

The total of the Pension List had therefore decreased on 31st December 1879 to 2,816*l*.

7. The Public Debt on debentures has been reduced by the regulated annual payment of 750*l*. and is now 11,500*l*. If further credit be taken for other assets, cash, &c., the total liability on the 31st December was reduced to 8,579*l*.

8. The Savings Bank Deposits in the care of Government on the 31st December amounted to 3,937*l*. 8*s*. 0*d*.; they have gradually and steadily increased during the last seven years from 1,099*l*. 14*s*. 5*d*. in 1872 to the present amount at the end of 1879.

9. The whole of these Deposits was held in cash in the Treasury chest on the 31st December, but under your instructions received last month 2,000*l*. has since been remitted to the Crown Agents for investment in England, so that the cost for interest and management, which has hitherto been a dead charge, will in future be provided for from the sums invested.

10. The Imports for 1879 amount to 64,585*l*. as compared with 60,604*l*. in 1878, and the Exports 5,127*l*. with 12,653*l*. in the previous year. In addition to this the amount for oil from the Southern Whale Fishery transhipped at this port to the United States was 32,190*l*. with 25,100*l*. in 1878.

11. I regret that the preparation of the Island grown Fibre from the "Phormium Tenax" has not progressed as was expected. The Fibre is still of the best quality, but the prices of fibre in the London market have fallen so very considerably that the Company have for the present suspended their works, and for the time they are carried on only partially by the enterprise of a private individual; 615 bales of the value of 1,867*l*. were shipped to London during the year.

12. The Shipping calling at this port included 26 vessels of war, 39 Merchant steamers, 479 merchant vessels, and 59 whalers. The tonnage (exclusive of the ships of war) being 425,811.

13. In the Foreign Consulates, Mr. George W. Roosevelt was appointed on 30th of June to succeed Mr. Siler as Consul for the United States, and Mr. Henry J. Bovell has been appointed Vice-Consul.

14. The returns of Gaols and Prisoners show the usual favourable results. In the Superior Court there was only one conviction for an indictable offence (a case of larceny). Nor has there been a lawsuit of any kind in the Island during the last two years. The summary cases before the magistrates were 229, all of a trivial nature and, as before stated, these cases are confined chiefly to disorderly conduct of seamen from the passing shipping, and the women who associate with them.

15. In the Schools there were 1,150 pupils, and the annual examinations showed that the Schools both of the Government and the Public and Charitable Societies were well attended and well managed.

16. As an instance of one which reflects the greatest credit on the master, the Government School kept in the country by Mr.

James Storer deserves to be specially mentioned. He has the aid of only one pupil-teacher, and has under his care 154 boys and girls, nearly all coloured children of a country population, many of them coming from scattered cottages situated at a great distance from the school and in the loftiest parts of the Island, where weather combined with distance would often make their attendance difficult. Yet the proficiency in this school is in the highest degree pleasing and satisfactory, the more so as it was not confined to a few pupils chosen for exhibition, but the whole school was fairly tested at the examination with the same result. Their arithmetic extended to compound fractions in which questions were worked out with rapidity and accuracy, and the other branches were in the same proportion.

17. I have no doubt that it is from the happy influence of these schools that offences have so greatly diminished of late years, that serious crime is almost unknown, and that there has not been an execution of a native for more than 50 years. In the early part of this century before the establishment of Free Schools for the coloured population the prevalence of crime was a matter of frequent anxiety. Governor Patton in a Minute in 1802, records that in *six months* from authenticated returns the stolen property from 22 proprietors included,—2 cattle, 186 sheep, 279 goats, 22 hogs, 129 fowls, 34 bushels of potatoes, 3,792 lbs. of yams, 12 cwt. soap, &c., &c., and yet at that date the population did not amount to one half of the present number. The result has clearly proved that, in this Island at least, full Schools under good tutors ensure empty Prisons. I must, however, add that there are a number of "waifs and strays" who show that the work is still very incomplete.

