all things into consideration, than can be made by many of the seamstresses, either in London or New York. A great deal of wine is made, and the men can mostly all do something as coopers.

The limestone rock, as a drawback to many comforts, has a tendency to crumble, and sometimes a fragment rolls down from its seat; but, taking all things into consideration, the people live comfortable, and perhaps more carelessly than any other in the world.—Friends' Review.

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1851.

STEAM NAVIGATION.—By an ordinance published in another column, it will be perceived that there is a probability of our having, within four months, a steamer plying between the different islands of the group, under the auspices of Captain Howard, with whom the contract has been made.

Voyagers amongst the islands, who have suffered the inconveniences and delays of sailing vessels, in past times, will hail the advent of a smart steamer, upon our waters, with delight; and many will take a trip, who otherwise would have staid at home, through mere dread of the discomforts attending a trip in a schooner of doubtful pretensions to cleanliness or sailing qualities.

While a few of the coasters are fine, fast vessels, the larger number, especially of the smaller class, are far removed from being comfortable conveyances for passengers, and are only embarked in as a matter of necessity, and not of choice. But a fast steamer, affording the comforts and conveniences required by the travelling public, will, we believe, find an ample patronage, not only from those who travel from necessity, but from choice.

We therefore hail the commencement of this new mode of inter-island communication, as an auspicious event, and one well calculated to increase travel and trade among the different islands, and to secure the regular and more speedy transmission of mails between the more important towns of the group.

In the Alta California, of the 10th ult., we find the following announcement:

"The propeller MONUMENTAL CITY arrived in harbor yesterday, coming from Baltimore, via intermediate ports—running time, 87 days. She is 800 tons burthen, 200 horse power, double engines, 185 feet long, 30 feet beam, 15 ft. depth of hold, and can accommodate 240 passengers. She is intended, we believe, for the Sandwich Islands trade."

Let her come; we shall welcome her.

COURT NEWS.

ADMIRAL FAIRFAX MORESBY, C. B., K. M. T., Commander in Chief of H. B. M. Naval Forces in the Pacific Ocean, had an audience of the King on Saturday the 26th July. He was accompanied by Her Majesty's Consul General, and had a numerous Staff.

After being presented by the Consul General to their Majesties the King and Queen, the gallant Admiral addressed the King, to the effect that he had taken the earliest opportunity of presenting his respects to their Majesties, and that, in doing so, he felt assured that he was acting agreeably to the wishes of Her most gracious Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, who took a sincere interest in His Majesty, and the prosperity of His Islands.—That he and all his Officers participated in that interest, and offered their respects to His Majesty, with every good wish for His welfare, and for the happiness of His people.

His Majesty was pleased to reply—that he was very glad to see the Admiral and his Officers, that he thanked them for their good wishes, and hoped that the Admiral would consent to remain till after the Anniversary Festival of the 31st.

The Admiral at once said that he yielded to His Majesty's wish, in that respect.

The Admiral then presented the following Officers:

Henry Chads,	Captain H. B. M. S.	Portland.
W. C. Aldham,	Commander, "	Swift.
James G. Prevost,	Commander, "	Portland.
W. A. C. Young,	Secretary to Com. in Chief.	
Fairfax Moresby,	Flag Lieutenant,	
Marcus Lowther,	Lieutenant, H.B.M.S.	Portland,
Hon. W. J. Ward,	do	do
Edward S. Browne,	Captain of R. Marines	do
J. E. Bickford,	Lieutenant H.B.M.S	Swift.
W. B. S. Farrer,	Paymaster and Purser	Portland
J. C. Hutchings,	Master	do
Rev. W. H. Holman,	Chaplain	do
Robert Stevenson,	Surgeon	do
John I. Palmer,	Assistant Surgeon	do
W. S. Harvey,	Naval instructro	do
W. S. Savary,	Royal Marines,	do
J. R. Holman,	Assistant Surgeon	Swift.
C. Saunders,	Acting Purser	do
W. H. Harvey,	Naval Instructor,	Dædalus.
Edward O. Hayes,	Passed Clerk	Portland.
Josh. Whittall,	do do	do
E. C. Chapslain,	Midshipman	do
George G. Wallace,	do	do
A. Wootton,	do	do
W. B. Stubbs,	do	do
W. B. Bingham,	do	do
E. White,	do	do
C. Le Mesurier,	do	Swift.
C. W. Glaxton,	do	do
F. P. Matthews,	do	do
W. St. J. S. John Hornby,	Naval Cadet	Portland.
D'A. A. Penny,	do	do
John Liddell,	do	do
Richard Nicholetts,	do	do
R. W. Warren,	do	do
K. H. Mainwarring,	do	do
George Aldham,	do	Swift.

