

decline which has long been in operation and which, produced by causes that cannot be obviated seems destined ere long to reach that point at which a total abandonment of this species of a venture will be imperative. At the commencement of the whale fishery, in the fifteenth century, the whales were in the habit of frequenting parts of Europe, nearest the verge of the arctic circle, and tame and passive from long tranquillity, advance so near to the shore and died so little the operations of man as to permit themselves to be approached and destroyed with but small trouble and risk, compared to the long voyages and adventurous efforts required for the same purpose in modern times. But, as the war against them increased in extent and eagerness, they gradually deserted their former haunts, and becoming more shy and suspicious, retreated not only farther from the shore, but also to a greater distance from the temperate regions, until ultimately deserting the coasts of Spitzbergen and the arctic circle, they are now only to be found in the frozen and almost inaccessible channels of Davis's Straits and Baffin's Bay. The consequence has been that owing to the quantity of ice, and the difficulty of falling in with the fish, and the excessive rigour of the climate in that horrible region, the chances of accomplishing a good whaling voyage have become more rare than formerly; and that agreeable to the law of risk and profit which obtains in all such cases the number of vessels prosecuting the trade have become fewer in proportion. Meantime while our whale fishery declines in Greenland, it has sprung up in more than compensating proportion in the Southern Seas. A fleet as numerous as that now sent to the Arctic circle, annually leaves England to prosecute the same traffic in the Pacific; and in addition to these, the vessels employed in various quarters in the sperm fishery, make the total complement of our whale fishing navy, still amount to 300 sail. Nor is this all. In New South Wales our colonists have embarked largely in this trade and from their much greater nearness to the Antarctic circle fishing grounds than either the Americans or ourselves, bid fair ere long to enjoy (of course to our advantage, as much as theirs) a monopoly of the business. They can perform three voyages to every two by the Americans and us; while we often consume seven months in the voyage, they complete it in about fifty days; and by sending their oil in other bottoms to England, they pay in freight only a tenth of what they can make by adhering exclusively to the fishing, and transporting their cargoes for re-shipment to their settlements. Under these advantages, the trade in New South Wales has increased with great rapidity; and we do not think we exaggerate, in estimating the present vessels employed from all parts of Australia in the whale fishery at from fifty to sixty in number. Thus, as the whale fishery shrinks from our grasp in the Arctic regions, it opens out before us with still amplifying prospects in other quarters of the world.

BARBADOES.—At a public meeting, presided over by the hon. R. Hamlen, resolutions were moved by G. N. Taylor, Esq., E. B. B. Haty, Esq., and R. B. Clarke, Esq., expressive of the deep and sincere regret felt for the truly distressing state of the suffering people of Dominica, and also that subscriptions be opened for their relief. The Governor Sir L. Smith gave £150 5s. and the Legislative Chambers £750. The subscription promised to be very considerable.

The King held a Court yesterday afternoon at St. James's Palace, at half past two o'clock. Count D'Angille, the Sardinian minister, and M. De Moraes Sarmento, the Portuguese minister, had audiences of the King, to whom they were introduced by the Duke of Wellington, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State. The Duke of Devonshire had an audience of his Majesty to resign his gold key of office, as the Lord Chamberlain of the King's household. His Grace likewise received the gold key of office for the present. His Majesty held a Privy Council which was attended by the Duke of Wellington, Earl Jersey, Earl Roslyn, Lords Lyndhurst, Burghersh, Ellenborough, Cowley, and Maryborough, Sir C. M. Sutton, Sir H. Hardinge, Sir John Berket, and the Right hon. H. Goulburn. The hon. William Bathurst was the Clerk of the Council in Waiting. The prorogation of parliament was taken into consideration, and it was ordered to be further prorogued from the 25th Nov. to the 19th Dec. The Earl of Derby was introduced and was sworn in Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire. His Majesty gave audiences to the Duke of Wellington, the Earl Derby, Sir Andrew Barnard, and Lord Hill.