18. In the Hospital there were 190 admissions in the year, chiefly sailors, being an increase of 37 on the previous year. There were 28 fever cases, but most of these were from the American frigate "Ticonderoga," whose crew were suffering from disease contracted on the West Coast of Africa. The other cases of fever were from vessels homeward bound from Java and Mauritius. There were also 21 admissions for scurvy, of which 13 were from foreign vessels and the remainder from English vessels from the Australian guano islands. There were 17 deaths, but of these 8 were admitted in a moribund condition.

19. In the Lunatic Asylum, which is under the management of the Overseers of the Poor, there remained only two inmates at the close of the year. The numbers having been reduced by the removal of four, who were harmless idiots, to the Poor House in James' Town. The only death was that of a female patient, aged 85 years, from cerebral apoplexy.

20. Under the head of Local Revenue will be found the account of the sums raised for the relief of the poor, 1,260*l*.; which was expended as follows:—297*l*. for the Lunatic Asylum, 257*l*. for the Poor House, 320*l*. for out-door Paupers, 260*l*. for Surgeon and Assistant Overseer, and the remainder for burial expenses, medicines, and sundries.

21. Mr. Deason, the enterprising farmer of Longwood, has at some considerable expense landed a couple of pairs of Ostriches, in the hope that the climate will be suitable for rearing such birds. The Ostriches seem already acclimatized and are laying well, but it is too early yet to foresee what may be the result of this experiment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUDN. R. JANISCH.

The Right Hon.
Sir M. E. Hicks Beach, Bart.
&c. &c. &c.

MALTA.

No. 19.

Governor Sir A. BORTON, K.C.B., to the Right Hon. the
EARL OF KIMBERLEY.

MY LORD, Palace, Valletta, June 26, 1880.
I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1879, to which I append, for your Lordship's information, a few remarks by Sir Victor Houlton, the Chief Secretary to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. BORTON,
Governor.
The Right Hon.
The Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.

Chief Secretary's Office, Valletta,
June 26, 1880.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the annual Blue Book for the year 1879, appending a few remarks for your Excellency's information.

Legislation.

1.—The following four Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government, and promulgated during the year 1879:—

- (1.) "To amend the law relating to the carrying out of the "punishment of death."
- (2.) "For applying a sum not exceeding 25,396*l.* 19*s.* 8*d.* to the "service of the year 1878;"
- (3.) "For applying a sum not exceeding 111,253*l.* to the service "of the year 1880;" and
- (4.) "To make some provisions concerning the ventilation of "public sewers."

Finance.

2.—(1.) The gross revenue for 1879 was:—

	£	s.	d.
Local	176,199	15	11
Crown Agents for the Colonies in London	7,595	0	2
	183,794	16	14

(2.) The average revenue for the five years preceding 1879, after deducting all exceptional items, was —

	£	s.	d.
	174,874	13	4

Deducting from the gross revenue of 1879 the products of land sales — 218 4 2½
And sale of Government property — 164 7 8¾

	382	11	11¼
--	-----	----	-----

(which are for investment in consols), the revenue of 1879 will be 183,412*l.* 4*s.* 2½*d.*, or 8,537*l.* 10*s.* 10¼*d.* above the average revenue of the five preceding years, and 11,358*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* above that of 1878.

(3.) The provision for meeting the demands of 1879 was:—

Estimated Expenditure.

—	General Estimates.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.
Establishments - -	£ 76,576 15 3	£ 1,582 10 7	£ 78,159 5 10
Exclusive of establishments - -	84,443 0 0	36,156 7 10¾	120,599 7 10¾
	161,019 15 3	37,738 18 5¾	198,758 13 8¾

Actual Expenditure.

—	General Estimates.	Supplementary Estimates.	Total.
Establishments - -	£ 74,681 17 5¾	£ 1,390 19 7	£ 76,072 17 0¾
Exclusive of establishments - -	77,744 11 0¼	32,128 17 6	109,873 8 6¼
	152,426 8 6	33,519 17 1	185,946 5 7

(4.) The general financial statement of Malta may be summarily stated as follows:—

Assets.

	£	s.	d.
Cash in local treasury on 31st December 1879, and cash with Crown Agents for the Colonies - - - -	21,417	7	0¼
Outstanding balances - - - -	331	9	8¾
Advances - - - -	8,711	17	10
Stock in consols, calculated at 92 per cent. (say) - - - -	223,873	2	1
	254,333	16	8