The Minister of Foreign Relations afterwards presented J. E. Barnard, Esquire, Secretary of H. B. Majesty's Consul General, and Acting Vice Consul.

Prince Alexander, the Princess Victoria, His Highness the Kuhina Nui, several of the High Chiefs, Members of the Privy Council, and the Minister of Foreign Relations, were present.

☞ On the 22nd, His Excellency the Governor of Oahu, and, also, H. B. M.'s Consul Gen. visited Admiral Moresby, on board and received the usual salute.

On the 24th, the Consul General, accompanied by the Admiral, paid upon the King's Ministers, at Government House, and upon the King's Chief Justice, His Excellency the Governor, and His Majesty's Chamberlain, at their respective residences. The Admiral's attention being to stay only a few days, these calls were returned on the same day, at the British Consulate General.

On the 28th, His Highness the Kuhina Nui, The King's Chief Justice, Mr. H. Mataoa of the Privy Council, and the King's Chamberlain, visited and dined on board the Portland, and received the customary salute.

☞ The anniversary of the Restoration of the Islands was observed in a very quiet manner, on Thursday last. A morning gun awoke us in the day, when the flags on shore were hoisted; ships dressed in their beautiful attire, in which H. B. M.'s ships Portland and Swift took precedence, and the indications of a holiday soon became apparent.

Feasting and riding principally occupied the attention of the natives. Luau parties were numerous in all directions, and there were but few in Honolulu who did not participate in this national mode of enjoying a holiday.

At 12 o'clock a national salute was fired by the Portland, and from the battery on Punch Bowl.

His Majesty entertained at dinner Admiral Moresby, H. B. M. Consul General, the U. S. Commissioner, Captains Chads and Aldham, together with his Ministers present in Honolulu, and other members of his Privy Council.

A brilliant soiree at the Palace in the evening, as numerously attended as on any previous occasion, closed the events of the day. The band from the Portland was in attendance, the weather was fine, and auspiciously passed away the eighth anniversary of the restoration of the Islands by Rear Admiral Thomas, of blessed memory.

☞ We have received a letter from G. Rhodes, Esq., Member of the House of Representatives, complaining of the brevity of the Report of the Proceedings of the House, as published in the Polynesian, and that injustice had been done him by such brevity.

Whether this be so, or not, it is impossible for us to tell, as we could not attend the sittings of the House, to take notes of all its proceedings. The Report printed was furnished on the order of the House, by its own Clerk; and, what was thus furnished, was printed entire, supposing it to be correct. If, as Mr. Rhodes thinks, the Clerk was too brief in his Report of the Proceedings, he should have called him to account, at the time, as he had a right to do, and had his errors corrected.

NEW TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.—We have the satisfaction of calling the attention of our readers to the new Treaty, recently negotiated between the Government of these Islands and that of Great Britain, which will be found on our outside. It conforms, in its essential features, to the Treaty with the United States, negotiated in 1849, and ratified on the 24th August, 1850, and is highly satisfactory, both in regard to its reciprocal obligations, and in the acknowledgement of the entire Independence and Sovereignty of His Hawaiian Majesty.

Its ratification will, doubtless, be accomplished within the time specified, when it will become the law of the land, and supersede the former Treaty, of 26th March, 1846.

For the Polynesian.

Honolulu, July 28, 1851.

MR. EDITOR,—I take the liberty of calling the attention of the Public to the closing sentences of "An Act to abolish the necessity of procuring "certain Agreements, and other Documents, to "be stamped and recorded," which was published in the Polynesian, of the 26th of July, instant.

