplation between the Government of France and that of England, to do away with the small Powers on the Barbary coast, now become a complete nuisance. The plan is to colonize the coast of Barbary with French and English subjects, for which they are to obtain the sanction of the Sultan, in a special ordinance, and a person of heretofore great renown is to be employed in the business at the Court of Constantinople.

Canterbury, April 3.—Some time since a portion of the cliff, amounting in weight to many tons, detached itself from the great body of Pegwell, and fell into the ocean. Several curious specimens of ore, pyrites, &c. were found at the time; and a piece of gold, inclosed in a clay like substance was picked up and sold by the owner for forty pounds.

The French physicians who were sent to Gibraltar during the time of the yellow fever were to leave that place in the middle of next month. Their notes are numerous, and their remarks will be important; but it is understood that the hypothesis of two of them are against those of the third. Thus it is that doctors disagree. Let us hope that by the collision of opinion good may result, and that something may be gained, not merely for the cause of science, but of humanity.

REVOLVING MASTS.—Lieutenant Shuldham, of the Royal Navy, has lately introduced to public notice an invention which should it answer his expectations, will effect a complete alteration in the mode of rigging ships. Perhaps the enemies of innovation may lift up their voices at once against a plan that threatens to extinguish the masts of Old England. He is going to do away with ropes and rigging, braces and halyards, and banish from use the unctuous substance that gives them their shortest and most favoured name. A ship will then be as clean and as bright as a drawing room fire place, our sailors may wear gloves and use perfume like fair ladies, and may realise the old woman's notion of having nothing to do but to sit down and let the wind blow them along. The invention consists in making the whole mast of the vessel turn round on its end. It passes through the deck of the vessel as usual; but instead of being fixed to the keel, it there turns on its own end.—The machinery for turning it consists, in the model we momentarily inspected, of a series of booms worked on deck. The mast is supported by wooden beams instead of rigging; the yards can be hoisted up and lowered down and the sails reefed by similar machinery to that which turns round the mast. No masts are stepped one above another, the sails in a model, actually work themselves; and are trimmed by the force of the wind in the best possible manner, either to exert their greatest effect in impelling the vessel, or in case of sudden tempest, to resist the wind in the wind. Lieutenant Shuldham's idea, we believe is quite novel. The plan is not yet complete. We understand, however, that the admiralty has so far given the plan its sanction, as to order a vessel to be fitted at Woolwich under the inventor's direction; and if we are permitted, when the scheme is brought to the test of experiment, we shall look at it with a scrutinizing eye. At present we beg to be understood as giving no opinion on the merits of the suggestion. The same ingenious individual has made some improvements in blocks, by which friction is so much lessened that one fourth of the power is saved. The model of a vessel with revolving masts, and these blocks, were exhibited last week at the Mechanics' Institution, and explained by Dr. Birbeck to a numerous audience.—English paper.

COLONIAL POLICY OF GREAT-BRITAIN. From the Quarterly Review. Whenever a colony shall have arrived at that state of population and prosperity as to be able to protect itself against any ordinary hostile attack, and to show resistance to the rule of the Mother Country; it is the duty of the British Government to grant it its independence, and to compel the continuance of its allegiance, we deem the best policy would be to allow it to follow its own inclinations, and to permit the colonies of North America to have a lesson on this subject, which we ought to profit. They felt themselves qualified, and were ready and desirous to govern themselves, and would have shaken off their allegiance in a very short time. That England has taxed their tea and their stamps or not. That proceeding is a manifest pretext for resistance, in the absence of which an insubordinate pretext would not have been wanting. In truth, it is pretty much with colonies as with children: first, and most, and most in infancy; we direct them in youth, and leave them to their own guidance in manhood; and the best conduct to be observed is to part with them on friendly terms, offer them wholesome advice and assistance when they require it, and keep up an amicable intercourse with them. New South Wales, however, we need hardly say, has not arrived at that state of maturity, which would warrant her separation on such terms; and we have no doubt, that, if suffered to indulge her whim, she would very soon like the prodigal son, be reduced to feed on husks; and, having left the fully offered disinheritance, would like him to return to her parent, confessing that she had sinned and imploring forgiveness.

We have the granting to this or to any other colony, a legislative assembly, we conceive, to be the duty of the British Government, with the examples of Canada, Jamaica, and some others of the West India Islands before their eyes, will hesitate in giving way to any such clamorous demand. From the peculiar materials and construction of the colony, we deem it of all others the settlement least fit for receiving a legislative assembly. To grant them their boon would be, in our opinion, to entail on them the greatest misfortune that could befall a society so constituted. There would be in the first instance, a constant struggle for power between the first magistrate, the Crown, and the representative of the colony would be nullified by a tangible impediment and counteraction; while heart-burnings, ill humour, and party contentions, would pervade the whole frame of Society. The Cape of Good Hope, too, with its fifty-five thousand white inhabitants, scattered over a surface of about five hundred square hundred miles, is petitioning for a legislative assembly—that is to say, the English part of the population, which does not amount to more than about two thousand, or rather the two hundred out of these two thousand who may be established in Cape Town; may, properly speaking, it is only a part of these two hundred who are calling out for a house of representatives. The Dutch inhabitants are perfectly satisfied to be governed by an officer appointed by the Crown. All they wish for is, that the affairs of the colony may be administered by an honest and upright governor—one who has no resentments to gratify—who shows no undue partiality towards one set of persons over another—who has no favourites to enrich at the expense of the public;—no whims to indulge, occasioning a wasteful and useless expenditure of the revenues—but one who, in all his measures, has clearly and obviously no other view than that of the interests of the colony at heart. Such a one will prove a greater blessing to a small colony than a representative assembly, whose members are but too apt to sacrifice the public to their individual interests.

We happen to know that the most respectable natives of the Cape of Good Hope are of opinion that the state of their small society, which is very much connected by the ties of relationship, is not at all suited for the boon we have bestowed on them by the introduction of that institution which we value so highly—trial by jury; and that in the country districts, such a combination is convenient, and in some places next to impossible, to collect a sufficient number of qualified persons to form

Table with 2 columns: Category and Number. Categories include: Total population of New South Wales, Free Emigrants, Native Children, Emancipated Convicts, Convicts in Servitude.

FOREIGN.

The Diario di Roma, of the 1st April, contains the following account of the ceremonies that took place at Rome upon the election of the new Pope:— "It has pleased Divine Providence, in answer to the prayers of the faithful, to put an end to the widowhood of the Sacred Congregation of the Index, and to elect a Sovereign Pontiff by ballot yesterday morning. The Pope elect, being interrogated by the most eminent Cardinal Julius Machiade la Somaglia, Dean of the Sacred College, who asked him whether he would accept the supreme dignity of the Church, complied with the Divine will and assumed the name of Pius VIII. Monsignore Zucchi, Prefect of the ceremonies, as Notary of the Apostolic See, then drew up the act of acceptance. Cardinal Albani and Cardinal Gaiotti-Piati, Chief of the Sacred Congregation of the Index, accompanied by the Divine will and assumed the name of Pius VIII. 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