

## COLONIAL.

Upon Colonial affairs we can at present bestow but casual and brief remark. We trust however, that in our future numbers, this department will be ably and faithfully filled.

The Legislature of the Province, after a session of about two months, was prorogued by the Executive on the 13th of January. During the period of its sitting, the attention of both Branches, was directed to the consideration of subjects of public interest and importance. The votes of last year for the Road Service, which were not incorporated into a law, owing to the unfortunate dispute between His Majesty's Council and the late House, were readily agreed to; and a Bill of Supply was passed, and received the assent of the Executive some time previous to the adjournment. Various Resolutions, having for their object, the general improvement of the Province, were subsequently passed; and had the revenue been in a more flourishing state, numerous other subjects of importance, would doubtless have been amply and readily provided for.

The crops of the last year were unusually productive; vast quantities of provisions have been brought to market during the winter, and continue daily to arrive; for which fair prices have been obtained. We observe, among the various kinds of produce brought in, that there is a large and encresing supply of Oatmeal; and that the demand for this description of food is rapidly encresing. That article is at once nutritive, palatable and cheap; and while it can be raised and manufactured by our farmers with certainty and profit, would if once in general use, go far towards rendering the people of this Province, free from that dependence upon their neighbours, which makes them the sport and victims of speculation, or scarcity in other countries.

While upon this subject, we cannot refrain from alluding to the improvement, which has taken place in many parts of the Province, as respects the use of ardent spirits. Temperance Societies have in several instances been formed, and the most beneficial effects have resulted from their establishment. We shall not here enter into any disquisition, as to the merits or demerits of such institutions; the object of their founders is benevolent and patriotic; and if the intemperate can be thus reclaimed, and general abstinence from the immoderate use of spirits inculcated by such means, they are deserving of every encouragement. It is however worthy of consideration, whether the more influential members of those bodies, should not exert themselves to introduce a substitute of a wholesome description.—Beer is decidedly the best—it is most Englishman-like; but as it is at present sold, malt-liquor can only be drank by persons who are in good circumstances.

Late in the autumn intelligence was received, of the determination of His Majesty's government to open the ports of the West Indies, to the vessels of the United States. There has not since been sufficient time, to afford data for judging of the effects of this measure; while the principle upon which it was founded, and the restrictions by which that trade is to be controlled and regulated, are yet unknown. But if we are to judge of the effect it will have on the West India markets, by that which has been experienced here, it would seem that the prices of the necessaries of life, must in general be much advanced. English vessels will not be sent to the Islands with provisions, unless protected by exorbitant duties; and the Americans will not proceed thither, until scarcity shall have ensured them certain, and we may add, unreasonable profits.