"Section 3. This Act shall take effect from "and after its passage.

"Passed by the House of Representatives, "this 16th day of June, 1851.

"Approved by the King, this 11th day of July, "1851.

"KAMEHAMEHA.

"KEONI ANA."

When did this Act become a law of the land? The Act itself declares that it shall take effect FROM and AFTER its passage; and next we are informed what day it passed the House of Representatives; leaving it to be inferred that the passage of the law took place on the 16th June, nearly a month before it was signed by the King. But did not the Act also pass the House of Nobles? If not, it can have no force as a law. It appears, however, that the Act passed both Houses, from the words following the preamble, viz.: "Be it enacted by the Houses of Nobles "and Representatives of the Hawaiian Islands, "in Legislative Council assembled."

All this confusion might have been avoided, by the simple signature of the King below the 3rd Section, and the date of His Majesty's Signature over the Attestation of the Premier. It is not of the slightest consequence to the Public, on what particular day a law passed the House of Representatives, but, in cases like this, where the validity of important transactions is involved, it is of great consequence to know when a law takes effect.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
☞

[A more simple form might have been adopted in regard to the Signatures of the Laws of the last Session of the Legislature, by which the final act, constituting them Laws of the Kingdom, would have been clearly indicated. But we publish them as fast as, and in the form, furnished by the persons appointed to prepare them for the press, and have no authority to alter them from the drafts prepared by them. It is easy, however, to ascertain when a law goes into effect. It is not a law until signed by the King; and as that is the consummating act, after its passage by the two Houses, it is from that date, doubtless, that it becomes a Law of the Land. Consequently, if the Law alluded to was signed by the King, on the 11th of July, it is from that date that it is to go into effect.—ED. POL.]

FIRE.—On Wednesday evening, about 9 o'clock a fire broke out in a thatched house on the corner of Fort and Hotel streets, and in the rear of the store of Mr. C. S. Bartow. The building in which the fire originated was soon consumed, and the fire communicated to the adjoining building, occupied as an eating house, and to the store of Mr. Barnes, both of which were soon consumed. Other buildings in the immediate vicinity were in great danger, and were once or twice on fire, but by constant attention, and application of water, they were preserved. The goods in the store of Mr. Barnes were principally removed, but sustained so much damage as to greatly depreciate their value.—The loss of buildings and goods is estimated at [illegible]

[illegible] were principally [illegible] of the officers from the Portland and Swift, [illegible] of water-[illegible] in pipes, and also Capt. [illegible] of the Hawaiian Guard, with [illegible] the crew were [illegible] on the ground, [illegible] very efficient service.

A correspondent has sent us the following communication. The want of water is certainly a fact of the gravest import to the property owners of Honolulu, No fire has yet occurred when it was not felt; and it is well known that no adequate supply exists in any quarter of the city, for the suppression of fires. When will hydrants be provided along the course of the water pipes now laid?

MR. EDITOR.—Having been present at the fire on the evening of Wednesday last, the following thoughts occurred to my mind. 1st, That engines are of little use in subduing fires at present in this city, for want of water. 2d, That hooks, with long ropes attached to them, would do more good than all the engines that can be brought here. There should be so many, and so well manned, that a half dozen houses could be torn down in five minutes, if necessary. 3d. That the city should be better supplied with water. Be wise in time. 4th, That all thatched houses within a certain limit, should be removed.

☞ We re-publish the following list of committees of the Agricultural Society, in order to call the attention of the members to the duties imposed on them:

COMMITTEES.

ON STATISTICS RELATING TO DOMESTIC PRODUCE
B. Pitman, G. S. Kenway, Preston Cummings, L. L. Torbert, J. T. Gower, H. S. Swinton, C. R Bishop, F. Wundenburg, Geo. Gilmore.

ON HORTICULTURE.
Henry M. Whitney, Thomas Brown, E. H. Rogers, A. B. Bates, S. C. Damon.

ON CULTURE OF SUGAR.
R. W. Wood, G. A. Lathrop, J. F. B. Marshall, A. M. Parsons, L. L. Torbert.

