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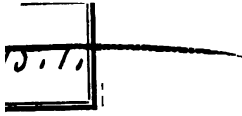
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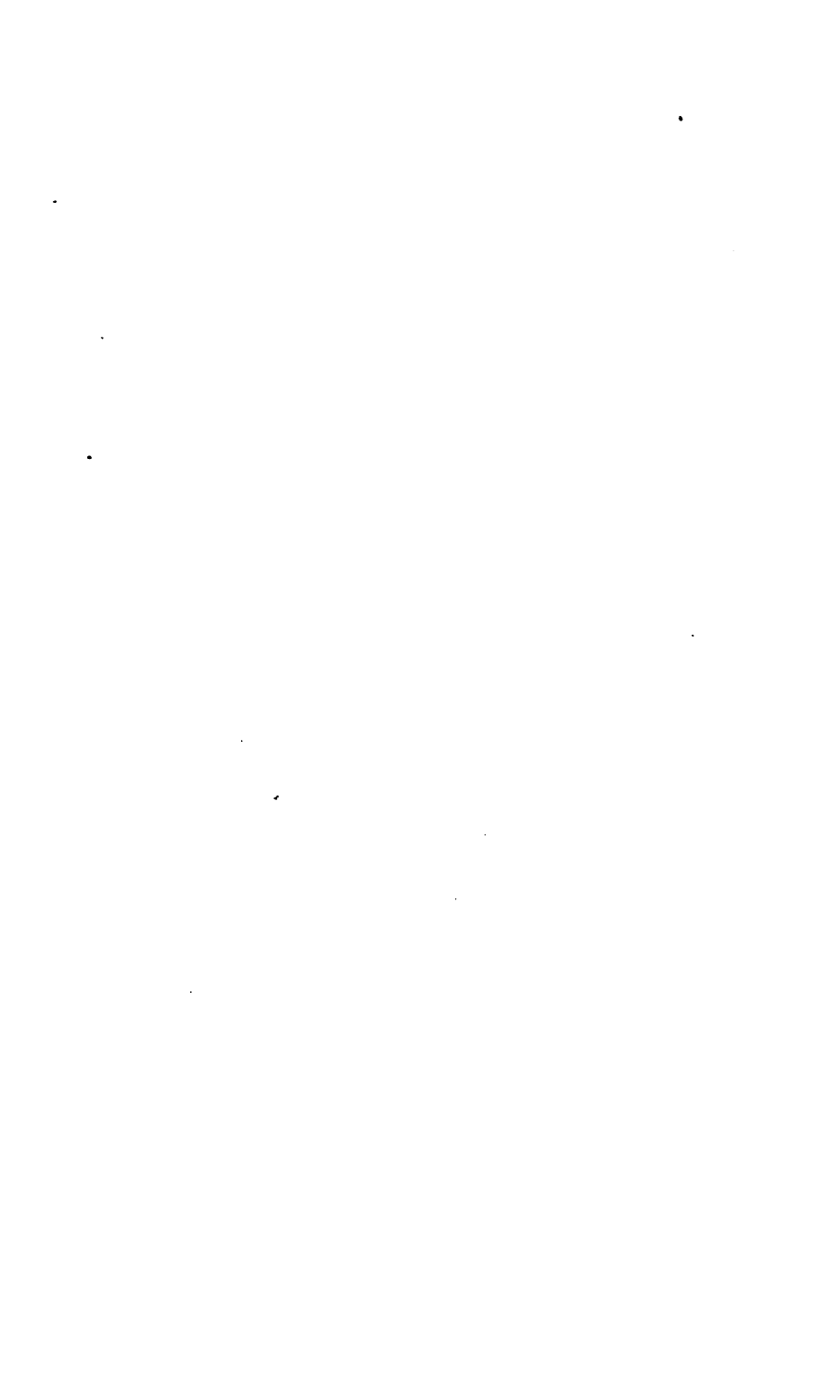
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ADVENTURES

IN

A U S T R A L I A,

IN 1852 AND 1853.

BY

THE REV. H. BERKELEY JONES; M.A.,

LATE CURATE OF BELGRAVE CHAPEL.

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DEDICATED

TO

BENJAMIN HARMAN, ESQ.

MY DEAR SIR,

While doing myself the pleasure of dedicating this little Work to you, I must premise that the following pages have been written *currente calamo*; you may, nevertheless, depend upon the truthfulness of my statements. Aware how ready you ever are to promote the welfare of your humbler brethren, and the happiness of the industrial classes, I have the less scruple in inscribing to you my "Adventures in Australia."

Yours very truly,

H. BERKELEY JONES.

RECTORY, SEPT. 1853.

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ADVENTURES

IN

A U S T R A L I A.

CHAPTER I.

THE "MARIA SOAMES"—GRAVESEND—THE COLLISION—
STOCK TAKEN ON BOARD—AMUSED THE EMIGRANTS—THE
DOCTOR—VISITORS, MR. SEAWARD AND A YOUNG MAN
EMPLOYED BY LADIES EMIGRATION COMMITTEE—THE
ADDRESS—SAIL FOR PLYMOUTH—VISITED BY REV. —
CHILDS AND MEMBERS OF THE LADIES COMMITTEE—MA-
TERIALS PUT ON BOARD TO OCCUPY PASSENGERS—USEFUL
AND ACCEPTABLE—EARL AND COUNTESS OF MORLEY AND
PARTY—THE FILTHY CONDITION OF THE IRISH.

By instructions received from the Colonial Land Emigration Board, the writer was directed to embark at Gravesend, on the 18th of February, 1852, to join the "Maria Soames," which the Government had

chartered to convey bounty emigrants to Moreton Bay; a fine bark of 890 tons, on board of which 280 emigrants of the industrial classes were about to seek better fortunes in a far distant colony.