BRITISH COLONIES.—The colonies now belonging to the crown of Great Britain, exclusive of those under the government of the East India Company, are as follows:— In the West Indies and South America: 1. Antigua, including Barbuda; 2. Barbadoes; 3. British Guiana; 4. Dominica; 5. Grenada; 6. Jamaica; 7. Montserrat; 8. Nevis; 9. St. Christopher's, including An-

guilla; 10. St. Lucia; 11. St. Vincent; 12. Tobago; 13. Trinidad; 14. Virgin Islands.

In North America, continental and insular: 1. Bahama Islands; 2. the Bermuda, or Somers Islands; 3. Canada Town; 4. Canada Upper; 5. Prince Edward's Island; 6. New Brunswick; 7. Newfoundland, with part of Labrador; 8. Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton.

In Africa: 1. Cape of Good Hope; 2. Sierra Leone, with the settlement on the Gold Coast.

In the Indian Seas: 1. Ceylon; 2. Mauritius with the Seychelles.

In the South Seas: 1. New South Wales, with Norfolk Island; 2. Van Diemen's Land; 3. Western Australia. And in addition to these may be added the following British Possessions, which are said not strictly to fall in with the definition of colonies, in Europe: 1. Gibraltar; 2. Heligoland; 3. Malta.

By the advices on Thursday received from Central America to the beginning of July, we learn that civil war was still raging in that country. A force of 700 men was marching upon Leon. A revolution had broken out at San Salvador. Morazan yet remained at the head of affairs, but it was supposed he would be succeeded by Henra. The country was in a sadly distracted state, and commerce, confidence, and all the social relations of man with man, appear utterly extinguished or in abeyance.—*Morning Herald.*

EXTRAORDINARY CLAIM.—We understand that two men named Hudson and Oddy are now laying claim to the estates, and one of them to the title of Lord Ducie, who as our readers are aware, has extensive property in this town (Liverpool) and neighbourhood, and especially in the township of Cheetham. Under what sort of pretence this claim is set up we are not aware; we do know that the mode in which they have proceeded to enforce it, is exceedingly improper and vexatious. Instead of instituting legal proceedings in the usual form, they have chosen to distrain for rent arising out of the property in question, and which rent they allege to be due to themselves. On Thursday last, to the great surprise of Mr Lloyd, of Strangeways's Cottage, (which is part of Strangeways's Hall, formerly the residence of the Lords Ducie) five men rushed into the house, demanded possession of it and without further ceremony proceeded to take an inventory of the furniture. On demanding to know who they were and what was their authority, Mr Lloyd was informed that one of them was Mr Oddy, one of the claimants of the property, and the others a London bailiff named Freethy, with his assistants; and that they were proceeding to levy under a distress of rent and arrears of rent due to Hudson and Oddy to the amount of £500. Mr Lloyd of course, called in a friend, who resided near him and a solicitor when he found that his only legal course was to replevy the goods; he therefore entered into the usual bond for that purpose, with two sureties for £1000 each, and thus got rid of his troublesome visitors. Whether Messrs Hudson and Oddy will proceed against any others of the numerous tenants of Lord Ducie, or whether they will venture to carry this matter to a trial it is difficult to say; but we have no doubt Lord Ducie will take care that neither Mr Lloyd nor any other of his tenants shall be subjected to any trouble or expense in resisting this novel and extraordinary claim.—*Manchester Guardian.*

SURVEY OF THE AFRICAN COAST.—Lieutenant Arlett, commanding the Zebra, has been directed to take under his orders the Rye cutter, Lieutenant Kellet and proceed to Madeira and Teneriffe, where they will remain a few days for the purpose of regulating their chronometers; they will then continue the survey of the African Coast, to the northward of Cape Bojador, after which they will proceed with a general survey of the coast from Cape Bojador to the straits of Gibraltar, and when finished, will return to Spithead.