ON COFFEE.
T.C.B Rooke, G. Rhodes, B. Pitman, Antonio Catiline, A. Archer.

ON LABOR.
J. F. B. Marshall, R. W. Wood, Stephen Reynolds.

ON SOILS.
W. H. Pease, W. Newcomb, T. C. B. Rooke.

ON INSECTS.
L. Andrews, J. T. Gower, W. H. Pease.

ON ROADS, HARBORS, AND INTER-ISLAND NAVIGATION.
T. Metcalf, G. M. Robertson, R. C. Wyllie.

ON IMPLEMENTS.
R. Armstrong, C. W. Vincent, W. H. Rice, Robert C. Janion.

NEAT CATTLE.
John Meek, C. G. Hopkins, Henry Sea.

HORSES.
Thos. Cummings, Samuel Thompson, John Meek.

SHEEP.
George S. Kenway, Thomas Cummings, Thomas Brown.

SWINE.
Thomas Brown, A. Paki, George Gilmore.

POULTRY.
E H. Rogers, Paul Manini, Thomas Brown.

ON SEASONS.
J. S Emerson, J. S. Greene, E. Bond, H. R. Hitchcock, J. W. Smith.

ON FENCES.
Wm. Miller, Esq., E. Johnson, R. G. Davis, H. A. Pierce.

ON TREES AND GRASSES.
Messrs. Duncan, E. Bailey, W. H. Pease, H. M. Whitney, G. P. Judd.

☞ The trade of this port continues depressed to a degree seldom if ever known before, and prices are still lower than reported formerly, with moderate sales. Auction sales, during the past week, have been exceedingly dull, and many articles selling below invoice cost. The market is overstocked with most kinds of goods, while several large cargoes are known to be on the way hither, and some overdue.

Money is scarce, and is being constantly taken out of the country, while for the staples of the islands no demand now exists, and consequently but little money is brought here for circulation. A little reviving of business is anticipated, when the whaling fleet comes in; but, from present appearances, unless a demand shall arise for potatoes, sugar, and syrup, it is impossible to anticipate any other result than great stagnation of business for the coming year, at the Sandwich Islands.

MAIL OF 26TH MAY.—The Mail which left New York on the 26th of May, reached the Post Office here, by way of Lahaina, on the 29th of July.

We are indebted to the Postmaster of San Francisco, for a collection of late papers, from different parts of the world.

For the Polynesian.

MR. EDITOR.—I am induced by a desire to promote the public good, to call your attention to the shameful manner in which the streets intersecting King street are being destroyed. If you will take the trouble to inquire into the matter you will find that the footways have been converted into deep ditches, and the road rendered so narrow as not to allow a horse to pass a cart without danger of serious injury. Several hundreds of men working without seemingly knowing what they were doing, have been raising a mound, intended for a road, in defiance of all rules for road making, and displaying on the part of their overseer—if they have any,—the most profound ignorance of the subject. Half a dozen men working at a time, furnished with proper tools, would under proper directions, have made good and efficient work, but now they have rendered the road so unsafe that most serious accidents are sure to occur. I do not know to what extent this destruction of the King's highways is intended to be carried, but this much is certain that it is an unpardonable inapplication of labor, and waste of money.—Although an old experienced road maker I do not deem it necessary to point out to you a crying evil, and hope for the good of the community that what has already been done will be undone, and that something less discreditable will be attempted.

I am Sir, Yours obediently,
A PUPIL OF MCADAM.

☞ There is considerable more truth than poetry in the above remarks of our correspondent, as we know from ocular demonstration; and we regret, no less than he, that labor should not be directed by skill and knowledge acquired where science is applied to road making as well as to almost every other department of labor in these modern times. We have once and again advocated the employment of proper engineers in the construction of roads in this kingdom, and hope yet to see the day come, when labor, that indispensable desideratum to all improvement, shall be bestowed according to those principles, when, at least, it will not be "thrown away."

☞ Admiral Moresby and H. B. M. Consul General made courteous calls on the King's high officers of State on the 31st of July, to present their felicitations on the eighth anniversary of the Restoration of the Islands.

