

admit that their apprehensions were groundless. In fact, when we compare it with the neighbouring settlements, we find that not one of them has, in the same space of time, become a self-supporting Colony. All but South Australia receive grants of money from the English exchequer, to enable them to defray their necessary expenditure; and, although thus assisted, their commerce is not more flourishing, their various local establishments are not more complete, than those in South Australia.

We shall briefly notice the present state of the Colony with reference to its agricultural, pastoral, and mining resources. The agricultural interest deserves especial mention, inasmuch as the soil and climate of South Australia were thought totally unsuited to the growth of grain. Van Diemen's Land was predicted to be the granary of the southern hemisphere; yet, not only has that island grown and exported large quantities of wheat, but the sister Colony has followed in her track, and the markets of the Mauritius, the Cape of Good Hope, and England, receive the redundant supplies of South Australian corn.

Previously to the year 1840 little grain had been sown; when, however, the imprudent speculation, so prevalent at that time, had been checked, and the enormously high prices for food reduced, the Colonists came to the conclusion that an important source of wealth consisted in the cultivation of the soil, and, consequently, agriculture received an effective impulse.

The following return exhibits the progress made in that respect very distinctly. The land under cultivation, comprised, in December,

1840,	2,503 acres,	while the population numbered	14,610 souls.
1841,	6,722	"	No returns.
1842,	19,790	"	No returns.
1843,	28,690	"	17,366 "
1844,	26,918	"	18,999 "
1845,	26,218	"	21,880 "
1846,	33,292	"	27,006 "

The land fenced in December, 1846, was 89,565 acres, showing an increase of 27,347 acres, as compared with the number of acres fenced in 1845; so that, notwithstanding the extensive mineral operations during those two years, considerable attention had been devoted to agriculture.

The quality of South Australian wheat is generally very fine, and realises in the London market from five to ten shillings per quarter more than the average price of English wheat. This statement is fully confirmed by the fact that a parcel of wheat from Adelaide was sold last September for sixty-four shillings per quarter, while the average price of English wheat at the time was only fifty-one shillings and fourpence.

The pastoral interest in South Australia is of large extent. In December, 1843, the numbers of stock were—sheep, 402,187; cattle, 30,018; horses, 1,693; pigs and goats, 9,034. No return has lately been compiled, but at the end of the year 1846 the numbers were estimated as follow:—sheep, 600,000; cattle, 32,000; horses, 2,000; pigs and goats, 12,000.