

A list of the number of vessels registered at the port of Wellington from 31st December, 1845, to 31st December, 1846:—"Gypsy," 15; "Margaret," 27—Total, 42.

In addition to the above, the "Edward Stanley" was built at Wellington; and the "Governor Grey" at Wanganui, during the last year.

#### MAURITIUS.

We have nearly two months later dates from this Colony—our advices coming down to the 9th May.

The calculations that can be made on next crop are vague as yet, the dryness of the weather all through the month in the productive districts (North and South Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart) has somewhat checked vegetation, and the heat of the summer being over the plantations will not profit so much by the rains that may now fall. The reports from the other districts are favourable, and the crop promises well. Sir William Gomm, in a late document, estimates the crop at from 140 to 150 millions, a consumption to be desired, but we think we shall be nearer the mark in saying it will equal the present, which will reach 130 millions.—*Mauritian*.

The subject of agricultural improvement and scientific education for the young is, we are happy to see, attracting public attention. The *Mauritian*, writing on this subject, says:—"Our fertile plains are inexhaustible with good cultivation. In Europe, with a climate unfriendly to vegetation at least for one-half of the year, with a soil that has been cultivated for hundreds of years, fortunes are made and capital accumulates. If we employed the same means in our genial climate—a continual summer—in our new soil so abundantly productive, our advantages would be tenfold greater. If we only knew how to give to our cultivation and our manufactures a part of the care, skill, and intelligence, bestowed in Europe, we should increase our revenue considerably. But, notwithstanding the warnings we have previously given of the improvements introduced in all the sugar Colonies, both British and foreign, our system is nearly the same as it was fifty years ago. We continue to plant, to cultivate, and manufacture, à la Malartic. Even the manuring of

land is little understood; no one has taken the trouble to pay serious attention to the composition of the different earths. The volcanised plains of Mapou, the yellow stony earth of Bois Rouge, the red ferruginous soil of Pamplemousses, the dark clayey earth of the Morne and Tamarin, the powdery earth of the Great and the clammy earth of the Little Savanne, the burning earth of the sea side and the cold earths of Mesnil and Moka—all these are indiscriminately planted with the cane. How few are there amongst our planters who ever think of studying the application of chemistry to agriculture. Who are the teachers of the difficult science of agriculture? Are they not the subalterns we employ? They have educated the advocates, the "avoués," notaries, brokers, mariners, merchants, military men, physicians, clock-makers, tailors, &c., who were decided to become planters in a day. Worthy scholars of such masters; ignorance and routine on both sides. What disappointment followed; we fancied we knew all that was required without having learnt anything! But even now that many have had some years of dear-bought experience, can they define the rules and principles of agriculture in our Colony? What a conflict of opinion on the most elementary questions! One plants at the beginning of the year, another at the middle, a third at the end; and a fourth sustains that it is good to plant at all seasons of the year. Some say that large, others that small, caneholes are best, and a third prefers to plant in furrows. On one side the plough is vaunted, on the other it is ridiculed. James plants maize in his young plantations of cane, John says it kills them. A speaks of the good results of guano, B says it burns every plant. C is an advocate for the manure Jauffret, D for the manure Toché. If you ask how many pounds of sugar there are to a barrel of cane-juice, you will have ten different answers, from 60 to 112 lbs. Inquire again as to what unanimity prevails as to the improvements in the manufacture, you will find no more than on the other points we have cited. What is the consequence? That we have few among our numerous planters who know how to reason on all their operations and obtain profitable results. The manufacture is even more difficult than the cultivation