NAVAL.—Admiral Moresby embarked yesterday morning, at 10 o'clock, A. M. He was accompanied to his gig by H. B. M's. Consul General, the Kuhina Nui, and the King's Ministers Mr. Judd and Mr. Wyllie. The Frigate proceeded to sea at twelve o'clock, bound to Valparaiso. The gallant Admiral and his officers have left a most favorable impression upon all classes in this community.

H. B. M's. Brig Swift, Commander Aldham remains, for the present, in port.

[COMMUNICATED.]

TEMPERANCE MEETING.—On the 18th of this month, a meeting was held, in accordance with previous notice, by a few of the friends of temperance, to consider the expediency of organizing a temperance society in this place. After due debate, it having been adjudged desirable so to do, a Committee was appointed to draft a Constitution, and report in two weeks. Accordingly a second meeting was held on the 24th instant, and a Constitution presented, which, after some alterations, was unanimously adopted.

The Society was then regularly organized, and the following officers chosen: a President, Vice President, and Secretary, a Committee of Vigilance, and an Executive Committee.

The pledge is of the most absolute character, comprising within its prohibition spirituous and fermented drinks of all grades of potency and all shades of adulteration. It takes the ground of abstinence in the most absolute and unqualified sense; this being demonstrated, by ample experience, to be the only consistent and tenable principle of operation, in this enterprise. By associating with the other proceedings of the meetings discussions on topics connected with temperance, in which all may participate, it is hoped they will be found sufficiently attractive and interesting to encourage and reward the attendance of any who can relish a nobler stimulus than that of the dram-shop.

The Society will hold its next meeting on the 7th of August, to which all who may feel so disposed are respectfully invited to attend.

The subject for discussion will be "Is the distillation of ardent spirits, in these Islands, desirable."

Honolulu, July 28.

For the Polynesian.

MEETING ON THE PLAIN.—On motion Mr. H. H. French was called to the chair, and Mr. F. B Graham appointed secretary. Mr. French explained the object of the meeting at some length, showing the injustice of the existing "road tax" law, and as in accepting the chair he had reserved to himself the right to address the meeting and offer resolutions, presented the following.

Resolved, that this meeting views with indignation, the very impertinent notice served by the government upon the foreign residents of Honolulu, during the present week, to the effect that they, the citizens be upon the public roads, on Tuesday next, 22d. inst, to work out, as it is called, the labor tax.

Resolution seconded by Mr. Brash and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Dennis now addressed the meeting setting forth the obnoxious character of the law under consideration in a most glaring light. After which Mr. Z. Bent offered the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Stewart and unanimously adopted.

Resolved, that this meeting are of opinion that public roads are absolutely necessary for the future developement of the resources of the Hawaiian Islands, but that such roads should be made and repaired by the revenue of the country but in default of which by a tax levied on the proprietors of the land adjacent such roads and by a toll.

Mr. French and Mr. Mc'Gee having made very appropriate remarks which were hailed with enthusiastic cheers of approbation from the assemblage, the following resolutions were unanimously carried.

Resolution 3d, offered by Mr. French and seconded by Mr. George Graham.

Resolved, that this meeting considers the law highly unjust that does not discriminate between the rich and the poor man.

Resolution 4th, by Mr. Wakeman seconded by Mr. Mc'Gee.

Resolved that this meeting select a committee of six to draw up a petition and present it to His Majesty Kamehameha III. respectfully praying that this obnoxious law be repealed, and that we may be permitted to reside in his dominions as freemen, respecting others rights and having our own secured to us.

Messrs French, Trainor, Mc'Gee, Dennis, Wakeman, and Townsend were appointed said committee.

Resolution 5th, by Mr. Z. Bent, seconded by Mr. Turner.

Resolved, that this meeting beg to assure His Majesty and his government of their loyalty, and that they are willing as far as lays in their power to assist pecuniarily or otherwise in the improvement of his Islands, but all that they ask is equity and justice and courteous deportment from the public servants.

Resolution, 6th, proposed by Mr. Mc'Gee and seconded by Mc'Cormick.

