Australian and eastern colonies and Great Britain. These predilections were shared by most of those who formed the first colony. Indeed as a commercial locality it is probably not surpassed in any one of our Australian possessions. The Tory made an extremely short passage of ninety-six days ; and Colonel Wakefield being thus in the field be­fore any competitors, was enabled to fulfil the wishes of the company in every particular. He acquired for the company the whole of the territory on both shores of Cook’s Straits, including Port Nicholson, one of the finest harbours in the world, where the principal settlement has since been suc­cessfully formed, and now numbers about four thousand people.

But the most gratifying feature in the company’s instruc­tions relates to the mode of dealing with the native tribes. Unhappily, the whole history of European colonization is but a continuous record of barbarity and injustice towards the aboriginal races. Civilization having often been found difficult, extermination has been openly practised. Even very recently, in New South Wales, a small body of the natives was hemmed in and shot down in cold blood by a few Europeans ; and when the government took some steps to bring the monsters who perpetrated the act to justice, the press raised an outcry against punishing *men* for shoot­ing *monkeys ;* and an intimation was held out, that if this course were persevered in, it would be necessary to find some more secure method of getting rid of the “ vermin and the mode recommended was, to dose wheaten cakes, of which the natives were very fond, with arsenic ! This, reader, is no exaggeration ; for in a letter from a brother- in-law of the present writer, a member of the English bar, dated Port Philip, December 3, the practice is mentioned as of common occurrence. “ Some of the white people here treat the natives most shamefully. For the slightest offence they kill them, and drop their bodies into some creek ; and some have been known to leave about what are called *dampers,* a species of bread baked in the bush, in which arsenic has been previously put, for the very purpose of destroying the blacks.”

But the New Zealand Company inherited the higher views of the association of 1837. The elevation of the na­tives in every possible way is an object never lost sight of, and it is in their contracts with the natives respecting land that this object is especially conspicuous. In the first price, as regards the original purchase-money of the land, it was much more considerable than had been paid by any previous purchaser. This however was not the real consi­deration. The substantial advantage secured to the na­tives is, a reserve of one tenth of the whole of the lands purchased, which tenth must, as settlement proceeds, become of far greater value in consequence of coloniza­tion, and will confer much more substantial comfort on the native population, than the whole of the land could possi­bly do, so long as it remained in their own possession. Of the 1100 town acres, with the 110,000 country acres, which constitute the first colony, one tenth was so reserved. The company sold these lands at 20s. per acre, consequently the native reserves were worth at the time L.11,110; but such has been their rise since, that they are worth up­wards of L.35,000 in the London market ; a value which will place the natives of Port Nicholson in a most advan­tageous position in relation to the colonists.

The plan is indeed admirably suited to promote the ci­vilization of the natives. They do not require an enor­mous breadth of land, for they are, and always have been, cultivators, not hunters like the American Indians. Ame­rica abounds with animals which either serve as food for the natives, or furnish them with the means of procuring by barter such objects as are suited to their wants. New Zealand, on the contrary, has no aboriginal animals. This may have made them cannibals; but it has also of neces­sity made them cultivators, and has thus advanced them one step in civilization. It has rendered them prone to labour, and they now adopt with great readiness the im­provements of civilized life. Among hunters, such as the American Indians are at this day, no circumstance could give value to a small quantity of land, so as to make it provide for the subsistence of the natives ; but with a race of cultivators, a great breadth of land is valueless. They cannot use much land ; and they may therefore be deemed well provided for, in proportion as they are taught to use a comparatively small quantity of land with effect.

All modern accounts which deserve credit agree in de­scribing the habits of the New Zealanders as exceedingly favourable to their elevation. They learn the use of me­chanics’ tools with great readiness, and even become good ship-carpenters. Many of the first settlers at Port Nichol­son found the houses built by the natives, called *warrees,* much more comfortable than any others. They become excellent boatmen and sailors ; and there are instances of small vessels built and navigated by New Zealanders. Dr Lang states, that Toki, a New Zealander, was the best helmsman on board the ship in which he made a passage ; and in the evidence before the Lords’ Committee, many instances are given of natives capable of taking charge of a ship as master, were it not that, as *foreigners,* they were incapacitated by law from so doing.@@1

The views of the company touching the aborigines have up to this time been admirably seconded in the colony, not merely by their own officers, but by the settlers at large. In the very first instance, by the uniform fairness of his dealings, and especially by the temper displayed in all his negotiations, Colonel Wakefield succeeded in gaining their confidence, and in establishing the most friendly relations ; and the settlers, on their arrival, found them predisposed to receive them with friendship, and perform for them such services as they immediately needed. In the various let­ters from the first settlers which have been published@@2 from time to time during the last twelvemonths, both the ca­pacity and disposition of the natives are well spoken of, and it is quite evident that mutual feelings of kindness and good will have grown up between the settlers and the natives.

Soon after the departure of the Tory, the company made preparations for disposing of a limited portion of their lands already acquired, or hereafter to be acquired, for the purpose of forming the first colony. The quantity as­signed for this purpose was eleven hundred acres for the town, and one hundred and ten thousand acres to form the rural sections, of one hundred acres each. These lands were divided into eleven hundred sections, each section to comprise one hundred rural acres and one town acre. Deducting the reserved land for the aborigines, the re­mainder was offered for sale at L.l per acre, or L.101 per section. On paying down this sum, the purchaser re­ceived a land-order on the company’s local officer, en­titling the holder to select his section according to priority of choice, afterwards determined by lot at the company’s offices.

The quantity of land thus disposed of in the first in­stance, was taken in a few weeks. The total sum realized,

@@@, Information relative to New Zealand, by John Ward, Esq. Parker, 1840. The New Zealanders (Library of Entertaining Knowledge). Knight, 1830.

@@@2 A great number of such letters bas appeared in the New Zealand Journal, a paper published in London once a fortnight, and devoted to the colonization of New Zealand.