While the "Maria Soames" was lying off Gravesend, she was run into by an American vessel called the "Richard Cobden," causing her damage to the amount of one or two hundred pounds, and a delay of several days to get into proper repair. During which time the stock was taken on board, which was to furnish the captain's table, and his passengers' fare. The taking in of the live stock caused a good deal of fun among the people. The sheep had a sling placed round them, and were hoisted out of the boat on to the deck without offering any resistance or uttering any cry. But the pigs when hung up in mid-air, did not at all approve of their elevated position, and, much to the merriment of the Irish emigrants, most lustily sung out. Pat laughed at the misfortunes and cries of his companions and friends. "Arrah, my lad," called out one of

Erin's sons, "my boy, how do you faal?" "Sure," responded another Pat, "does not he tell you he does not faal aisy at all." One could see in their countenances the humorous satisfaction entertained at seeing an ould acquaintance and companion in an awkward position. For who loves a practical joke better than an Irishman? Who can enter with as much gusto into the ridiculous as the Celt from the Emerald Isle? Piggy, notwithstanding his complaints and supplications, was safely secured under the long-boat. These little incidents distracted for a time our attention from the subject uppermost to the minds of all—a long and distant voyage, and the painful separation from friends and old associations, hallowed by many personally interesting events. To those who had never been at sea, the fears of a long sea voyage.

The first thing which engages the attention of a person who has been at sea, is to see what they look like, who are to be in a small space and for some months his mess-mates: the captain, officers, and steward,

on whom much of your comfort will depend, with regard to civility and cleanliness, and your fellow-passengers. A single glimpse and glance often decide whether they are likely to prove agreeable or disagreeable companions.

In the estimate made, as we call it, at first sight, we were not wrong in putting down our "doctor," with whom we were in some measure to act as a colleague, as a gentleman, intelligent, and well fitted by his former experience, to render the passage safe, as regarded the health of all on board, and pleasant from his amenity and manière d'être. And so we found it in the sequel. Not that we hold it as invariably wise to form our opinion on what are called first impressions. "Fronti nulla fides," is an adage often more correct, or as Shakespeare has it:—

"There's no art

To find the mind's construction in the face."

So much of the failure or success of a voyage in an emigrant ship depends upon the attention of the surgeon to his im-

portant duties, and the judicious exercise of the authority with which he is entrusted, that we were happy to find we were to co-operate with one who had already made four voyages, and whose conduct had invariably been such as to receive the credentials requisite for re-employment, from the authorities in the colonies, to which he was engaged to take his emigrants. Excellent and minutely detailed as are the instructions which he receives for his guidance from the Government, still many casualties and circumstances will and do arise, which require the discretion and tact of an educated mind and judicious decision.

The discipline, cleanliness, regularity, and order of the people, will be regulated by the energy, vigilance, attention, and temper of the medical officer. He requires the "suaviter in modo" with the "fortiter in re." Persons of filthy habits, and generally of a low standard at all times of personal cleanliness, of various dispositions and tempers, placed in new and novel circumstances; chosen also not from the best circles of our industrial

population ; the plagues of the parish, the continual applicants of the parochial board-room ; from different countries, with national prejudices and jealousies :—such a congregation require for their wholesome government a person capable of exercising control with good temper and determination ; possessed of the power of enforcing obedience without harshness or coarseness of manner.

The attention of Government has been directed to this important fact. We quote upon this subject from the Immigration Report, laid upon the council table, 28th July, 1852, by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered to be printed by the Lower House. Report for the year 1851, and signed H. Browne, Agent for Immigration, Sydney, 20th July, 1852. In paragraph 28, he thus expresses himself with regard to the conduct of Surgeons-superintendent :—“ The conduct of some of the surgeons employed by the Commissioners to take charge of emigrants proceeding to the Australasian colonies having been strongly animadverted upon in Parliament last year, it appears to me due

to those medical gentlemen who had the superintendence of the immigrants who arrived in Sydney during the past year, that I should here bear testimony to the creditable manner in which they discharged their duties; and as they now receive an allowance towards their return passages to England, I am inclined to believe that many respectable surgeons will be induced to continue in the service of the Commissioners, and that therefore there will be in future but little occasion afforded for dissatisfaction with the medical officers of government emigrant ships."

It is agreeable to be able to make this extract, since the writer can also mention the general efficiency of the members of this profession, to which mankind is so much indebted, corporeally and intellectually, both in alleviating bodily suffering and enlarging by inductive science the powers of the human mind.

The character of the needlewomen sent out by Mr. Sydney Herbert's Society, in the "Malacca" and "Euphrates," was anything

but improving to the colony, arising from the want of proper precautions in the selection made at home, and the imperfect arrangements contrived for their supervision on board.

“ If,” writes Mr. Brown, “ the arrangements made on board ships chartered by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, for the purpose of securing proper discipline on the passage, were adopted by the Female Emigration Fund Society, I have little doubt that the young women sent out by them would, in most instances, become useful members of this community, and that their arrival would be hailed as a boon by the colonists.”

The rules and regulations drawn up by the Emigration Commissioners are admirably well adapted for the moral, intellectual, and physical well-being of the emigrants. The point, therefore, in which any one of these advantages would fail, will be upon putting them into the hands of an inefficient agent, and if that agent, the Surgeon-superintendent, has been injudiciously selected, the completeness and aptness of these rules to carry

out the ends proposed, must be frustrated. We may, however, assume from the paragraph which has been just quoted, that all human foresight can do, is done to obtain efficient medical officers. Further comments on the specific nature of these governmental regulations are reserved for another part of this book. Dr. George Coward adhered strictly and literally to these instructions. To this rigid adherence, the success of our voyage is very much to be attributed.

Before we left Gravesend, the ship was visited by many kind and well-intentioned persons, distributing Bibles, Prayer-books, and religious tracts, to the emigrants, and giving them very good advice. Mr. Seaward, the visiting secretary of the Prayer-book and Homily Society, came on board and addressed the people in the decks below, on brotherly love and forbearance and unity, founding his reflections on xvii John, and also left with us a well-selected case of school books, and others which were to be lent out during the voyage to the adult emigrants and students.