Resolved, that the meeting collectively and individually pledges itself, to resist by all constitutional means, the payment of such obnoxious tax and should the government in any case attempt to enforce such payment, the chairman be respectfully requested to convene by advertisement a meeting of the citizens, to consider such unwarranted proceedings.

Resolution 7th, by Mr Townsend seconded by Mr. Mc'Gee.

Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the "Polynesian" and "Alta California" newspapers, and that the expenses, if any, be paid by voluntary subscriptions.

By Mr. Mc'Gee,

Resolved that the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the chairman and secretary. Adopted with three cheers.

On motion of Mr. Wakeman the meeting now adjourned "Sine die".

☞ The Queen of Great Britain has appointed James Douglass, Esquire, to be the Governor of Vancouver's Island.

☞ The crew of the Portland, while enjoying liberty on shore, have behaved in a quiet and orderly manner, which is quite creditable to them, and the ship and service to which they belong.

In the Deutche Zeitung, of Breslaw, a correspondent, from Vienna, says—that a circular note is about to be addressed, by Russia, to all the powers parties to the Treaty of 1815, in which the cabinet of St. Petersburg will invite them to form a Congress for the settlement of several questions, on which the very existence of many States may depend.

Honolulu, July 31, 1851.

MR. EDITOR.—I see that my query relating to dancing at the Palace, which you published in the last number of your paper, has been the cause of no little excitement in our usually quiet town, very much resembling a "tempest in a teapot." And some anonymous person has even procured placards to be printed, generously offering "one cent reward" for any information which may lead to a knowledge of the authorship of the communication. The writer of the notice gravely asserts that I am ashamed to own my name, while he, forsooth, keeps his name *sub rosa*, thereby owning *his* timidity. Now I have no objection to be made a target to be publicly fired at, nor to have my name known, whenever it is proper it should be.

But I wish to call your attention, Mr. Editor, to the fact that it is not solely to ridicule me that the anonymous writer issued his placard, but his aim is evidently directed against the ground I assumed.

It is well known, even by the most ignorant, that it is among the first duties of a Christian citizen, to endeavor to give an elevated moral tone to the society in which he may be placed, by cherishing whatever may tend to advance religion and morality, and discountenancing whatever may tend to check it.

There are, of course, two sides to every question, each having its advocates, and were your paper a proper medium, I should be pleased to see the merits and demerits of this popular amusement set forth and discussed. In its proper place, I am not opposed to dancing.

I by no means deny that their Majesties are at perfect liberty to introduce dancing into their receptions, nor did I say anything in my former communication that would lead to such an inference. The object of the receptions given at the Palace, if I understand it aright, is to afford a suitable place where all without exception may meet their Majesties, and become personally acquainted with them. I have no doubt it is meant, on the part of their Majesties, to be a place where even the most scrupulous can find nothing to offend, and not a place where every one can introduce whatever source of amusement he may choose, whether it be dancing, gambling, or drunken frolics. An indiscriminte invitation has been always given to the foreign residents in Honolulu. And as it has been generally understood that dancing has not been heretofore practised, except in one or two instances, is it any less disrespectful to one portion of the assemblage to have dancing introduced, than it would be to another portion to have prayers and psalms read and sung! Let it be known what may be expected, and no fault will be found.

POPULATION AND COMMERCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

(From Sydney Morning Herald.)

In the subjoined table, the first two columns of figures, showing the numbers of the population in the years 1839 and 1849 respectively, are taken from a parliamentary paper; the third, showing the numbers in the present year, is only an estimate, with the exception of South Australia, whose numbers are those given by the late census.

	1839	1849	1851
New South Wales	114.386	220,474	260,000
Van Dieman's Land	44,121	70,164	75,000
South Australia	10,015	58,666	62,639
Western Australia	2,154	4,460	5.361
	170,676	333,764	503,000

The numerical and centesimal increase, then, between the end of 1839 and the beginning of 1851, has been proximately as follows:—

	Numerical increase	*Per cent*
New South Wales	145,614	127.3
Van Diemen's Land	30,879	80.0
South Australia	52,624	526.1
Western Australia	3,207	148.9
Total	232,324	136.1

Thus within the short period of eleven years, or thereabouts, the aggregate population of the Australian Colonies has increased by nearly a quarter of a million of souls, or at the rate of one hundred and thirty-six per cent.