BOMBAY.—The Upton Castle having on board Sir John Keane, K.C.B. and G.C.H. the new Commander-in-Chief with his suite arrived on Wednesday, 20 July. His Excellency landed, in the course of the forenoon, and was sworn and took his seat as second member of Council under the usual salute. We understand, his Excellency will proceed very shortly to the Deccan.—The arrival of the Upton Castle brings no addition to our stock of home news, and we are anxiously looking out for the Charles Grant, and other ships now daily expected, which will probably furnish intelligence up to the beginning of April.—*Lombay Courier 5th July.*

FOOD OF PLANTS.—If manure be considered as the food of plants, lime and salts of different kinds may perhaps be considered correctives or condiments. There seems no other mode for accounting for the productive effect of lime on soils where dung will do no good, than by supposing that it acts by dissolving or neutralizing poisonous matters

in the soil. These poisonous matters may in some cases be those exudations from the roots of plants, which of late years have given rise to the new theory of the rotation of crops.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY.—There are numerous elevations along the proposed line of road, which, either from their height, or other causes, render cutting down the hills impracticable. In such cases the level of the road will be maintained by penetrating the elevations by tunnels. Of these structures eleven were proposed in the parliamentary plan; but it is probable that cuttings will be substituted for some of them as the work proceeds, and that the actual number will not exceed eight: the largest will be constructed at Kilsby, near Daventry, seventy-seven miles from London; it will be about one mile and a half in length. Another, situate about two miles beyond Watford, will be a mile in length. That which will pass under the Priurose Hill, and under the roads leading from Regent's Park, and from Saint John's wood to Finchley, will be half a mile in length: one near Weedon will be three quarters of a mile long, but none of the others will exceed a quarter of a mile in length. The principal obstacle to the adoption of tunnels on railways worked by steam power, has been the want of sufficient ventilation. The furnace of the engine soon renders the air unfit for breathing, and the impurity produced by the passage of one engine might continue until the arrival of the next. It is proposed, in the long tunnels, to overcome this difficulty by providing shafts or chimneys at short intervals, carried from the roof of the tunnel to the surface of the ground above. In the case of the long tunnel at Kilsby, some of these shafts will be one hundred feet high; in the other tunnels they will vary from thirty to seventy feet; all of them will be eight feet in diameter.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—Between four and five hundred men are now daily engaged in pulling down the ruined walls which surround the intended two Houses of Parliament. We understand Mr. Stanke is the architect, and Mr. Baker, the builder, who have undertaken to fit up the ruins of the old House of Lords, the bare walls of which are alone standing, within the short space of three months, for the reception of the members of Parliament; and the painted chamber will be converted into the House of Lords. Scaffolding is erected within the interior of the latter, and several hundred men are busily engaged in removing the ruins which almost enclose the body of the late House of Lords. These two chambers will require new roofing; and should Mr. Baker complete the work within the given time, it will be considered one of the most expeditious erections within the recollection of modern founders.—*Gore's Advertiser.*

MASTER AND APPRENTICE.—In the proceedings of a Petty Session, held at Bolton a few days ago, before Joseph Ridgway, James Keatsley, and Robert Lomax, Esquires, a case of importance, as respects masters and apprentices, engaged particular consideration. It appeared that a young man of the name of Edward Holt, had been apprenticed to Mr. Joshua Knowles of Tootington, to learn the business of a calico-printer; and that during the term he had been absent from work, at one time sixteen weeks occasioned by a turn-out; on another four weeks, from a fire happening at the works; and at other times from neglect or some other cause a period embracing seventy-three weeks; the master's claim for loss of service being ninety-three weeks. The application was made under the 6th Geo. II., 25, which provides "that any person absenting himself from his master's service before the expiration of his time, shall at any time thereafter, wherever he shall be found, be compelled to serve his master for so long a time as he shall have absented himself." And in addition to this statute provision, the custom of young men so making up lost time, was offered, and instances of proofs given, of such additional services being taking place at the present time at Mr. Knowles works. For the defendant it was pleaded, that during the sixteen weeks turn-out the apprentices had no work to do, and for the lost time of four weeks from the fire, that was altogether an unavoidable absence. It was further shown that the term of apprenticeship expired in July last; that the young man had since then remained in the neighbourhood, but that until within the last three weeks no attempt had been made to enforce the claim now sought, and in support of the necessity which masters are under, to enforce, if possible, an immediate observance of the statute the words "whenever the apprentice shall be found," had not received any attention from the master. And again the 4th Geo. IV., was adduced to show "that apprentices or servants guilty of misconduct, must be brought before the magistrates, who may punish each offender, either by deducting the whole or any part of his wages, or by sending him to prison." The magistrate consulted the act, and Mr. Lomax gave judgment, that the "whenever he shall be found" could only apply to such persons as abscond and do not return within the term of the apprenticeship. The master ought to have sum-

mary punishment agreeable to the statute, on the different occasions of absence; neglecting to do so, he, Mr. Lomax must decline making an order against the defendant.