As there were persons of various persuasions on board, a young man employed by the Ladies Emigration Society, was invited to address any who might belong to his peculiar sect; but he did not, very properly, deem it necessary, as they, the emigrants, had been already exhorted by a clergyman of the Established Church, and an officer of the Prayer-book and Homily Society. Neither did we consider it desirable to depress the minds and spirits of the emigrants by any other reiterated allusions to their departure from their native homes. Visits from persons as judicious, kind, and earnest, as Mr. Seaward, are doubtless beneficial and advantageous to the people on board, matured as his experience is by age and the absence of excitement.

At length the commander, Captain Davies, came on board; the muster having been made by Captain Lane, R.N., the emigration agent, apparently a valuable officer of the Board, we weighed anchor, having got our bark repaired, and spread our wings for

Plymouth, where we were to take in the complement of our number.

After a quick and favourable passage to Plymouth, we cast anchor off Egremont Castle, or rather with it in the distance, having passed the breakwater, which cost the country nearly 4,500,000*l.*, and took thirty-five years in constructing. Here we remained one week, taking in the emigrants, who had awaited our arrival at the depôt. The Rev. Mr. Childs, whom we understood to be the incumbent of the district of St. Mary's, under the late Sir Robert Peel's Act, visited the ship, having, in addition to the charge of a populous district of five thousand souls, interested himself in the spiritual welfare of emigrants departing from England for the colonies. We were given to understand that some funds had been provided, to give him the services of a curate, to enable him to meet the weight of this self-imposed and disinterested duty.

A depôt has been formed at Plymouth, for the reception of materials likely to prove

useful to emigrants, under his supervision ; more especially such articles as would occupy the time and attention of the single women and female children, during the passage ; and such as the religious instructor found well-adapted in fulfilling the benevolent intentions of the contributors. The Rev. Mr. Childs' address was well fitted to his congregation, his services having been gladly accepted by the writer, who was suffering from a severe cold and loss of voice. It was listened to with attention and interest by all the passengers.

On Wednesday the 3rd of March, the blue-peter was flying at our mast-head, the emigrants all on board, but some causes prevented our departure as soon as was intended. Lieut. Carew, and Mr. Fowles the emigrant agent and dispatching officer, paid us a visit, for the purpose of enabling us to put to sea, but we were detained until Friday, when we weighed anchor at daylight.

On Thursday, while the Doctor and the Captain were on shore, the officers from the

admiral's tender came on board the "Maria Soames," and stated that Lord and Lady Morley were desirous of visiting our emigrants, to which request we were, of course, most happy to grant our ready compliance. The noble Earl and his wife came on board, and we conducted them, and the party which was with them, through the different departments of the vessel, pointing out the various arrangements in the married people's departments, the single men's and single women's, with which his lordship expressed himself well satisfied. Of the completeness of these arrangements the writer had then but had a brief experience. The admiral's yacht lay-to, and, perhaps, the late distinguished visitors spoke of their countrymen, who were on the eve of a long and eventful voyage, wishing them at their lunch, we make bold to conjecture, a prosperous passage, successful fortunes in the new country, and a Christian's end, when the journey of all journeys has been completed.

One subject Lord Morley will re-

member, it having formed the topic of conversation between himself and the writer—the personally filthy condition in which the Irish emigrants were sent on board from the depôt at Plymouth. The clothes should be subjected to some process of fumigation, similar to that which the dress of criminals is, on their entrance into prison. Not for one moment does the writer mean that no distinction is to be drawn between the bounty emigrant and the convicted felon—one who leaves voluntarily, and the other who is sent out of his country. The vermin which they brought with them on board had very nigh been the cause of serious dispute, between the English emigrants and the Scotch, generating, as it did, “in limine,” a bad feeling between them. And even, generally, as it is not injurious to the apparel, fumigation would be a very desirable thing to smother any latent infection with which the clothes might be impregnated, but essentially necessary, where vermin and possibly the element of scabies existed.

The writer has directed the attention of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to this point in his report at the close of his passage, and the remedy being so simple and so easily applied and inexpensive, he trusts the suggestion may meet with compliance on the part of the authorities whose special province it is to look to these matters.

CHAPTER II.

SEA SICKNESS—VISITS OF FRIENDS AND BUM-BOAT AT PLYMOUTH—THE THIEF—THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF EMIGRANTS—THE CAPTAIN'S WIFE AND CHILD—OUR FINAL DEPARTURE—THE SCHOONER, AND ANCHOR DRAGGING—THE LATE ARRIVAL OF THE PILOT—FIRST SUNDAY AT SEA—THE ARRANGEMENTS ON BOARD AN EMIGRANT VESSEL—THE FILTHY HABITS OF EMIGRANTS INCREDIBLE—“SPECULUM GREGIS”—TEMPLER AND CHARACTER OF EMIGRANTS.

SUCH of the emigrants as had joined the vessel at Gravesend, had partially overcome their sea-sickness, and were prepared to spend some of the very little cash they might have with the bum-boat woman, who brought on board the most heterogeneous assortment of goods it is possible to conceive; everything which was likely to assist in unpreparing the stomach for the coming sickness and nausea. It afforded,

however, an outlet to the sorrow and grief of farewell friends, especially manifested in a form substantial and palatable to grandchildren, nephews, and nieces. The conclusion of the mournful adieu terminating in a present of brandy-balls, string, or liquorice according to the whim of the little gourmand, whose departure was breaking the heart-strings of some loving old maiden aunt.

This rubbish-eating continued for the week we were in Plymouth, without intermission, and was varied only by an untoward discovery of a thief. A sawyer, from Bedfordshire, had lost on his way from Gravesend to Plymouth five shillings and some token pennies which had been given to his children by different friends; and which had been duly taken charge of by his wife. He thought that the person possessed of his property would most likely spend it with the bum-boat woman. He watched for two days, and at last he detected an Irish emigrant paying away his marked token, and having taxed him with it, he denied

it. We had him brought aft, and searched, when such evidence of his guilt appeared as was sufficient to show that the charge was well founded. What was to be done with him? his mother, a widow, with a large family on board emigrating, and he the eldest son and an important protector to his parent; although only twenty years of age. It was thought possible that his account of the manner in which he became possessed of the money, and bag which contained it, might be true, viz., that one of his little brothers had picked it up and given it to him. On this supposition it was deemed better to let him continue his voyage, and the contrition he evinced, justified the conclusion arrived at. On the passage he was one of the most assiduous and attentive monitors in the school-room.