The most trustworthy and instructive mode of testing the relative advancement or retrocession of the several colonies, is to compare their respective ratios to the whole Australian population at the two periods. Of each 10,000 persons of that population, the colonies contained respectively about the undermentioned proportions.—

	1849.	1851.
New South Wales	6,701	6,452
Van Dieman's Land	2,586	1,861
South Australia	587	1,554
Western Australia	126	133
	10,000	10,000

It hence appears, that in proportion to each 10,000 of the aggregate population in the year 1851, compared with the proportion in the year 1839, New South Wales has decreased by 249, and Van Diemen's Land by 725; while South Australia has increased by 977, and Western Australia by 7.

The parliamentary paper states, that in the year 1848 the total value of imports into the Australian colonies was £2,578,442, and the total value of exports from them £2,854,315; the exports exceeding the imports by £275,873. The total tonnage, inwards and outwards, in that year, is stated to have been 694,000.

The imports averaged about £7 14s. 6d. per head of the population, and the exports about £8 11s.

In the appendix to his "Speech on Colonial Policy," Lord John Russell mentions, that at the most favorable year which could be selected before the war of independence, the imports of the American colonies scarcely exceeded one million sterling, and the exports were less than a million. We have just seen that the imports of the Australian colonies exceed two millions and a half, and that the exports considerably exceed two millions and three quarters. And the difference in our favor is the more striking when we find that our population, in point of numbers is less than one-eighth of what the population of America was at the period to which Lord John refers.

Should the recently discovered gold mines in Australia prove to be as productive as is anticipated, the population will doubtless increase twenty-five per cent during the coming 18 months; the commercial importance, also, of those fine colonies will be greatly augmented, and their imports and exports swelled to tens of millions, where they are now but a fraction of that amount.

Possessing natural resources for agriculture to an almost unlimited extent, and mines of copper, coal and gold, equal to any country in the world it requires no prescience to predict that the colonies, if untrammeled by convict transportation, will speedily become a rich empire, in all that constitutes a state wealthy and powerful. They will prosper, in spite of the land system, which the Sydney Herald and almost all the colonial papers characterize as "wretched," and which has driven out from among them, during the past two years, a large number of enterprising men, with small means, which the colonies could ill afford to spare.

Australia is bound to "go ahead," and we bid her a hearty God speed. We know of no country offering greater inducements to enterprising working men than the Australian Colonies.

ANOTHER TRAGEDY IN SAN FRANCISCO.—On the 11th of July another man was hanged by the Vigilance Committee, after having been in custody about a week. The name of this man is said to be Stuart, but he seems to have had many aliases, and it is impossible to know what his real name may have been.

The confession of Stuart, which is given in detail in the California papers, exhibits him as a criminal of the deepest dye, having been engaged, ever since his arrival in California, in a series of crimes, by which his life was forfeited to the violated laws of God and man. When but 16 years of age he committed forgery in England, and was banished for life to New South Wales, but the intercession of friends procured his emancipation, and he ultimately found his way to California, where justice has at length been visited upon his crimes.

The Alta of the 12th July, gives the following account of the transaction.

About 9 o'clock yesterday morning the tapping of the bell of the Monumental Engine Company's house on the Plaza, attracted the attention of our citizens, known, as it was, to be a signal of the Vigilance Committee. People soon began to throng down in the direction of the Committee room, and it was reported that James Stuart was to be hung. The bell tolled for about half an hour, when a number of guns were fired from a brig in the harbor, and it was observed that many of the vessels had their flags displayed; and it was afterward learned that the Committee had requested this. By 10 o'clock two or three thousand people had gathered, and appeared to be quietly waiting with the expectation of seeing somebody hung. The Committee, in the mean time, were passing in and out, and it was evident that something was in progress inside.—Everything was conducted however, with so much secresy, that it was known to but very few if any outside, what was really going on; and many, after waiting an hour or two, went away with the supposition that nothing would occur. About half-past 1, some one came out of the Committee room and read a portion of the confession which Stuart had made, and it was stated that he would be hung in an hour. The crowd sanctioned this proposition almost unanimously. The news spread, and a large crowd gathered. About half-past 2 o'clock the Committee came down stairs and formed three abreast. There was nearly a thousand of them, principally composed of our oldest, best known and most prominent citizens, merchants, bankers, mechanics and business men of every description. Previous to this a clergyman had been sent for, who remained with Stuart some time.

