

PORT RAFFLES.

From a letter from a gentleman at Port Raffles, obligingly put into our hands, we extract the following observations:—

"I must now say a few words about the Raffles Bay settlement. It will never be of any importance, were I only to judge from the unfitness of the harbour for commercial purposes. We have had *barely* enough water for the settlement last year, and when a vessel wanted some, she was compelled to take *half mud and half water*. We lost one of our soldiers in the bush. His wife and child return to Sydney in the *Lucy Ann*. We have had precious long marches after him in various directions, until our strength, to a man, was done up, and all without success.—We have a number of prows on the coast, but no Malay has yet entered our harbour. We have counted nine which passed across the mouth of the Bay, and sailed up Bowen's Straits for Mount Morris' Bay, where we believe they are collecting trepans.

"The natives have, for some time past, been in the habit of coming into our camp. I have been much amused with many of them. I enclose you their names for many things,* and you can afterwards tell me if they correspond with the lingo of their southerly brethren. The Chief got the name of *Wellington* from Captain SMYTH, which he retains. He is the most savage fellow of the tribe; not one of us likes him; his Chief Officer was called *Waterloo* by SMYTH, which name he also retains. They have as yet done us no mischief, but we cannot place much confidence in them. We are tolerably healthy, and were it not for the scurvy disease, we may say that we are in a state of convalescence."

* We shall publish this list in a future number.—
EDIT.

WATERLOO.—This is the fourteenth anniversary of the memorable battle of Waterloo—a day never to be forgotten by the nations of Europe, and always to be had in proudest remembrance by the army and people of Great Britain.—Mr. BRUNTON gives a Subscription Ball this evening, in commemoration of the glorious day.

ASSESSORS.—When we last noticed the present practice of the Sheriff, in publishing

the list of Assessors who were to serve for the week in the Supreme Court, we by no means intended to question Mr. MACQUOID's claim to its original introduction. All we meant to say was, that the thought was not new in the Colony, for it had been suggested in the newspapers long before the gentleman's arrival. We readily however, believe, as we have been told, that Mr. MACQUOID did not adopt it under the suggestion of others, but from his own spontaneous sense of its expediency.

We have heard that an action for libel has been commenced by a gentleman of rank in the army, and a Justice of Peace, against a contemporary, for some reflections on his character and conduct contained in a letter from a Correspondent, published some time since.

A contemporary of Tuesday last, favoured his readers with some remarks on a case that occurred in the Supreme Court on the preceding Saturday, wherein an individual obtained his discharge from confinement, under a conviction before the Magistrates at Parramatta, by writ of *Habeas Corpus*. In those observations the writer evidently insinuates that the conviction of the person alluded to, which was for selling spirits without a licence, was illegal, and that the Court in consequence ordered the party to be liberated. Now the truth is, that the merits of the case were not at all entered into by the Judges. The Solicitor General consented to the discharge of the applicant, as upon looking at the return of the proceedings made by the Magistrates, he perceived there was some irregularity in point of form.

CURIOUS ANIMAL.—A person in conversation with an acquaintance the other day, about his friends in America, remarked that one was actually married to a *kree-owl!*

Mr. Caleb Wilson is contributing his portion towards the improvement of the town, by the erection of two very neat and compact houses adjoining his present residence in George-street.

Mr. BODENHAM will have a large sale of cattle to-day, adjoining the Royal Hotel.

Beef, we are informed, is actually bawking about Sydney at 2d per pound.

To those who have a little loose cash, a coffee shop, on the London plan, combining

coffee shop, on the London plan, combining neatness and economy, would prove a profitable speculation. Contiguous to the Market-place would be an eligible site for such an establishment, as, independently of the very great thoroughfare in that part of the town, the settlers, on a Market morning, would not prove bad customers.

The Mr. KING whose untimely end we announced in our last, was formerly steward to WILLIAM COX, Esq. of Clare don, in which capacity he acted with the strictest fidelity for the long period of twenty-five years. Mr. COX bears the most honourable testimony to the uprightness of his character, and deeply laments his melancholy fate.

THE RAIN.—We have received a letter from Lower Portland Head, dated the 13th instant, in which it is said:—“We have to be thankful for several days of heavy rain here of late, which has been most beneficial to the young wheat, a larger quantity of which has been sown this year on the Branches of the Hawkesbury than usual.”

THE SOCIETY ISLANDS.—During the late trip of H. M. S. *Satellite* to these interesting islands, Capt. LAWES took the most active and generous interest in their welfare. At Tabeite he persuaded the Chiefs to institute a regular code of port charges, by means of which a fund might be raised for the improvement of the harbour, and for keeping it in good repair. To set the example, Capt. LAWES himself paid the first dues, amounting to twelve dollars. The Officers were delighted with those beautiful isles and their simple inhabitants, with whom they interchanged the kindest civilities.