The general physical appearance of the emigrants was decidedly not of a favourable description, and such as would recommend them as a boon to the colony, which so much required their labour. Many were very old worn-out men, only fit for shepherding,

and evidently had passed the meridian of life long ago. The single men and unmarried females were healthy young persons and likely to be very useful to the colony. In many cases false representations must have been made to the government queries. An instance occurred in which one regulation was grossly violated. A tailor, by trade, had represented himself as a single man, and had left a wife and large family at Glasgow, doubtless now receiving aid from the benevolent; when on shore this fact reached the writer's knowledge. The man was a good workman but a great drunkard. We met with him in Sydney, and there he informed us he was a teetotaller, and had saved money to get his wife and family out; such might be the case, as the statement was confirmed by other emigrants to whom he was known. He was at that time earning from ten to twelve shillings per diem. The young children will eventually prove beneficial to Australia, as in feeling they will become colonial, and all their associations will attach to New South Wales.

After Captain D. with his wife and infant child, came on board, we began to look forward to our final departure, with a voyage before us of at least four months across the mighty waters of the deep, varied like life in its course with storm and sunshine. A ship at sea is not an unapt emblem of human existence. "Such is life," is the signet on many a seal. In getting under way, a schooner passed under our stern and carried away some of her rigging; the pilot being late, we attempted to get away without him, and by some means or another, our anchor dragged and drifted us, but by the commander's coolness and skill—for if he was not the most liberal, he certainly was a skilful and careful navigator—we cleared away, the sun rising beautifully over Egremont Castle, equal in the golden and crimson tints which he cast before him, to any in the tropical climes, where he may be seen to come forth from the deep in all his splendour "as a bridegroom out of his chamber," and in his bright career as "a lion rejoicing to run his

course;" all things yielding to his powerful influences. It was the last sunrise on Albion's shores we were to see for many a long day, to some for years, to some for ever; such were our feelings when we saw the Lizard Light gradually disappearing from our view.

Our first Lord's day at sea was too stormy to admit of our having Divine Service performed; and too much sea-sickness prevailed among the newly-shipped emigrants. The brief repose of the first shipped in harbour, had removed the seasoning which the trip from Gravesend had given them, and we may say every one on board was more or less on their beam ends, paying their tribute to father Neptune for entering upon his empire.

What a debilitating, nauseating, dreadful sickness is the sea sickness, prostrating the energies of the mind and body! If any empiric could find a nostrum, he would achieve a fortune, larger than that made by the railway king Hudson; instead of an iron crown, we would ensure him a crown of

gold. The love-sick swain obtains little sympathy from his village friends, upon the same principle that a person who is suffering from sea-sickness is equally unpitied and simply because neither complaint kills. Time is a healer of both. Punch says, in his letters of advice to his son, that ladies' hearts never break; but the commander's wife suffered so long and so intensely from sea-sickness, that the surgeon became apprehensive that it might, in her case, prove an exception to the rule, and destroy life. There was one other case nearly as obstinate. A rosy-cheeked country rustic, with a face which required no histrionic brickdust for the most exaggerated barn-floor stage, with the piece commanded by the all-influential squire of the parish, became as pale and as faded as any debutante and belle of Almack's at the close of the London season. This Bedfordshire ploughman said, if he had known what the salt-water was like, he never would have set sail for Australia, not for all that ever was in it. By degrees, we all got the better of our sorrows, and began

to find our sea legs; and then to put into operation the proper routine for the comfort and instruction of those committed to our care.

One day's system will be sufficient to describe that which followed for upwards of four months. Rise at six, cleaning decks, breakfast, fumigating the vessel with chloride of lime, and Burnett's disinfecting fluid, of which the surgeon spoke very highly. The children mustered every morning at the capstan-head to show that they were clean, and were then sent down till dinner time for school; airing of the bedding, and after dinner the adults taught to read and write; and the female children exercised in knitting, sewing, &c., and such domestic occupations as would render them in their turn, when called upon to be mothers and wives, useful to society, and good housekeepers. In promoting a most important branch of female education, we felt much indebted to those ladies who have formed themselves into committees to collect materials for the use of the emigrants, under

the charge of the official authorities. We hope, therefore, that they will continue in this "labour of love" towards their humbler brethren.

One good effect was the association of all persons' children, of various denominations, which we feel has a harmonizing influence on the heart.

The single women were required to retire under the command of their matron, into their apartment at sunset, and under no excuse whatever were they permitted to mix with the crew or single men, or to enter into their compartments. These regulations were strictly enforced by the surgeon, who was most regular and punctual, as well as constant in his attendance upon the persons he had in charge. They sang an hymn and retired, until morning again summoned them to the same round of duties.

It would be tedious to the reader, and foreign to the purpose of the writer, to go into the detail of all the admirable arrangements laid down by Government; those

who feel interested in the subject, may obtain them from the office in Park-street, Westminster, by addressing S. Walcott, Esq., the diligent and untiring Secretary to the Emigration Board.

The filthy habits of the emigrants, unless it had practically come under the notice of the writer, he could not have credited. Disease of every kind, and the most virulent form of fever, must inevitably be the result of such a disregard of cleanliness as would be manifested by the passengers in emigrant ships, if left to themselves. It is not only the physical welfare of those under his charge, that the surgeon has to look to, but actually to inspect personally, and enforce cleanliness, where decency and self-respect ought to suggest the necessity of its exercise. In the tropics an opportunity is given to those who feel disposed, to bathe every morning, when the decks are washed down. It is advisable to encourage as many as possible to make use of the bath, invigorating and giving energy and tone both to the mind and body. So subtle and

intimate is the connexion between the corporeal and mental being of man, that the one cannot be affected without the other. So responsive in sympathy, yet so different in essence, are the material and immaterial.