DEATH OF DR. CAREY.—We are concerned to learn that the venerable Doctor Carey, whose indefatigable labours in translating the Holy Scriptures into the languages of the East are so well known to the Biblical scholar, and to all the friends of Missions, has finished his earthly course. He expired at Serampore, the scene of his valuable and interesting labours on the 9th of June, declaring to his surrounding friends the Cross of Christ and the Atonement of the Redeemer to be the only and all sufficient ground of his confidence and joy.

We have the pleasure to hear that the venerable Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, voted £1000 towards supplying the negro population in the West Indies with copies of the Liturgy of the Church of England. It was referred to the Standing Committee, at their monthly meeting in October, to consider the practicability of the measure, and this is the result of their deliberations; but this is, we believe, only the beginning, for if the Bible Society have voted £20,000 towards supplying them with the Scriptures, the demand for the Liturgy will be, in a great measure, proportionable. The Bishop of Barbadoes, to whom the distribution was committed, who was also present, related a very interesting anecdote, showing the desire the negroes had for the Scriptures. He said one morning a man of colour (a carpenter), who had by his industry purchased his own liberty and that of his family, called upon him and requested to have a Bible or two. The Bishop thought he meant gratuitously, but he was surprised when he offered to pay him for them, which he did, for two of the largest of the Society's Bibles, which amounted to eight or nine shillings, even at the Society's reduced prices. The Rev. Mr. Manne, of Bridewell Hospital, and Mr. Poynder, first introduced the subject. They also proposed for the adoption of the Society those interesting tracts of the late Mr. Richmond, the Dairy Man's Daughter, and the Young Cottager, which were referred for consideration to the Tract Committee.—*Morning Herald.*

MR. ASHTON'S MURDERER.—In the Court of King's Bench, on Thursday, the Attorney-General applied to the Court for a writ of certiorari and habeas corpus, to bring James Garside and William Mosley, who had been tried and convicted for the murder of Mr. Ashton, before their Lordships' bar, in consequence of the Sheriff of the county of Chester having refused to execute the sentence. Mr. Justice Parke, who had tried them, as also the Secretary of State, had been obliged to respite them. Bills of indictment had been preferred against the city and county Sheriffs of Chester, but had been thrown out by the grand jury. He cited several cases from the statutes of James the First, and particularly the case of Sir Walter Raleigh, from James the Second and Charles the Second, and cases which had occurred in the last century, to show that the Court had the power to order the execution of the prisoners by the Sheriffs of either the county or city of Chester, by the Sheriffs of Middlesex, or by the Marshal of the Court. He also cited cases where sentence of death had been passed by the Court of King's Bench upon persons who had been tried at their Lordships' bar, and were afterwards executed at Tyburn. Another case where a person had been attainted in Middlesex and executed in Surrey. The Attorney-General, in conclusion, conjured the Court, by the power it had, to grant the application, and that the administration of the law be no longer impeded.—Writ granted.

FIRE AT LIVERPOOL, AT THE CASTLE MILLS.—On Tuesday morning at 4 o'clock, the large Mills in Chancer-street, Scotland-road, known by the name of the Castle Mills, were discovered to be on fire. The watchman in the neighbourhood smelled what he conceived to be a fire for several hours before, and ten minutes before it broke out he went with his captain round the premises.—The fire, however, though concealed, must have raged for some time; for, the flames when first seen, burst forth simultaneously through the entire extent of the roof, and in less than ten minutes the whole building was on fire. Four of the Fire Police engines, under Mr. Gallimore, as well as the Norwich and West of England engines, under the direction of Mr. Anderson and Mr. Davis, were quickly on the spot, and there having been an abundant and prompt supply of water, means were taken to confine the fire to the premises in which it originated. The wind, however, being very high, the ignited embers and burnt wood were carried with rapid velocity over the houses towards Everton, exhibiting in their descent a splendid shower of fire. The scene was at once awful and grand, and, seen from Everton, presented, we are told, a most magni-