

new haunts. The seal-fishery, which has heretofore yielded so large an amount of wealth, will soon be at an end in this quarter of the world.

It frequently happens that owing to the failure of the harvests, the colony is under great distress for provisions, Government is erecting deposits for grain, in order to obviate this difficulty; one of which is on an island in the harbour of Port Jackson. Heretofore, on a failure of the crops, large quantities of flour have been imported from France and America, and many cargoes of wheat and rice from India.

The commerce with the United States is very limited, and confined as yet to a single house, in Salem, Massachusetts, which has a few vessels employed in bringing out flour, tobacco, furniture, ice, &c. In exchange, wool and hides have been taken to the United States. This trade has hitherto been profitable; but the uncertainty of crops, and consequent fluctuation in the market, would, with competition, render it of no great advantage.

The Library, and Sydney Museum are creditable institutions, particularly the latter, which contains a large and interesting collection of native productions. It has only been established a few years. There is a reading-room attached to the Library, in which are to be found all the pamphlets and periodicals published in Sydney, and many of those of Europe. Soon after our arrival, we received an invitation to visit these institutions at all times; a privilege which afforded us much pleasure and instruction, and for which we are greatly indebted to the committee and the librarian.

Great Britain has three other colonies in Australia, at Swan river, on the west coast, South Australia on the south, and North Australia on the north coast. The former is considered, in the colony of New South Wales, as a bad speculation, and it is alleged that it needs the aid of convicts or slaves for its advancement. It is believed that all the first settlers, if not completely ruined, have been struggling with difficulties, and its growth, even should it continue, will be slow and precarious.

Orders were received from the home department to raise the minimum price of land; but it being left optional with the Governor, he had declined doing it, under the plea that if individuals would sell land for two shillings and sixpence, it was idle to raise that of government to twelve shillings, particularly as the price allowed to individuals for surrendering their lands was but one shilling and sixpence. This step, of raising the minimum price of crown lands, I was informed, had given much dissatisfaction, and was generally believed to have originated in the desire to force colonization to South Australia, which