cent. is imposed on the importation of British goods ; of 10s. per gallon on foreign spirits; 7s. 6d. on British gins ; and 6d. per pound on tobacco ; L.25 a-year on a license to distil spirits ; of 5s. on one to bake bread or to slaughter cattle ; 5s. to keep a dog on a chain, 10s. off a chain ; 5s. to keep a cart for hire. An auctioneer’s license costs L.3, 3s.; marriage license, L.4, 4s.; and there are fees, which are equivalent to stamp duties, on grants of land, on the re­gistering of deeds, &c. The annual revenue amounts to L.90,000, of which one half arises from the customs. The expenditure amounts to about the same sum. The staple products of the colony are wool, whale oil, cattle, and pro­visions, the same as in New South Wales. The following table shows the progress of the trade.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Ships Inwards—From* | | | | | | | | |
| Years. | Great Britain. | | British Colonies. | | Foreign States. | | Total Inwards. | |
|  | No. | Tons. | No. | Tons. | No. | Tons. | No. | Tons. |
| 1823 |  | 15091 | ... | 1639 | ... | ...... | ... | 16730 |
| 1827 | 27 | 9695 | 40 | 6615 | 5 | 1000 | 72 | 17310 |
| 1830 | 33 | 11325 | 52 | 11203 | 16 | 4055 | 101 | 26582 |
| 1833 | 66 | 21597 | 94 | 14307 | 7 | 1538 | 167 | 37442 |
| *Ships Outwards—To* | | | | | | | | |
| Years. | Great Britain. | | British Colonies. | | Foreign States. | | Total Outwards. | |
|  | No. | Tons. | No. | Tons. | No. | Toris. | No. | Tons. |
| 1823 | ... | 15092 | ... | 1639 | ... | ...... |  | 16730 |
| 1827 | 4 | 1395 | 52 | 11827 | 5 | 5203 | 61 | 14425 |
| 1830 | 15 | 4884 | 66 | 15554 | 11 | 4607 | 92 | 25045 |
| 1833 | 17 | 4978 | 133 | 27377 | 9 | 3895 | 159 | 36250 |

Since this period the commerce from Britain does not ap­pear to have increased. In 1838 and 1839 the number of ships that arrived was 41 and 38; the amount of the ton­nage 12,598 and 11,946.@@l

In 1834 the imports at Hobart-Town amounted in value to L.355,273, and at Launceston to L.1 15,961. The ex­ports for the same year were, from Hobart Town, L. 117,323, of which oil amounted to L.45,513; wool, L.43,765 ; and whale-bone, L.8217 ;—and from Launceston, L.85,919, of which wool was L.59,015. The currency is the same as in the mother country, though dollars, rupees, and other fo­reign coins are in circulation. There are three banks at Hobart-Town, and one at Launceston, which issue notes, and transact all the ordinary business of money dealers, dis­counting bills and remitting money, also collecting debt on commission. They have generally carried on a successful business, having divided between twelve and fifteen per cent. on their capital stock.

The progress of this colony in improvement has hitherto been remarkable, and its future prospects are not less pro­mising. With a mild climate exactly adapted to the Euro­pean constitution, a fruitful soil, and an industrious popula­tion. It must continue in its course with increased rapidity. The fine wool which it produces is a great commercial sta­ple, which must command its price in the chief manufac­turing districts of Europe ; and this valuable produce will increase as cultivation extends over the interior deserts ; as well as its surplus produce of grain, which by the introduc­tion of steam engines, may be easily converted into flour, and thus supply a valuable article of exportation. The na­ture of the country, both in point of climate and soil, pre­sents every inducement to emigrants, who have of late been drawn thither in great numbers, bringing with them their

capital, and their European skill and industry. With such external aids, and the natural vigour that exists within, the internal resources of the colony will be developed; the coun­try will rapidly fulfil its destiny, and the time cannot be far distant when we may expect to see a populous and flourish­ing country redeemed from a wilderness, and exhibiting all the arts and refinements of Europe.

Van Diemen Cafe, a cape on Mornington isle, in the gulf of Carpentaria. Long. 139 49. E. Lat. 16. 32. S.

VANDSHELLING ISLANDS, a cluster of small islands on the south coast of New Guinea. Long. 136. 15. E. Lat 3. 32. S.

VANDYCK, Sir Αντηονυ, a celebrated painter, was born at Antwerp in the year 1599. After giving early proofs of his genius, he became the disciple of the illustri­ous Rubens. In the church of the Augustines at Antwerp, at the high altar, is a celebrated picture of Rubens, repre­senting, in one part, the Virgin Mary sitting with the child Jesus in her lap, and in another part several saints, male and female, standing. The breast of one of these, St. Sebastian, is said to have been painted by Vandyck when he was only a disciple of Rubens. This great master being engaged one day abroad, his disciples went into his paint­ing-room, where, after having been some time employed in admiring his works, they began to romp in such a manner, that the breast of St. Sebastian, which was not yet dry, was brushed away by a hat thrown at random. This accident put an end to their play : they were very anxious to restore it, fearing that if Rubens discovered it they should all be discarded. At length it was agreed that Anthony should undertake to mend the saint’s breast. In short, taking his master’s pallet and brushes, he succeeded so well that his companions imagined Rubens would overlook it. They were mistaken ; for Rubens at his return knew immediately that some one had touched his performance : calling his disciples, he asked them why any one had dared to meddle with his painting. They were some time doubtful whether they should confess or deny the fact. Threats at length prevailed; they owned that Vandyck had thrown his hat upon it. Upon this, closeting Vandyck, instead of chiding him, he told him, that “ it was proper and even necessary for him to travel into Italy, the only school that produced excellent painters.” By this advice, and with the assistance of his master, he set out for Italy, about the year 1621, being then about twenty-one or twenty-two years of age. Having staid a short time at Rome, he removed to Venice, where he attained the beautiful colouring of Titian, Paul Veronese, and the Venetian school.

After a few years he returned to Flanders, with so noble, so easy, and natural a manner of painting, that Titian him­self was hardly his superior ; and no other master could equal him in portraits. Soon after his return, he acciden­tally met with D. Teniers, who accosted him with great politeness, and asked him whether he had much business since he came from Rome? “What business, think you, can I have had time to do ?” replied Vandyck: “ I am only just arrived here. Would you believe, that I offered to draw that fat brewer’s picture who just passed by us for two pistoles, and that the looby laughed in my face, saying it was too dear ? I assure you, that if the cards do not turn up better, I shall make no long stay at Brussels." Soon after this, he painted those two famous pictures, the Nativity and a dying Christ ; the first in the parish church, the second in that of the Capuchins, at Termond.

Vandyck, finding he could not make a fortune in his own country, adopted the resolution of visiting England. Accordingly he borrowed some guineas of Teniers, and set out, furnished with letters of recommendation. His su­perior genius soon brought him into great reputation ; and above all, he excelled in portraits, which he drew with an

@@@1 See Return to an order of the House of Commons, 24th February 1810.