

THE
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British India and its Dependencies :

CONTAINING

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Natural History, Geography.	Lists of Passengers to and from India.
Review of New Publications.	State of the London and India Markets.
Debates at the East-India House.	Notices of Sales at the East-India House.
Proceedings of the Colleges of Haileybury and Fort William, and the Military Seminary at Addiscombe.	Times appointed for the East-India Company's Ships for the Season.
India Civil and Military Intelligence, Appointments, Promotions, Births, Marriages, &c. &c.	Prices Current of East-India Produce.
Literary and Philosophical Intelligence.	India Exchanges and Company's Securities.
	Daily Prices of Stocks, &c. &c. &c.

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1818.

Among the conciliatory measures adopted by the new Governor, are some commercial arrangements of a liberal nature, and the encouragement of foreign merchants and settlers, by a more than ordinary attention to their safety and welfare. Colonial produce had greatly risen in price—coffee is quoted at thirteen Spanish dollars per picul, and sugar at nine. The culture of both, but particularly of the latter article, which is intirely free, had greatly increased in consequence of the favourable markets. Ship-building appears to be carried on with spirit, and within the last four months, several large and handsome ships had been launched, constructed throughout of the finest teake timber, and most of them under the superintendence of English artists.

Extract of a Letter, dated Batavia Roads, June 25, 1817.—“For the information of those concerned and employed in the eastern or Malay trade, I have to state, that the Coriozo, a new brig from Manila, of 240 tons burthen, coppered, &c. has been cut off through the machinations of the Sultan of Sambas, at an island called by them Sarraisan, the St. Naturas. The commander, Capt. Mitchell, Mr. Matthias, supercargo, and about 25 of the crew killed. The Sultan has since armed the vessel with 10 guns, and manned her; and will, it is expected, cruise off Sambas and Slacco rivers, to take and plunder whatever he can master. The Coriozo did belong to a Mr. Augustus Scarella, and was only a few days from Manila.”

DEATH.

In July last, Maj. Jeffery Piercy, H. M. 53d regt.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The island of Van Diemen's land is kept in continual dread from these out-laws (eleven in number) who commit upon the farmers every species of depredation, robbing and plundering them in open day, and even setting fire to their stacks of wheat. Several of the most respectable farmers and merchants have suffered much from these vagabonds—effectual means have not been adopted yet to apprehend these miscreants, who bid defiance to all common measures of taking them. A new governor having arrived from England, J. W. Sorell, Esq. for the Derwent, to which place he went the beginning of April, it is hoped their career is nearly finished.

Jan. 11.—The following letter (we have thought it proper to leave the orthography, punctuation, &c. in their original state) is ‘From the Bushrangers to the Hon. T. Davey, Lieut. Governor of Van. Diemen's Land.

“SIR—We have thought proper to write these lines to you—as we have been kept in the Dark so long—And we find it is only to keep us Quiet until by some Means of or other—you think you Can Get us Betrayed. But We will stand it No Longer.—We Are Now Determined to have it full And satisfactory Either for or Against us, As We are determined to Be Kept No longer In Ignorance, for We think ourselves Greatly Injured By the Country At large In Laying To Hour Charge, that Hored an detestable Crime which We have fully satisfied the Eyes of the Publick In All our Actions To the Contrary During our Absence from the settlement.—I have not the least doubt But you Are Glad that that those New Hands going in We Are Glad also though you think I Dare say they Will prove to our Disadvantage And We think to the contrary And He who Preserved us from your plots in Publick will Likewise Preserve us from them In secret as we Are Not unacquainted with Your having A party In secret And Likewise where they are And where we As much inclined to take life As you Are in Your Hearts We Could Destroy All The Parties you can send out And Without We Have A Little Quietness More than What We have Had you shall soon Be convinced of what I say —Therefore if you Wish to prevent it send work out By the Bearer Richard Westlick which we Expect To Return on the 9th of the ensuing Month With An Answer To Us—Do not think to Defraud Us By sending out A party on this head for if you do you Take Away the Mans life if they Are Either with him Or Watching him for we will be watching Likewise, You must Not think to Catch Hold Birds with Chaff Therefore to Affirm the Answer Either for or Against us that We will Receive Clap on it the Kings Seal And your Signature we have weighed well within our own Breasts the consequence which will Attend to these Circumstances Therefore I would Have you Do the same for the Good of the Peaceable And Well Desposed Inhabitants of the Territoryes of this Land So No More at present. (Signed) Michl. Home, Jas. Garry, Peter Septon, George Jones, Richd. Collier, John Craiman, Thomas Coyne, James Parker, Mathew Keggan, John Brown, Dinuis Curry.”

State of the New South Wales markets, at the date 29th April 1817.

Bengal rum 13s. per gn. including duties or 7s. per gn. sugar 6d per lb. white piece goods very low and in little demand—coloured goods selling at prime cost.

Goods of every description, both London, China, and Bengal, very plentiful, and few purchasers. The funds of the colony very low, owing to the farmers having lost their grain at the Hawkesbury.