



ROYAL GAZETTE.

[SUPPLEMENT.]

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1843.

By Authority.

IN COUNCIL, APRIL 1, 1843.

THAT all persons getting Timber or Logs, be required to report to the Surveyor General, on or before the 20th day of April, the quantity of Timber or Logs cut by them, and if they neglect to do so, the Timber and Logs to be seized.

That Bonds or other satisfactory security be given to the Surveyor General for the amount of Duties on such Timber and Logs, payable on or before the 15th day of July.

MISSION in the appointments of Supervisors published in the Supplement to the Royal Gazette, on the 1st instant: Bliss Botsford, Shediac to Petitcodiac.

Erratum in the list of Supervisors for the ensuing year, published on the 1st instant:

For William Dickens, Richibucto to Chatham, read *David Crocker*, Richibucto to Chatham.

WM. F. ODELL.

Secretary's Office, April 3, 1843.

[From the London Athenæum, February 11, 1843.]

Travels in New Zealand; with Contributions to the Geography, Geology, Botany, and Natural History of that Country. By Ernest Dieffenbach, M. D. 2 vols. Murray.

HERE we have an excellent work on an interesting subject; for no one can deny that the colonization of New Zealand, however unsound may be the specious plans of its promoters, is an event of the most interesting kind, so far at least as regards the fate of the indigenous population. In a new country there is no explorer equal to a zealous naturalist. No ordinary dangers can deter him from penetrating the distant forest; the hope of finding new plants hurries him to the mountain top; there is nothing so minute as to be valueless in his eyes; monsters delight him; flies and reptiles charm him onward, and lead him breathless through brake and flood; he holds his nose over all the solfataras; he drinks from all the bitter springs; he fills his pockets with stones till ready to sink under the load, and, happy in his martyrdom, the more he suffers the more pleased he is with the consciousness of having done something. With the zeal and knowledge of a naturalist, Dr. Dieffenbach enjoyed also the opportunities arising from his connexion with the New Zealand Company. He evidently took great pains to make himself acquainted with the language of the natives, with whom, in the course of his travels, he had a great deal of intercourse; and he acknowledges their uniform civility, hospitality, good sense, and kindly feelings, in terms which redound as much to his credit as to theirs.

We confess that we find in Dr. Dieffenbach's volumes a merit which will probably escape the eyes of others, namely, that his opinions respecting the process of colonization now going forward in New Zealand, appear to agree completely with our own—(see *Athen.* No. 787.) He says nothing, it is true, respecting the progress and present condition of the Company's settlements; but this silence on so important a topic indicates at least the absence of sanguine hope or of hearty concurrence. Perhaps, also, it may be more or less attributable to the influence of the Company, and the official revision of our author's sheets; if so, we must praise the candour of the censor, who spared the commendations bestowed by our author on the site chosen for the government settlement, Auckland, which has been hitherto so unsparingly reviled by the Company's partisans. The general tenor, however, of our author's sentiments is plainly discernible, as will be seen hereafter: but we shall give our attention, in the first place, to the narrative of his explorations.

On the 16th of August, 1839, after a voyage of three months, during which land had been seen but once, our author's eyes were gladdened with the sight of New Zealand. The snowy heights of the

middle islands just rose above the horizon. On the following day the ship entered Queen Charlotte's Sound, on the southern side of Cook's Straits, and was moored to a tree, in a snug cove surrounded by hills, and overhung with primeval forest. Here was no sign of winter; a luxuriant vegetation, dripping moisture, covered the steep sides of the hills, for there was little level ground. This is a frequently-recurring feature in the scenery of New Zealand. We shall say nothing of the newly explored inlet connecting the southern part of Queen Charlotte's Sound with the sea, and which has been named, from the vessel that bore our author, Tory Channel. Such a discovery, on a coast where there are so many superb harbours, demands from us no especial notice. But the singular social condition of the country must not be passed over so lightly. At first Queen Charlotte's Sound seemed to our author to be uninhabited; the songs and cries of the birds alone gave signs of animal existence. But the natives soon made their appearance; and, on a better acquaintance with the inlet, it was found to contain several whaling establishments, in which a few Europeans reside, surrounded by natives, intermarrying with them, and governing them by moral influence, or that acquired by their practical talents. The offspring of these marriages of Europeans with native women are remarkably vigorous and handsome, according to Dr. Dieffenbach, and a great improvement on the parent races. Their number in the islands is altogether about 400; in Cook's Straits alone about 140. As a preparatory sketch of the native character, the following will suffice:—

"On landing all the natives left their huts to receive us, and offered a shake of the hand as a welcome. Amongst the houses was a large one, which they had built for an Englishman, who at the end of the whaling season lived with them. His house formed also the meeting house for the tribe, as they had lately become converted to Christianity by a native, who had been with the missionaries in the Bay of Islands, and had learned to read and write. Some of the tribe in Ananho had already acquired from him these arts, and all were anxious to learn them. These people were well provided with the necessaries of life; provisions were plentiful, and we were enabled to lay in a large stock of potatoes and pigs at a very moderate price. From the neighbouring whaling establishments they had obtained articles of European clothing in exchange for their commodities, and their condition seemed to be a happy one. I was astonished to find it so easy to deal with them; and instead of sinister savages, brooding nothing but treachery and mischief, as many travellers have depicted them, they were open, confident, and hospitable, and proved of the greatest service to me, during my frequent rambles in the woods."

The European whalers living in Queen Charlotte's Sound are about 40 in number. Some of them are runaway convicts, and desperate characters. They command the whaling boats, and direct all the operations, while the natives pull the oar. The latter profit, we are told, by the energy and information of those men, without being infected with their vices. The female whales or cows, as they are termed, betake themselves to the sheltered inlets and coves about Cook's Straits towards the close of their period of gestation. The young calves are easily taken, and then the cows, which never desert their young, are sure to be the victims. The shores of Queen Charlotte's Sound and Cloudy Bay are strewn with the bones of these gigantic animals. The produce of this fishery has been nearly £24,000 a year, but the trade will soon be annihilated. As the calves are killed for the sake of killing the mother also, the whales are rapidly diminishing in number, and the whale fishery of New Zealand will be destroyed, as has been the case with the seal fishery, by the reckless and cruel mode of carrying it on.

But it is time for us to proceed to the northern Island and Port Nicholson, at the purchase of which territory our author assisted. He observes respecting it:—

"Nearly three years have elapsed since our first visit; and a spot scarcely known before that time, and rarely if ever visited by