The procession moved up Battery street, preceded and followed by the crowd, with Stuart handcuffed and pinioned, near their centre.—There was no noise, no outcry, no apparent excitement, and there was something awfully solemn, in the measured tread of the procession upon the planked street. When the procession reached Market street, and it was observed that they were about turning down, a rush was made to secure good places, and some time before the prisoner arrived, every box, bale and barrel had its occupants. The decks and rigging of the vessels, around the wharf, were covered, and the wharf itself was one perfect sea of heads.—A gallows of plain uprights and a cross beam had been erected, a block with a rope in it, with the noose ready made. On the way down Stuart appeared perfectly cool and collected; and not at all excited. When he reached the gallows the rope was placed around his neck, and with the exception of a slight paleness there was no change in his appearance, no trembling no agitation. He appeared to feel as though he was satisfied with his sentence, and did not desire to live longer. The resemblance between Stuart and Burdue was most striking, and it is not at all strange that one should have been taken for the other. The immense crowd remained breathless, and Stuart, when under the gallows, said, "I die reconciled, my sentence is just." The rope was pulled, and in a moment he was dangling in the air. As he went up, he closed his eyes and clasped his hands together. He had previously requested that his face might not be covered. He scarcely gave a struggle, and although the knot was upon the back of his neck, appeared to be in but little pain. A slight contraction of the lower limbs and a strained heaving of the chest for a moment, were all the symptoms of approaching death. After hanging about five minutes, his hat blew off, and exposed to view the ghastly features of the robber. When he had hung about 20 minutes, he was cut down by Coroner Gallaher, placed in a boat, and taken to the first district police station house.

There was no attempt made at a rescue by the authorities, and many persons in the city knew nothing of the affair till it was over. It was conducted with the greatest order and quiet.—Heaven grant that it may have a salutary effect. Stewart was arrested by the Vigilance Committee about a week since. He was found removing some stolen trunks, and was tried before the Committee for the murder of Moore and upon a variety of other charges. It is said that he has made some disclosures that tend to criminate a number of men in this city whose characters have previously stood fair, and that he has given the Committee clues that will enable them to break up the organized bands of villains in this State.

DESTRUCTION OF MINOT'S LEDGE LIGHT HOUSE—LOSS OF LIFE.

The Boston papers of Thursday bring to us a melancholy confirmation of the rumor of the destruction of Minot's Rock Light House, with the loss of the two assistant keepers, Joseph Wilson and Joseph Antonio. The last time the light was seen standing was at half past three on Wednesday afternoon, but was not seen burning at night. Mr Bennett the keeper of the light, was absent when the catastrophe occurred.

"The whole height of the light was 75 feet. From the rock to the keeper's house, 60 feet. The diameter of the iron piles was 8 inches at the base and 4 1-2 inches at the top. Breadth of base 25 feet. Keeper's room 14 feet. The diameter of the lantern was 11 1-2 feet, and it contained 15 reflecters of 21 inches each."

The Boston Journal says it is but a few weeks since the engineer under whose superintendance the light house was built, in a long communication which was published in the advertiser, demonstrated upon scientific principles that the building was perfectly safe! The communication also contained a most ungenerous sneer at the fears expressed by Mr. Bennett. The Journal adds.

"We thought at the time that ocular demonstration of the insecurity of the structure was more convincing than scientific theory to the contrary: and that a structure so exposed, which oscillated at least twelve inches each way in a gale, could not stand a storm of more than unusual severity."

The Board of Underwriters of Boston have determined to place a light ship of about 120 tons off the ledge immediately, to be under the charge of Mr. Bennet.