with native women ; and the scenes of outrageous licen­tiousness and debauchery that are ever and anon occurring on their premises, are often sufficiently revolting to excite the reprobation and disgust of the natives themselves.

“ Of the character and practices of a considerable portion of the European population of New Zealand, the following may perhaps serve as a specimen. There is an individual at present at the Bay of Islands, who is known among the Europeans by the respectable *soubriquet* of the ‘rat-catcher.’ He had been a dealer in slop clothing, and a notorious gam­bler, in New South Wales ; but having been obliged, when his affairs became desperate in Sydney, to leave that co­lony altogether, he embarked for the usual refuge of the destitute, New Zealand, and commenced his old practices as a general dealer and gambler at the Bay of Islands. On one occasion, when he had gambled away all his property at the Bay but a single box of spermaceti candles, he took a boat at Kororarika, and embarking with the box, rowed over to Paihia, one of the stations of the Church Missionary Society on the opposite shore, where he offered the candles to the missionaries at sixpence per lb., telling them he could procure them sixty pounds worth at the same price, from a vessel which had just arrived in the port, provided he could only advance the ready money for them. The missionaries of course advanced the money, which the ‘ rat-catcher’ of course pocketed, and applied to his own purposes; thereby teaching the missionaries not to deal in future with disreputable persons, and especially not to at­tempt to purchase articles of property from such persons at one fourth of their market price.”

Such was the character of the European population at the time when the present movement for the systematic colonization commenced, and indeed until it was in a man­ner neutralized by a large infusion of a sounder population. This movement had its origin in a conversation which took place in a committee-room of the House of Commons, on the occasion of the inquiry into the mode of disposing of the waste lands in the colonies in 1836. In the course of the evidence, New Zealand had been mentioned as one of the many eligible fields for colonization open to Great Britain. Mr Francis Baring’s attention was thus excited ; and the result was, that the New Zealand Association was formed, of which Mr Baring was chairman, for the express purpose of promoting the colonization of the islands.@@1

The New Zealand Association consisted of two classes of members ; first, heads of families who intended to estab­lish themselves in the proposed settlement; and, secondly, public men, who, on public grounds alone, were willing to undertake the responsible task of carrying the measure into operation. The sole aim of the association was to induce the legislature to apply to New Zealand the peculiar system of colonization which we have briefly described, and at the same time to make provision for guarding the natives from the evils to which they had been exposed by their inter­course with a lawless European population.

In 1837, this philanthropic body of men entered into communication with government on the subject, and at first there seemed some degree of willingness to promote the association’s view's ; but at length a strange objection was raised, namely, that the association was not a company trading for profit. A charter was offered, on condition of its becoming such ; but with this condition the association was not able to comply, having expressly excluded all pur­poses of private profit from its object. Having thus failed in its negotiation with the government, the association addressed itself to parliament. A bill was introduced “ to establish a provisional government of British settle­ments of New Zealand but as ministers opposed the bill, it was of course lost. But although the association did not succeed in its object, it certainly did much to instruct the public on the subject. Through its exer­tions a committee was moved for in the House of Lords by the earl of Devon, and a large mass of valuable evi­dence was collected ;@@2 besides which, several publications issued from the press, either published by the association, or at their instance.@@3 By these the public were undoubt­edly prepared for the proceedings which have since taken place.

On the failure of its objects, the New Zealand Asso­ciation became virtually dissolved ; but some of its co­lonizing members attempted the formation of a joint-stock company, to meet the views of the government. After some difficulties and disappointments, the plan was attended with success. A company, with adequate capital, was estab­lished ; and early in 1839 it had become possessed, by pur­chase from individuals and from the company of 1825, of some extensive tracts on the northern island. The pro­ceedings of the New Zealand Company for the years 1839 and 1840 constitute a somewhat remarkable history ; the history of British colonization from first to last does not furnish a more striking instance of vigorous action. Seldom has so much been effected in so short a period of time, and that too not merely without the sanction of the government, but in the face of opposition from it. That opposition, as we shall presently see, has been entirely ob­viated ; and at this moment (August 1841) we find the New Zealand Company an efficient instrument for the coloniza­tion of New Zealand, under the superintendence of govern­ment.

Before the New Zealand Company made its plan of ope­rations known to the public, it had purchased a fine bark of 400 tons, called the Tory. This vessel was fully equip­ped and ready for sea, when, on the 2d of May 1839, the company deemed itself in a situation to announce its plan of operations to the public. “ The attention and business of the company,” says the Prospectus, “ will be confined to the purchase of tracts of land, the promotion of emigration to those tracts directly from the united kingdom, the lay­ing out of settlements and towns in the most favourable si­tuations, and the gradual resale of such lands according to the value bestowed upon them by emigration and settle­ment. It is also proposed, that to facilitate the transmission of capital between England and New Zealand, the company shall act as agents for that purpose only.”

The Tory sailed from Plymouth on the first of May ; and in a very able body of instructions given to Colonel Wake­field, the company’s chief agent, the objects of the com­pany are explicitly stated under three heads: 1st, the pur­chase of lands for the company, including the mode of dealing with the natives ; 2d, the acquisition of general in­formation respecting the country ; and, 3d, preparations for the formation of settlements under the auspices of the company.

In these instructions, a strong leaning was exhibited to­wards Cook’s Straits, as an eligible site for the first settle­ment, as being the great highway, so to speak, between the

@@@1 New Zealand seems at all times to have been considered an eligible field for the formation of a settlement. Benjamin Franklin proposed a plan for opening a civilizing commercial intercourse with New Zealand in 1771. In 1825. a commercial company was formed in London, under the auspices of the late earl of Durham. Two vessels were despatched to New Zealand, and land was acquired at Hokianga, Herd’s Point, and at the estuary of the Thames ; but the vessels returned without forming a settlement. From that period until 1839, the coloniza­tion has been confined to the species described in the above extracts.

@@@s House of Commons Paper, 8th August 1838. No. 680.

@@@3 See especially the Colonization of New Zealand ; being an Account of the principal Objects and Plans of the New Zealand Associa­tion. Parker, 1837.