

The woman who cohabited with Hosking has been committed for trial, on a charge of robbing the unfortunate man to a large amount in bills and notes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The new Governor.—The *Upton Castle*, with Sir George Gipps and suite on board, arrived off the Heads on the 23d February, and a steamer was immediately despatched from Sydney, which landed his excellency in the afternoon; he took the oaths the next day. A deputation, headed by Sir J. Jamison, presented a congratulatory address to the new governor, signed by four hundred persons, members of council, civil officers, magistrates, clergy, landholders, merchants and others, to which his excellency made a suitable reply, observing:—"I feel that, in succeeding to a man eminently endowed with all the qualities requisite for government, I am in a position where I can gain no benefit from comparison, though I may labour under the greatest disadvantages from contrast. Being deeply impressed with the opinion that morality and religion are the true grounds on which rational liberty and all good institutions are founded, I look to you, gentlemen, and to the colonists generally, for support and assistance in maintaining and promoting these all-important interests."

Sir George, at a dinner given by the civil officers of the colony to the late acting governor, Col. Snodgrass, delivered a speech, a passage in which has excited much discussion, being supposed to denote an intention to follow in the steps of Sir Richard Bourke, in respect to convict discipline, and as implying a tacit censure on the magistracy. The passage is as follows:—"He confessed that, although on his leaving England the accounts from this colony had been so highly gratifying, yet, on approaching these shores, he was not without some misgivings on his mind, lest the commercial embarrassments which had been so severely felt in Europe, should have produced a serious change. He was, however, happy to find that the convulsion which had shaken the old world and the new, had been only lightly felt in this, the newest of the three. Amongst all these favourable circumstances, there was one great drawback, one crying evil, which they had to contend with—he alluded to the moral condition of a large portion of the population of the colony; and he would confess that he looked for a remedy rather to the personal influence of those to whom these unfortunate persons were assigned, than to arming the law with any additional terrors in the hands of the magistracy. It rested principally with the gentlemen of the colony

to use their best exertion for the reformation of the unfortunate beings consigned to their charge—England expected it of them—the Almighty demanded it of them."

The Aborigines at Port Macquarie.—Rumours of outrages alleged to have been committed by the Port Macquarie blacks, and of reprisals on the part of the white residents in that district, have, for the last twelve or eighteen months, been in frequent circulation, but in such vague forms as to render it impossible to arrive at any definite conclusion as to their origin. We have hitherto been prevented, as well by the isolated position of Port Macquarie, which precluded the possibility of any personal inquiry, as by the absence of any authentic source of information regarding the occurrences in the district, from ascertaining with any degree of certainty the truth or falsehood of the rumours. Lately, however, we have taken measures to effect this purpose, and the result has been the disclosure of a series of cold-blooded atrocities perpetrated on the wretched aborigines who frequent the settlement, almost without a parallel among the barbarous massacres which disgrace the earlier years of our colonial progress. We request the attention of the attorney-general to what follows; the main features of the case we pledge ourselves will be found to be substantially correct, though it is possible we may fall into error with regard to the minor details.

It is impossible at this distance of time, and with the necessarily imperfect knowledge we possess, to trace the causes which led to the commission of the last outrage on the part of the blacks (the murder of four assigned servants when asleep in their huts), which was the more immediate provocation to the atrocities to which we shall presently refer; but our knowledge of the nature and habits of the tribes which inhabit the vicinities of the settled districts is sufficient to assure us that the outrage must have been provoked, either by the sufferers themselves, or by some of their fellow-servants; for it as a well-known trait in the character of our aborigines, that it is not the perpetrator of the injury that has provoked their vengeance, that alone pays the penalty for his misdeeds. We know not to what to attribute an outrage so atrocious; but, certain it is that some one or other of the tribes who frequent the vicinity of Port Macquarie surrounded a hut belonging to Mr. M'Leod, in which four of his assigned servants were asleep, and killed them with the aid of their spears and other weapons. The intelligence of this outrage was communicated to the authorities at Port Macquarie on the following day, and an armed force