In about ten days or so, we were enabled to make a "speculum gregis" of our emigrants, in order that we might, after examination, classify them, according to their attainments, in our schoolroom. About twenty adults learned to read and write, while several improved themselves in elementary knowledge.

Considering the novelty of the circumstances in which they were placed, they manifested no inclination to quarrel and riot. Any outburst of temper was immediately checked. In general character they were creditable enough. But it must be borne in mind that there was no trial of their faith, as there was an absence of any opportunity of temptation. So narrowly watched, with every circumstance tending to make a fall removed from them, it was not until they landed that the true or habi-

tual disposition of the emigrant unfolded itself. But even this brief interval of four months of moral discipline and restraint of bad habits is so much gained ; it is a reformatory means, which may lead to permanent results.

CHAPTER III.

MADEIRA—THE SHIP—THE PROVISIONS—THE BOOKS PUT ON BOARD—FOOLISH ADVICE THEY CONTAIN—THE STORM—SHIPPING A SEA—THE WATER SPOUT—THE FLYING FISH—BIRDS—THE MAN FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA—THE ENQUIRY OF THE EMIGRANTS ABOUT THE NEW COUNTRY—MOST MINUTE AS TO THE RATE OF WAGES.

AFTER fourteen days we found ourselves off the island of Madeira, the soft and balmy air of which, and its mild equable temperature, are the last remedies which skill can suggest to protract, although they cannot restore, the life of those who are smitten with consumption. We could not, while gazing upon it, but recall the hectic tints upon the pale marble cheek of some interesting youth or maiden, fondly tended and taken here to save the existence so dear to mourning friends. Alas! how melancholy the spectacle to behold the young heart, so full of hope, and in all the warmth of life's dawn, consumed by its

own intensity—the lamp burning brightest when it is soonest to be extinguished. 'Tis sad to see the opening flower droop ere it matures! And how often in the world does that which is beautiful perish in its loveliness! The destroyer adorns the victim, that the sacrifice may be more costly.

We had by this time, with the exception of Mrs. D., become first-rate sailors, fairly on our sea legs; our schools regularly attended, and in active and effective operation; and the library books lent and distributed among our people. Some advice given to the emigrants is not of the fittest. For instance, they are recommended to climb the rigging and to ask all manner of questions from the sailors. This is most objectionable on two grounds; the first, that it might lead to an accident, and the second, that it interferes with the sailors when at work, which is displeasing to the Captain and officers. And again, the less intimacy existing between the crew and emigrants, the better for the order and discipline of the ship. The provisions placed on board were of excellent

quality. The Irish, some of whom had never before seen pickles, could not make out the use of them, and actually took them to the cook to be boiled, upon, it must be presumed, the supposition that they were raw vegetables. The preserved meats the writer never liked; everything except fish may be anything you please to call it; no flavour at all—insipid, tasteless, and stringy.

Large quantities of preserved milk are placed on board; and medical comforts, i. e., spirits, wine, porter, arrow-root, sago, &c., and everything which can be required by invalids, distributed, of course, at the order and command of the surgeon. Indeed, great care and kindness have been taken in drawing up the dietary for emigrants.

A few days after losing sight of Madeira we had a terrible storm, during which we shipped a heavy sea, which found its way down to the married people's compartment, and caused among them a great deal of alarm, while, in fact, there was no real danger. But, reader, if you have never been at sea, you know not what fears the

mind will conjure up during a heavy gale. The noise of the wind whistling through the rigging—the sailors taking in sail—the ropes falling on deck—the Captain's voice raised to give his commands above the roar of the storm, distinctly and audibly—all contribute, together with the labouring of the ship, to raise a thousand phantom fears to your inexperienced mind. It is not until you have become well inured to these things that you can view the contending elements with admiration and sublimity of emotion towards Him, whose paths are on the great waters, and who holdeth the elements in his grasp. The roaring thunder—the vivid lightning—the howling winds—the rolling waves—all lend their might, and contribute to the grandeur of the tempest.

“ Oh! who can tell, save he whose heart hath tried?
And danced in triumph o'er the waters wide,
The exulting sense, the pulse's maddening play,
That thrills the wanderer of that trackless way?
Not thou, vain lord of wantonness and ease!
Whom slumber soothes not—pleasure cannot please.”

So says Lord Byron (in the “*Corsair*”),

and most truly too, when describing the elasticity of feeling and exultation which is enjoyed on the ocean by those whose fears have disappeared before long practice. There is an exhilaration and buoyancy of spirit at sea which one does not acknowledge elsewhere.

There are also many wonders to amaze, and beauties to admire, and things unseen before to look upon—phenomena in nature, and the monsters of the deep to observe. We saw a water-spout, which landsmen dream of as dangerous to ships, in case they should break over them and swamp them ; and to avoid which a gun is fired, so that by the concussion of the air the water-spout may be dispersed. It has a singular appearance ; it may be seen gradually to ascend, and increase in the form of an inverted cone, with a white line of light within, as if it were a hollow cylinder, and then suddenly breaks and disperses. To some of our emigrants, as the first they had ever seen, it was a subject of interesting observation, and helped, among other wonders, to relieve the tedium

of a long voyage. Persons accustomed to daiy labour, who go forth to work in the fields from morning until evening, have little or no mental resources ; hence the passage is extremely irksome to them, and we were glad when an occasion occurred for the explanation of any unusual appearance belonging to the natural world.

The country ploughman has heard tell of flying-fish, but he incredulously receives the statement, which he dares not rudely contradict ; many, therefore, on board, did not think there were such things in existence, even when told so in the ship. Seeing is, however, believing, and soon we saw them flying along, to escape the swift and greedy dolphin, only to expose themselves to their other enemies, the sea-birds. Thus the poor flying-fish is nowhere safe ; pursued by a deadly foe in his own element, he tries safety in a strange one, only to be destroyed by another. Clouds of these may be seen to rise at once, being chased by the dolphin, which devours them as they drop again into the sea, exhausted by their flight, and driven

by the necessity of moistening the wing, if it be a wing? In size and appearance the flying-fish is not unlike an herring.

