

encroachment and intrigue, seems to be in a fair way of accomplishment. The commercial differences with China appear to be drawing towards a settlement, under the arrangement of Mr. Elliot, the chief superintendent at Canton, who, with all the British and other merchants, had been imprisoned by the Chinese government. The introduction of opium into the celestial empire, contrary to the laws thereof, is the great cause of these differences; and the whole of this commodity, owned by British merchants, at Canton, has been delivered up, by Mr. Elliot, to the Chinese government, in consequence of which, harmony and commercial intercourse are restored. The opium trade, it is to be observed, is no novelty in China, but has long been carried on extensively by tacit allowance; and, it is stated, that such is the rage for that drug, from prince to slave, that there is little doubt of the trade in it being as much in vogue again in China, in a short time, as it has ever been.

AUSTRALIA.—The colonies in this quarter have for some time past attracted the principal attention of British emigrants. In New South Wales the settlers seem to have been much harassed by the savage aborigines, and the extreme and sudden variations of the temperature, have produced the most serious effects on the health of the colonists generally. The population of South Australia, in the third year of its history, amounts to seven thousand; upwards of fifty thousand acres of land have already been disposed of in this colony.—The land is sold at £1 per acre, and, according to the original plan of the originators of the settlement, the proceeds are applied in the conveyance of labourers from Britain to the colony. Party squabbles run higher, and are carried to a more disgraceful extent in that than any other colony. The papers speak in terms of reprobation of the disorderly and demoralised state of society in

Adelaide. A system of colonization, in the islands of New Zealand, is about to be established, under the direction of the British government.

UNITED STATES.—Another banking and commercial crisis seems to be at hand in this country. The Southern Merchants are suffering severely from the fall in the price of cotton; and recently \$10,000,000 of the bills of the Bank of the United States have been dishonored at Paris; and the Philadelphia Banks have, in consequence, suspended specie payments. Numerous and most destructive fires have recently taken place in New York and Philadelphia. The President, Van Buren, during a visit in summer to New York, and in reply to an address then presented to him, expressed himself in a very judicious and satisfactory manner, in regard to the north-eastern boundary question, stating his conviction that there is reason to hope, that this question is in a fair way for a speedy and amicable settlement, and that the troubles on the Canadian border have passed their most dangerous crisis, and intimating the purpose of the federal government to use their utmost endeavours to promote and establish returning harmony and good feeling.

SOUTH AMERICAN STATES, TEXAS.—Negotiations are going on to remove the differences between France and Buenos Ayres. In Rio Janiero, serious disturbances have occurred, in connexion with exertions of the British to suppress the slave trade. Mexico seems to be in a more settled state, and to have thoughts of attempting to recover Texas, while the latter country has prospects of being able to induce some of the northern provinces, of the former, to join it in settling up for independence. France has acknowledged the independence of Texas, but Great Britain has not yet decided in this matter.

October 16, 1839.

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

An ordinary meeting of this Presbytery was held at Hamilton on Wednesday and Thursday the 9th and 10th days of October, inst. The members present were—Mr. Daniel Ailan, *Moderator*; Mr. Robert McGill, Mr. James Smith, Mr. Mark V. Stark, Mr. Alexander Gale, Mr. Donald McKenzie, Mr. Angus McIntosh, Mr. Alexander Gerlner, and Mr. Wm. McKillican, *Ministers*, and Mr. Alexander Fee, Mr. Angus McKay, and Robert Martin, *Ruling Elders*. The minutes of last ordinary meeting, of two special meetings at Kingston, and of a special meeting at Williams', in the London District, were read and approved of. Of the two meetings at Kingston, it may be remarked that the first was held by special appointment of Synod, for the purpose of carrying into effect the Synod's decision in the case of the

Rev. Alexander Ross, who in accordance with that decision demitted simpliciter the pastoral charge at Aldborough, into the hands of the Presbytery, and was immediately thereafter suspended *sine die* from the exercise of the Holy Ministry or any part thereof—the Rev. Donald McKenzie being at the same time appointed to preach at Aldborough on Sabbath the 4th day of August, and after divine service to intimate to the congregation the demission and suspension of Mr. Ross, and the consequent vacancy of the pastoral office in that church. The second of the two meetings referred to, was held by permission of Synod, for the purpose of taking preparatory steps for the fulfilment of the instruction of Synod to this Presbytery in regard to the obtaining of a more adequate supply of preachers for this