

NEWS AND NOTES.

BY A SYDNEY MAN.

COXXXVIII.

You have the English mail by this steamer, so I need only jot down a few other items.

Concerning the death of Sir Andrew Leith Hay, father of the Hays of Queensland, one of whom appears to have been lately at loggerheads with a Rockhampton newspaper, the *Home News* has the following:—

This gallant gentleman, who bore a somewhat prominent part in the Peninsular War, died at his seat of Leith-hall, Aberdeenshire, on the 14th October, in his 77th year. Sir Andrew joined the army at the beginning of the present century, and quitted England for Spain in 1808 as aide-de-camp to his uncle, Major-General Leith, who was at that time sent out to watch the movements of the French forces. In this position he attained his captaincy, and was present at most of the chief engagements in the Peninsula. He fought at Corunna under Sir John Moore; took part in the battles of Talavera, Busaco, Salamanca, Vittoria, and was present at the storming of San Sebastian. At the close of the war—previous to which time, however, he had received the order of knighthood of Charles III for his services in Spain—he was appointed Military Secretary to General Sir James Leith, then Governor of Jamaica. About 1830 Sir Andrew returned home, and for sometime occupied himself with literary pursuits, publishing his work on the Peninsular War, with illustrations from his own pencil, and which obtained considerable popularity. Turning his attention then to political matters Sir Andrew, after a hot contest, won the seat of representative of the Elgin Burghs, at the first election after the passing of the Reform Act. Being a ready speaker and a good man of business, he soon, after entering Parliament, had the post of Clerk of the Ordnance conferred on him by Lord Melbourne. At the contest of 1848 he lost his seat for the Elgin Burghs, the Hon. George Skene Duff being returned. Since then the deceased gentleman confined his attention mainly to matters local to his native county, Aberdeen. Only a few months ago he received from the neighboring gentry of the shire the highest honor they could bestow, that of Convenor of the county, and as such Sir Andrew presided at a meeting so late as the 8th of October. He was out enjoying a ride in the forenoon of the day upon which he died. Disease of the heart was the cause of his sudden death. He is succeeded in his estates by his eldest son, Colonel Leith Hay, 93rd Highlanders.

Concerning the Prince of Wales and his intended bride, it is said that when he proposed for the hand of the young Princess no reply was vouchsafed for two days. The reason of this was that a proposal reached her at the same moment from the Czarovitch. I suppose that it is the first time in the