The birds likewise, form another source of attraction. The snow-white albatross, with his large brilliant eye, and the graceful sweep of his widely extended pinions over the ocean, just skimming the surface of the deep, affords a pleasing object to look upon. The chocolate-coloured bird of the same species, is also a very beautiful creature. And there are several varieties of the gull species, molly-maws, sea-swallows, and the pretty Cape-pigeon; and lastly, the stormy petrels, of which such fabulous tales are told by sailors; namely, that they never sleep, and carry their eggs under their wings. They certainly are busy, restless, little beings, but that they do not carry their eggs under their wings, the writer can attest, as he has seen several caught, and there were no eggs about them. This little bird generally follows in the wake of the ship; perhaps some animalculæ are thrown up for them to feed upon, by the agitation of the waters, which they

rarely rest upon, only striking the surface with their feet, to which custom they owe, as Goldsmith states, their name, being called "Petrel," because, as St. Peter the apostle did, they walk on the sea. Great numbers of them have been found in Van Diemen's Land, their breeding-place. They are sometimes called Mother Carey's chickens, as they love to be abroad when the elements are at hurly burly; as that mother of witches, in common with all her tribe we presume, loves best to be at mischief in the storm and lightning, like the weird sisters of Macbeth.

While gazing upon these wonders of the deep, far far away from land, an emigrant came up to enquire whether he would be far from Western Australia, when he got to Moreton Bay. It was there he had applied to go, as his wife's sister had sent for them, which formed the chief inducement to their embarkation. He was very much disappointed when he saw that the place he was to land at was the very antipodes of the spot he wished to go to. Some others stated also, that Sydney, Melbourne, and

even Adelaide, had been the ports for which they had applied and received embarkation orders for. It is a pity that any orders should be granted for one port, and the emigrant taken to another, which is very like a breach of faith, and operates badly on those who remain behind, when they hear from their disappointed friends. We shall have occasion to speak of this party hereafter, as we met him in the bush.

They were often, we may say all of them, very anxious to learn all they could of their new home. We had several works on Australia on board, placed there by the kindness and forethought of emigration societies, as also some which the writer had provided himself with. "Haygarth's" is accurate, portable, and pleasingly written, entitled "Ten Years in the Bush." "MacKenzie's," and Arthur Hodgson's lectures; also those of "An old Etonian, and now a Squatter, on the Darling Downs," delivered in his father's parish at Rickmansworth; enable the emigrant to get a very fair idea of New South Wales.

• But the subject which engaged most deeply their attention, was the rate of wages each calling received. The writer had provided himself with that useful and accurate compilation of Chambers', and to which is appended a scale of wages, which satisfied their eager anxiety; very different in amount to the miserable pittance they had been accustomed to get in their overcrowded labour-market at home. But they formed some most preposterous notions concerning the value of their services, as the reader will by and by perceive.

CHAPTER IV.

CALM—EMIGRANTS' TRUNKS—SQUALLY LATITUDES—TRADE WINDS—CURRENTS AT SEA—TAKING THE ALTITUDE OF THE SUN—DOLPHIN—SINKING AN EMPTY BOTTLE—HOT NIGHTS—SLEEPING ON DECK—MRS. WILDER'S GHOST—AMSTERDAM AND ST. PAUL'S ISLANDS.

A CALM at sea is, when it continues for several days, a most wearisome and monotonous occurrence. Every sail flapping lazily against the mast, the rigging creaking and straining with the heavy roll of the ship, and to no purpose, as far as regards the attainment of our object, the completion of the voyage. It is what is called by Jack himself, a sailor's wind, because their axiom is "more days, more dollars," especially at the high rate of wages they are now receiving on board of the ship in which this is penned. But even

he gets tired of it, the pulling and hauling of the ropes for every shift of light airs, is what he calls "humbugging;" and it does not generally improve the temper of the "skipper," i. e., commander; his perceptions are doubled, and he sees faults where, under a fine stiff slashing gale, he would have seen none. All seem alive and exhilarated, when going along under a ten-knot breeze; even the mates throw the reel over the side of the vessel with a swing of satisfaction and excitement.

After having been at sea some time, the emigrants had their luggage, which was stowed away in the hold, brought on deck. The vessel looked like Monmouth Street, lined with all sorts of finery and faded unmentionables. It was very amusing to survey the contents of some, and the non-contents of others. One widow woman, with two smart lads, made a great fuss about getting her box, a large deal trunk of most imposing dimensions; and as she was always talking about the "fine friends" she had in the colony, one might have expected a very well-

furnished wardrobe. But "au contraire," when opened it contained some mouldy lemons, oranges, salt herrings, and a few rags, with a mass-book. All this was truly Irish. She got it made large, not that she had much to fill it with, but that she might look "dacent and respectable." She was not the only one who had acted on this theory to carry out a good external show. Goldsmith says, "if you are poor, never look poor," but keep up appearances, as the world judges by them. Poor Goldsmith would have been always poor and improvident, and good natured, let come what would. You have heard, reader, doubtless, of a middy's sea-chest, and of an "omnium gatherum"—unless you have seen disclosed to vulgar gaze the boxes of two or three hundred emigrants, of all trades, and from all countries, you have not had an opportunity of learning what it means to perfection. It is as various, but not as systematically arranged, as the matronly housewife's storeroom can be in its contents.

As calms occur in the low latitudes, i. e., near the Equator, so do squalls, and it so hap-

pened that one of these tropical changes came upon us rather rapidly on a gala day, much to the confusion of ladies with silks and satins, and the many other perishable wares, which form the paraphernalia of the "fair defect of Nature," as the softer sex has been ungallantly called. These sudden squalls are very frequent within the Tropical regions, owing to the continual atmospheric changes, induced by the rapid and frequent alternations in temperature, the motion of the earth, and the velocity at the equator, of the globe on its axis.

