

prosperity of those individuals who may emigrate thither with their families.

Here will be the appropriate place to treat of the first of these subjects. Before we enter upon a consideration of the second, it will be proper to place before the reader an accurate picture of the country and of the climate, the nature of the soil, the geographical features, the indigenous productions, and the obvious and accessible resources that exist in New Zealand for the employment of capital and labour; for the acquisition of wealth by individuals, and of prosperity and commercial importance by the community.

To the question of the expediency, in a national sense, of colonizing New Zealand, (we apply this name to the Northern, the Middle, and the Southern Islands collectively,) we will limit our inquiry at present. The geographical situation of New Zealand, with relation to our Australian colonies, is of great and manifest importance. At the distance of a few days' sail from the coasts of Australia, a hostile power, established in any of the commodious harbours which indent the shores of these islands, would find at its mercy the whole of our colonies and commerce in the South Seas. During our last war with the United States, one of the first measures of that government was to dispatch a squadron, to "capture, sink, burn, and destroy" all our vessels engaged in the sperm whale fishery, or in the regular pursuits of commerce. If, at that early period in the history of our maritime and colonial interests in that quarter, they were deemed sufficiently important to attract an enemy's notice, how much more certain is it that they would now be visited with the whole weight of his hostility!