

which he upholds the intention of moving the verandahs which obtrude on the streets or abut on Government land, although the nuisance, if such it can be called, has been tolerated from time immemorial. A proclamation has been issued, in which we find the following passage:—"All verandahs which can be shown, by the production of title deeds or other documentary evidence, to have been in the possession of the parties prior to the British occupation of Ceylon, are exempted from the operation of this order."

Major-General William Smelt, C.B., had arrived in the Island, and assumed the Commandership of the Forces.

William Dallas Bernard, Esq., A.M., has been appointed Private Secretary to the Governor.

J. Armitage, Esq., has been Gazetted (provisionally) an official member of the Legislative Council during the absence of Mr. Ritchie.

Subscriptions were getting up among the planters to place a steamer at the Maraar Straits, to facilitate the crossing of Coolies. The expenses of a steamer are estimated at £600 per month, and her services would be required for three months of the year. It is expected the Coolies would pay 6d each for the passage.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

We have Portland Bay papers direct by the "Rookery," to the 30th March, but we have dates from Sydney to the 3rd April by the "Post Office Packet." We are sorry to find that the Colony of North Australia is to be abandoned, after all the preliminary expenditure incurred, and we differ with the "Sydney Atlas" as to the benefits that would have been derived.

Two Colonial vessels left Moreton Bay for North Australia on the 3rd March. The "Kangaroo" steamer, which had left Port Jackson on a secret expedition, it was rumoured, had been sent down to reconnoitre the North Australian settlement.

The Legislature had been further prorogued to the 20th of April.

It appears that North Australia is to be abandoned, and Barney is not to be a Governor after all. We can sympathise with the unfortunate officials who have thus had their honours shorn from them before they were well fledged; but we

must congratulate the public generally upon the timely stop that has been put to, what must inevitably have turned out the most disastrous instance of Colonisation ever exhibited to the world.—*Atlas*.

When we stated, a few weeks back, that the Queen had been pleased to revoke her letters patent and commissions for forming the Colony of North Australia, we are aware that many of our readers imagined we had been deceived; but our information came from a quarter which led us to place the most implicit reliance upon it, and to assert most positively that the formation of the Colony was to be discontinued. We are now enabled to state that despatches were yesterday received by the Governor, desiring that immediate steps may be taken to break up the settlement, as it is not intended to form a new Colony. The "Kangaroo" will be despatched to the northward either this afternoon or to-morrow morning with the intelligence; so that by the end of April we may expect to see the whole of the officers and people in Sydney. Our original announcement is thus fulfilled to the letter.—*Sydney Herald*, March 30.

What consequences, to the extension of trade and commerce, may follow an apparently insignificant movement on the part of the British ministry in taking possession of the small island of Labuan, time only can fully develop. The best possible results are anticipated by parties fully capable of correctly reasoning on the multitudinous affairs in which the step is involved. The ultimate effects of the measure are anticipated to be magnificent. Labuan is not intended for a mere naval depot—a place of convenient rendezvous for steamers visiting those seas, or an ordinary British Colony, designed merely to raise produce for British consumption; the island is intended as the key to a vast archipelago, and to serve as the centre of a trade in British manufactures, bearing some comparison with that of India itself. With all the teeming population of China, and the freedom of access which our shipping have secured to certain of the ports of that empire, the prospects at Labuan, are, to the interests of commerce, far less ambiguous.

The commercial emporium already virtually established in Labuan, gives the British merchant a convenient access to