At length we got into the trade-winds. How delightful is this part of a voyage, gliding along on the surface of the sea without much uneasy motion, the ropes scarcely for a fortnight or more moved out of their places, and the sails bellying out with a fine, steady, even breeze! These south-east and north-east trades are, we believe, caused by the rarefaction of the air at the Equator. The denser and heavier air rushing in from the poles to displace the lighter body, gaining its easterly direction

by the revolution of the earth. The islands of the ocean which lie within these trade-winds are salubrious and pleasant.

In about 10° N. lat. we found a strong current setting westwards. These currents are produced by the continued change of temperature of the waters of the deep, and the submarine valleys and mountains. There are none more remarkable than that which sets into the Mediterranean and out of the Baltic, and the gulf stream, or Gulf of Florida, which returns and is felt on the banks of Newfoundland, and by some said to be perceptible on the coast of Ireland. How wonderful is the Lord in all his works!

It puzzled many of our people to see the Captain every morning take the altitude of the sun, and at mid-day the meridian altitude; what the sailors call "the skipper shooting the sun." With some difficulty we succeeded in making a few understand its purpose and end. It was our custom to explain anything upon which they desired to be informed. The occasions thus afforded of

enlarging upon the power and benevolence of the Omnipotent were not to be lost. If being on ship-board is apt to make some idle, it is also to others a good opportunity of reflection and study. The beauty of the heavens, the wonders of the ocean, all help to enlarge the mind, and we hope to improve the heart.

A dolphin was caught by the sailors, but as the finest of this kind was taken on the writer's return voyage to England, he assumes the privilege of an anachronism, in writing rather of the colours of that particular fish, when dying, than of those which were caught on the voyage out. The one to which he now alludes measured four feet eleven inches, and was struck by the chief mate. The "dying dolphin" is almost as celebrated as the "dying gladiator." Its camelion-changes are certainly very beautiful; the hues might serve for types to the best dyers of shot silk, so lovely are the tints which the struggle for life throws around its victim. The expiring dolphin alternately assumes all the variations of the rainbow. At times the

most glittering silver, mingled with purple and gold, and saffron, and then spotted with beautiful azure; as if life were so heavenly in all its fulness, that its ebbing should be of the most brilliant tints. The struggle to escape from its material form, is indicative of this unequal union. In fact, it is impossible, unless for a poet or a painter, to describe or represent the perfect beauty of this singular exception to the ordinary laws of nature.

Do dark and bright thoughts of memory, overshadow and give the sunshine of hope to the soul of man, when it leaves its consort, as varied in their alternations, as these changing hues of which we are now writing? It is painful to see a thing so graceful, so rapid and elegant in its motions, struggling for life; and we naturally ask, is each change, so much admired, the reflection of a fresh and renewed struggle for existence? How painful then to die! But dominion was given to man over all the earth—not, indeed, to torture—but for his use.

We tried the experiment of sinking a

bottle deep into the ocean, well corked and sealed, as it is said that it will be raised full, without the cork having been forced in. We were at some pains to try this, and will again. A soda-water bottle was tightly corked, sealed, and a piece of parchment drawn over it; so that every possible precaution was used, to prevent the cork being driven in, by the immense weight of water. The result, after sinking it about eighty fathoms, was, that it certainly did not come up full, but with *some* water in it. The weight, during a calm, by which it was sunk, was the lead-line, used for sounding. It may be possible that a glass-bottle is sufficiently porous, to admit of the water being forced into it, by an equal pressure on all sides.

The nights in this latitude, viz., near the equator, were exceedingly hot, and many of the emigrants would sleep on deck. It is not at all surprising that they should wish to do so, but I am convinced it is a dangerous practice to allow. One young man brought on a fit of ague, which never left him during the voyage. The dews are very heavy in the

tropics, the immense evaporation which takes place during the day, being condensed during the cooler atmosphere of the night. Sailors have some foolish notion that the danger of sleeping out at night, is lest the moon should shine upon and distort the countenance.

During one of these oppressive nights, we heard hysterical screams in the single women's compartment, and cries arose that several were fainting. The medical officer, who was ever on the alert, immediately visited them, and found that the cause of this uproar was, that one of the young women thought she had seen the apparition of a Mrs. Wilder, who died, during the passage, in the hospital, which was badly placed, on account of the schoolroom, and its contiguity, in the event of any infectious disease, so near the rest of the single women. It appeared some foolish old woman, who ought to have been wiser, had been telling a number of Irish ghost stories, which had wrought so on the imagination of these young persons, as

almost to throw them into convulsions. This caused a good deal of confusion and disturbance, which was not repeated. However, no one hereafter could be induced to remain in the hospital alone, as the spirit of the departed one, "who died in the true faith," was said to have been seen in a white sheet, to walk in and out of the hospital by the stern cabin-window. Dr. Johnson said, no one believed in ghosts, but all were afraid of them. This case was an exception to the great sage's apophthegm, since all these people both believed in and feared them.

A funeral at sea is an affecting sight; to see the poor body sent to corruption, there to lie until the ocean is commanded to give up its dead. All are collected at the gangway, and the body being placed on a board, is covered over with a flag; a splash is heard, and the departed is hid from human eyes for ever. The burial of the dead, with the impressive church service, is ever an imposing office, but the mysteries of life and death are more powerfully forced upon the mind, when the funeral takes place at sea.

Captain D. mentioned to the writer, that on one occasion, in a vessel, in which he was an officer, "The Palmyra," a melancholy catastrophe occurred: a death having taken place among the troops, many were anxious to witness what they had never beheld before—a funeral at sea, and in order to obtain a sight of it, seventeen climbed out on the fore-boom-yard, which broke with their weight, and all were precipitated into the water. Providentially, the ship had been hove-to for the burial, and only two were drowned, otherwise many more must have been lost.