The annual rent of the market and toll dues, as will be seen by the Government Notices, will expire with the present month, and will be put up by public auction on Thursday, the 25th inst.

It is rumoured that great revolutions have taken place in the political parties at Hobart Town, some of the staunchest members of the opposition having been wise enough to abandon their warring cause, and to kiss the proffered hand of reconciliation.

Mr. Kleinsendorff, who has again obtained the contract for the supply of meat to the Commissariat, gives the highest satisfaction

Commissariat, gives the highest satisfaction to the Government. During the whole term of his last contract, scarcely a solitary complaint was made of the quality of his meat, which is in general of the very best kind. Mr. K. goes the right way to work, taking care to furnish his supplies good as well as cheap, thereby securing the confidence of the Government and the public.

A long advertisement from the Commissariat appears in our front page, calling for tenders for the conveyance of troops from Hobart Town to India. This will cause no small stir and bustle amongst our shipping.

The house at the corner of Pitt and King-streets, long known as the Bunch of Grapes Tavern, is to-day to be brought to the hammer. The house itself is a tolerably good one, but the site is invaluable, and will, we doubt not, create a spirited competition amongst bidders.

STATE OF SYDNEY GAOL.—Number of prisoners for trial, 54; awaiting sentence, 5; under sentence of death, 6; of transportation, 5; for bail, 9; at labour, 40; from the hulk, 2; under sentence to iron gangs, 3; for the interior, 10; under sentence to the Female Factory, 10; debtors, 27.—Total, 171.

The number of absentees from Barracks, road parties, and iron gangs, is very difficult to be accounted for, seeing it is every day deposited on oath before the Magistrates at the Police Office, that the delinquents are "attached" to their several stations!

A man named Peter Farrell, a prisoner of the Crown, assigned to a person named Cooke, at Laur Cove, was accidentally killed yesterday, by the sudden fall of a tree which he was felling.

Some very high words took place yesterday, at the Police Office, between a Magistrate who was giving testimony in a case in which he was concerned, and a Counsel learned in the law. An explanation, however took place before the parties left the office.

A man named Pashley was yesterday committed to take his trial for theft under rather singular circumstances. It appeared that W. J. Browne, Esq. of the Firm of Aspinall and Browne, received a promissory note for £7 18s. from a dealer named Aarons, drawn in his favor by Pashley, and which became due on Tuesday. A person

which became due on Tuesday. A person named Davidson, warehouse-man at Mr. Browne's stores was sent to present it for payment, and delivered it into the hands of Pashley, who, by some contrivance managed to retain it in his possession, and then not only denied ever having received it. Pashley in his defence persisted that he was from home the whole of Tuesday. A man, however, who happened to be present when Davison presented the note to Pashley, corroborated his testimony, and the prisoner was fully committed.

A wardman belonging to Sydney Gaol, named Proctor, was detected by a constable on duty, on Thursday last, conveying a new blue coat into the gaol, which he stated he had been employed by a person to sell. Suspecting the truth of the story, the wardman was taken into custody, and when he was being conveyed to the watchhouse, he met another man, well known to the police, named Marshall, whom he immediately pointed out as the person by whom he had been employed to sell the coat, which has been identified as part of the booty carried off in a late extensive robbery in Sydney. Proctor persisted in the same story when brought before the Police, and the case was remanded to make further enquiry into the truth of his statement.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—An Inquest was held yesterday at the Rose and Crown Inn, Castlereagh-street, on the body of John Pope, who died in the General Hospital in consequence of injuries received by him in falling from a scaffold while painting a skylight in Mr. Paul's new auction room. Verdict of the Jury—*Accidental death.*

Mr. John Christian Curwen, who for so many years had represented Carlisle, died at his seat *Unrick*, in Cumberland, in Dec. last. This gentleman (whose name was *Christian*) was a native of the Isle of Man; of humble parentage, but of excellent industry, and very handsome person. He left his native Island early in life, and was employed upon the estate of Miss Curwin, as a sort of land steward. That lady, then the richest heiress of the north, preferred him to several noble rivals, the present Earl of Lonsdale amongst the rest. Upon his marriage he assumed his wife's name. He was an excellent Agriculturist; a patriot, as respected his politics; and a good man in every other particular; although, like Mr. Smith, his contemporary in ten parliaments, an *Unitarian.*—*Hobart Town Courier.*