was despatched by Mr. Gray, the police magistrate there, in quest of the murderers. The search was ineffectual, for the blacks, aware that they had exposed themselves to the certainty of punishment if caught, and too little acquainted either by experience or otherwise with British law to know that justice awards punishment only to the guilty, betook themselves to a distance, or concealed themselves effectually among their native fastnesses. The search, although continued for several days, failed of success, and it was not till three weeks or a month afterwards that the atrocities we complain of were committed. According to the statement of the constables, it would appear that Mr. Gray, the police magistrate at Port Macquarie, finding that all efforts to secure the murderers were fruitless, actually offered a reward for every black the constables could shoot (in charity to Mr. Gray, we are willing to believe that he confined this order to the blacks known as the actual murderers of the whites), the proof of the commission of the deed required by the police magistrates at Port Macquarie, being the production of the right ear of each murdered black. This, we repeat, is but the statement of the constable when met marching homewards with three human ears tied up in a little bag, the product of the day's excursion, but we are not now prepared to affirm that any such offer was actually made. Whether any such offer did emanate from Mr. Gray, or whether, as is more likely, the constables made use of that subterfuge to screen themselves, certain it is that the murders were committed, and that no step that we have heard of hitherto has been taken to bring the perpetrators to justice.—*Sydney Gaz.* Feb. 6.

The Patriotic Association.—A meeting of this Association took place on the 26th January, Sir John Jamison, in the chair. But few members attended. The objects of the meeting were to choose a parliamentary agent, in lieu of Mr. Bulwer, and send a competent person to England to assist the agent. Some disagreeable topics were touched upon, namely, the suing about 150 members in the Court of Requests for their subscriptions, and the loss of the £500 remitted two years ago to the Parliamentary agent, in bills, which had never come to hand, having disappeared in some mysterious way, and it could not be ascertained who was responsible for the loss. It was resolved, that Mr. Bulwer be requested to choose an agent.

Immigration.—There have now, in all, arrived in Port Jackson eight ship-loads of emigrants, selected by Governor Bourke's emigration agents, and forwarded to the colony on the immigration fund. These ships have cost the colony,

in round numbers, from £30,000 to £40,000. The number of immigrants introduced by these vessels may be estimated as follows:—500 males, 600 females, 1,200 children. If this calculation be correct, and we know we are not far astray, each male adult, who has arrived in the colony in the Government emigration ships, has cost the colony before landing, on the average, £70! Even on the presumption that the emigrants so introduced were individually the best possible selections that the mother country could afford, and we have strong reason to believe that many were of a very inferior description, still, it must be evident that unless some step is taken to lessen the expense, the colony cannot afford to go on long in the manner we have hitherto been doing.—*Syd. Gaz.*, Mar. 15.

Discontinuance of the Assignment System.—The Home Government have, in contemplation of the ultimate discontinuance of the assignment system, directed that two companies of the corps of Sappers and Miners should be sent out to this colony, to act as superintendents over the gangs of convicts to be employed on the public works of the colony. The corps of Sappers and Miners is composed of picked tradesmen of the most approved character, their importation will consequently confer a great benefit on the colony.—*Sydney Gaz.*, Mar. 3.

At a recent meeting of the Patriotic Association, it was resolved that measures should be adopted for convening a general meeting of the inhabitants of the colony, to take into consideration the proposed discontinuance of the assignment system, and to decide upon what measures it may be necessary to adopt to meet the coming emergency.—*Australian*, Feb. 10.

Samuel Terry.—The funeral of the late Mr. Samuel Terry (an emancipist), on the 25th, was followed by a large number of his friends: at his particular request, he was buried with masonic honours. The band of the 50th regiment headed the procession, playing the Dead March in *Saul*. Mr. Terry's will was read, in the presence of the executors and all the members of the family. Three codicils had been added to it. By the will, the Sydney rental, of upwards of £10,000 a-year, has been left to Mrs. Terry for life, and after her decease to his son, Edward Terry, for his life, and to his heirs; and, in case of his death without lawful issue, to the children of John Terry Hughes, and John Terry, and Mrs. John Hosking, as tenants in common. The bulk of the landed property, estimated at £150,000, has been left to Edward Terry, his son, for life, and to his heirs, and, in case of his death without lawful issue, as the Sydney property. The personal estate,