

Act of 3 and 4 W. IV. c. 59, think these articles can be imported from any British possession in North America duty free. Much inconvenience and loss is, we fear, likely to arise before the correctness of the above opinion given by the Commissioners of H. M. Customs is ascertained; and if correct, the almost entire trade of the Islands, except in the article of Fish will be again carried on by American vessels."

CHURCH.—There is no doubt that Ministers are at present preparing a plan of Church reform, of which the leading principles will be a commutation of Tithes, an alteration in the mode of levying Church rates, an exemption of Dissenters from all payments for the support of the Church. This measure will probably contain enactments against pluralities and non-residence, and will attempt something approaching to an equalization of livings, at least so far as to put an end to the scandalous poverty which at present exists amongst the clergy. That the above objects will be attended to may be gathered from the speeches of Ministers, and information from all other quarters must be considered apochryphal. The government appears to be at present in active communication with the bench of Bishops.

The Bardaster, which recently sailed from Liverpool, and is now in Falmouth harbor, wind-bound, has on board T. P. Macqueen, Esq., late M.P. for Bedfordshire, who has purchased an extensive lot of land, in New South Wales, on which he is going to reside, for the purpose of cultivating the same, and also to assist the establishment of a whale fishery in that part of the world.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The Legislative Assembly of Van Dieman's Land met on the 28th of August. The Lieutenant Governor Colonel Arthur, in his address upon the occasion, states that the progressive improvement of the colony since the commencement of his administration has been highly satisfactory—the suppression of bush-ranging, the removal of the aborigines, and the introduction of a more efficient system of penal discipline, having enabled the settlers to apply their undivided energies to the improvement of their estates, and the best modes of investing their capital.—The wool of the colony, he states, is already beginning to displace the boasted fleeces of Germany and Spain; the wheat is prized in the markets of New South Wales, of the Mauritius, of Rio de Janeiro, and even of London; and the Whale Fishery, notwithstanding some reverses promises some important advantages. In 1824 the exports of the colony amounted to £14,500 currency; they now exceed £157,900 sterling. The revenue from indirect taxation, amounted in 1823 to £27,000; and in the first half of 1824 declined almost to a failure: it may now be quoted at £75,000 independent of a very large "extraordinary" revenue derived from the sale of crown lands.

PERSIA.—Intelligence has been received of the death of Abac Muza, the son and designated heir of the King of Persia, who was marching at the head of an army to put down an insurrection of one of his brothers. This event will occasion many speculations, and possibly some disturbances in the East.

Muza was at the head of the Russian interest, and much suspected of subserviency to the Court of St. Petersburg. On the other hand, disputes about the succession are likely to lead to a civil war, and civil war to furnish a pretext for interference to a restless and encroaching neighbour. In Persia and in every other quarter, the autocrat will, however, now be careful to avoid any step that may embroil him with Great Britain and France.

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.—Our Government having judged these Islands to be a station of some importance and convenience to our ships proceeding to the Pacific, Capt. Fitzroy, in the *Beagle*, has been directed to survey them. Lieut. H. Smith (b), late first Lieutenant of the *Tyne*, is appointed Governor of these Islands, and four seamen, volunteers, as a boat's crew for his use and protection. They were to proceed by the first ship from Rio. It was expected that this little nucleus party of a new Colony would be reinforced by a party of Royal marines, from England. It has been ascertained that these Islands are not so unproductive as has been believed, and that a limited number of settlers would do well on the eastern Island, where in fact one is forming; a situation called, Port Louis, at the head of Berkely Sound, had been fixed upon as head quarters. At least 7000 head of fine wild cattle, and 500 wild horses, are roaming over a large expanse of most excellent pasturage. Game is also in abundance, particularly rabbits, and the shores abound with excellent fish, as well as whales and seals. Though there is no timber on the Islands, the sheltered spots are favourable to the growth of hardy trees; there is peat in abundance, which would furnish a never-failing supply of fuel, and kelp for manure. The climate is not severe, considering its locality, and there is good anchorage all round the coast.

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.—We have already announced the return to this country of Mr Laird, who was associated with Richard Lander in his expedition to the Niger. Lander was at Atta on the 21st July, in vigorous health, making preparations to ascend the river in the *Alburka* steamer, accompanied by Lieut. Allan and a medical man. His trip up the river from the mouth of the Nun (in a canoe) occupied him 32 days. In a letter to his brother, he says:—

"You know that when we were here together, Abucco, chief of Damuggoo, had been at variance for several years with his brother, the ruler of Atta. On arriving at the former place from the coast, I was sorry to find the brothers, with their respective subjects, still engaged in that petty but obstinate and ferocious warfare which had distinguished the quarrel at its commencement. Determined, if possible, to effect a reconciliation between them, I prevailed on our old friend Abucco, to accompany me to Atta, promising to introduce him to his brother, and pledging my life for his safety. The meeting took place on the 22nd of November, and a highly interesting one it was, I assure you. Our party, preceded by Jowdie and a few drummers, were introduced into a large square enclosure. The Chief, seated on a kind of throne, was surrounded by his

mallams, and a multitude of his attendants. His wives were seated under a verandah, from which were suspended several handsome Turkish carpets, which served them for a screen. Abucco instinctively drew back as he approached the throne, but, taking him by the hand, I led, or rather pulled him towards his brother. At this moment his confidence seemed to have forsaken him entirely; his head hung down on his breast, and I could feel him tremble violently.—Whilst I was displaying my presents to the Chief of Atta, I perceived him several times bestow a hasty and displeased look on his brother, who had disengaged himself from my hand, and was sitting on the ground.—Though seven years had elapsed since their last meeting, neither of the rulers uttered a word. The curiosity of the Chief of Atta having in some measure been gratified, I immediately introduced his brother to his notice, by paying him a high compliment, which Abucco had certainly deserved. I then expressed the regret I felt on witnessing the bad effects of the misunderstanding which had existed between them for so many years; insisted on the necessity of brothers living together in harmony; and said, I was determined not to quit the spot until I had established a perfect reconciliation between them. The Chief was extremely disconcerted, but he made no reply. I then desired Abucco to rise, and leading him to his brother, I took the right hand of each, and pressing both hands together, made them shake hands heartily, observing—"You are now friends, and may God keep you so.—The brothers were deeply affected, and neither of them could utter a syllable for several seconds afterwards. Every countenance beamed with delight at the happy termination of the interview, and the multitude gave vent to their feelings in a loud, long, and general shout. For my part, I need not say, I cannot tell the gratification I felt at that moment. But this not the most important good that I have been the humble means of effecting at this place. From time immemorial it has been a custom with the rulers of Atta, to sacrifice human beings on rejoicing days, and on all public occasions. At the interview which I have just described to you, two poor creatures were brought before us to be slain, in order that their blood might be sprinkled about the yard. I shuddered at the proposal, and begged with earnestness that nothing of the kind might be done, I assured the chief he would one day have to give an account to God of every life he might wantonly destroy; and also made him sensible, that though after death his body would moulder into dust, his soul would live for ever, and that it would be happy or miserable in proportion to the good or bad actions he had performed, or might yet perform, in this world. The Chief was evidently much affected at my words, and desired his followers to unbind the intended victims, and remove them from the yard.—He then made a solemn promise to put an end to the custom of sacrificing human beings. As soon as this declaration was made known to the mallams, and the crowd of attendants in the yard, they all held up their hands in token of approbation, and shouted for joy. It is now seven or eight months since this promise was made, and I am happy to say, it has been religiously kept.—*Times.*