

the Ninety Mile Beach, and inside a bar harbour, which he is sanguine will allow of a vessel of 50 tons to enter in moderate weather, and, when there, to remain in perfect safety from the heaviest gale. Mr. W. has made a chart of the place, showing the coal seams, &c., and intends returning to Gipps Land immediately, to survey the harbour and to take preliminary steps to obtain the means for working the mine.—*Port Phillip Herald*, Feb. 18.

New Exploring Expedition.—Mr. Kennedy, who was assistant in the late expedition under Sir T. L. Mitchell, it appears, is to start immediately, to follow down the Victoria River from the spot at which Sir Thomas left it, and, if possible, to ascertain its mouth. His Excellency the Governor, we understand, has advanced funds for the purpose of starting the expedition, which will consist of a very limited number.—*Atlas*.

The *Sydney Herald* gives the exports of wool as follows:—1845, 39,165 bales; 1846, 36,422 ditto. The apparent decrease is disputed by the *Maitland Mercury*, which accounts for it by the larger quantity of the clip of 1846, which was shipped in the last quarter of 1845; and that journal considers it would be better to commence the shipping year on the 1st October.

Sites have been fixed on, and approved of, for a village at Mount Pleasant in the County of Bathurst, and a town at Warnambool, in the Port Phillip District.

Several parties have commenced capturing the dugong or sea-pig of Moreton Bay, for the purpose of extracting the oil from the animal; the oil procured in this way is highly spoken of, being remarkably pure and clear; about five gallons is obtained from each animal. The blacks are very expert in harpooning these animals, and they are passionately fond of the flesh, preferring it to any other kind of food.

From some returns published in the *Mercury* we find that the number of vessels arriving at, and departing from, the port of Newcastle for the quarter ending 5th January, 1847, were

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| Arrivals .. | No. 231 .. | Tonnage 17,092 |
| Departures No. 233 .. | .. | 16,820 |

Total number of vessels, 464; total amount of tonnage, 33,912.

Lieutenant Crawford Pasco, R.N., of Her Majesty's steamer "Vulture," in a

letter published in the Australian papers, on the communication by steam, throws out the following advice:—"It is a well established fact, that during the months of November and April (inclusive) along the North Shore of Australia, and Torres Straits, the N.W. wind blows, and during the remaining portion of the year the S.E. trade is steady. It is also observed that during the N.W. monsoon on the north coast of Australia, easterly winds prevail more or less, though not to be depended on, on the south coast through Bass's Strait; and in the opposite season I am disposed to think the S.E. trade hangs more E.S.E. and easterly, and certainly the westerly wind is met with in a lower latitude on the west coast.

"Upon which data I will base the following propositions, viz. :—

"1. That during the months of November and March inclusive, the Australian branch leaving Singapore should proceed, via Port Essington and Torres Straits to Sydney, returning south about through Bass's Strait, calling at George Town (Tasmania) or Adelaide, and Swan River.

"2. That during April and October inclusive, leaving Singapore should proceed via Swan River, and Bass's Strait to Sydney, returning through Torres Straits.

"In point of actual distance, I conceive there is only 600 miles in favour of the eastern route, which becomes nullified by the prevailing winds favouring each route in the proposed seasons, viz., the communication with Sydney will be about equal throughout the year.

"Port Dalrymple (George Town) appears a more convenient intermediate station between Sydney and Swan River, then Adelaide, there being about 200 miles saved, besides the claims of all Tasmania entitling her to the preference.

"With respect to the two routes of Torres Straits (commonly designated the Inner and Outer), I should make choice of the Inner, as with the use of Captain P. P. King's excellent chart of the north east coast, with the subsequent additions by Her Majesty's ships "Beagle," "Fly," and "Bramble," the navigation within the Barrier reefs may be compared to that of a well buoyed harbour, with smooth water (a luxury always fully appreciated by steam vessels).

A public meeting had been called, held in Melbourne, to take into consideration the best means for procuring a supply of