The last land we had seen, was one of the Cape de Verde Islands; so, after sailing nine thousand miles, it was refreshing to see the Island of St. Paul, latitude $38^{\circ} 18' S.$ $78^{\circ} 53' E.$; being as it were our first landmark to Australia. It is of volcanic origin, and frequently visited by whaling-vessels; we believe there are seven or eight Frenchmen, who have taken up their abode in these desolate regions, for the purpose of catching seals and dealing with whalers, the crews of which are glad to obtain vegetables

and fresh meat from this little community. —There is another barren island not far from St. Paul's, called Amsterdam, which is uninhabited. We can hardly conceive how the lively and pleasure-loving character of the French mind has been able to exist in such solitude and in such an inclement temperature. To leave elegant and gay Paris, to make, not a fortune, but barely a subsistence,—amid icebergs and storms! But what will a man not do for a livelihood?

CHAPTER V.

MOUNT WARNING—FIRST SIGHT OF AUSTRALIA—GLASSHOUSE MOUNTAINS—MORETON ISLAND—FINDER'S ROCKS—MUD ISLAND AND ST. HELENA—PILOT CAME ON BOARD—THE TWO NATIVE BOATMEN—THE HEALTH OFFICER—VISIT TO THE ISLAND—NATIVE CAMP OF FIFTY—THE ECLIPSE — FISHING — TAMING PORPOISES — DIAMONDS, PEARLS—NATIVES ABOUT TO MEET FOR WAR.

AFTER having been one hundred and sixteen days at sea we sighted Mount Warning, a large conical-shaped mount on the east coast of Australia, which may be seen sixty miles off. With what eager eyes and with what anxious hopes did we gaze upon this new home, at least that which it was to become to many! It was delightful to feel that, after a wearisome voyage, we were soon, at least in a few days, to stand once more on *terrâ firmâ*.

On the third day we had in view Moreton Island and the Glass-house Mountains—three or four conspicuous eminences, deriving their name from the appearance of being vitrified. It was evening when we approached the port of our destination, and the consequence was that the commander mistook these prominent mark for sandhills; so in the morning we found ourselves off Sandy Cape, a promontory a considerable distance to the northward of our haven. We were, therefore, obliged to return. When about doing so, down came a great puff, strong enough to blow the masts out of the ship. Above this promontory the coast of Australia is very dangerous, there being long coral reefs. Shortly before our arrival the “Thomas King,” commanded by Captain Walker, was wrecked on one of these reefs. The doctor, chief mate, and two sailors, were massacred by the natives. The captain contrived to escape by concealing himself in a marsh, and there remained for fourteen hours or more, and finally wandered, until he arrived at Brisbane, partly guided by

some friendly blacks, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, and so debilitated as to be at times delirious. The natives as you approach the Torres Straits become more warlike and cruel, partaking of the character of the Malay. Twelve months before, this same captain had been burned out of his ship. Our Surgeon-superintendent returned to England with him from Sydney, we hope with no catastrophe to be added to the catalogue of the captain's misfortunes. We saw at a distance the curling smoke of several fires rise one after another along the heights—perhaps a signal that another vessel was off the dangerous coast, or perhaps the natives cooking a kangaroo or opossum. The first appearance of the coast does not present any very encouraging anticipations of the country—sandy, scrub-covered land—dark, stunted, almost leafless trees—everything having the appearance of thirsting for moisture and water.

We anchored off Moreton Island on Sunday morning, the 4th of July, having sailed from Plymouth on the 5th of March, making

a passage neither remarkable for its length nor quickness, but particularly stormy ; gale followed upon gale of wind—reefing, reefing, —we were always reefing. The Captain, whom we were now glad to leave, declared he had not had such a succession of boisterous stormy weather for the last six or seven years as he had experienced during our passage. Some bold ledges of rocks stand detached far from the land, called Finder's Rocks, which may be seen at least three miles off, the sea dashing against and over them. When within the entrance into Moreton Bay, which is always made by large ships at the north end of Moreton Island, two other isles opened out upon us, Mud Island and St. Helena. The latter bears no resemblance whatever to its more celebrated namesake, being flat and wooded. It is frequented by flying foxes, a large description of bat, eaten by the blacks, for what, in fact, will they not eat? There we interred a poor emigrant and her infant child, who died just as she had completed her voyage, leaving a husband the guardian of ten surviving children—a heavy

charge and drawback to this poor man, who was a peaceable, well-conducted Irishman. The bay is at the mouth of the river, very shallow, even for boats.

With the pilot came on board two blacks, grotesquely dressed, with feathers stuck in their hair, and a blanket thrown round one. The immigrants looked at them with wondering curiosity. Many of them had never seen a black man before. The natives certainly took it all in very good part, and seemed amused at the astonishment manifested by these new-comers. One could speak English pretty well, and was very communicative. They make excellent oarsmen; and the pilot, Mr. Watson, declared he would as soon have them as white men; they not only make good boatmen, but are exceedingly fond of the employment.

We were all anxiously looking out for the visit of the health-officer, in order that we might get on shore as soon as possible. He arrived late on Monday evening in the Custom-house boat. With him the writer returned, having a clean bill of health, which,

thanks to Providence, we were enabled to present, having had little or no sickness of any important or malignant nature since our departure out of port.

The Surgeon and I, being anxious to see something of the tribe which inhabited Moreton Island, went on shore, and paid a visit to the aborigines, who were encamped close to the back of the pilot's house, a pretty white wood building, standing on a barren sandy soil. As he landed, out came black fellows, stark naked, with lighted sticks in their hands, to assist us in drawing the boat on the beach. They seemed to rise up suddenly out of the ground, and from all sides, as it were by magic—so unexpectedly did they come down upon us. A fine young fellow begged for tobacco, of which they are passionately fond, and readily obtained some. They had harpooned a turtle, which was purchased by the crew. Now and again turtle are caught on the coast here, but by no means in abundance.

After paying the pilot's wife a visit, who complained to the writer of her fears and

solitude, some half-dozen or more of us proceeded through the native camp, introduced by our friend Mr. Watson, who exercises great influence over them. We had seen bushmen of Africa, but had only read of New Hollanders in the study, and Prichard's Natural History of Man had given us some faint idea of how low they ranked in the scale of humanity; but what we saw surpassed anything that either experience or theory had before given us any idea of, concerning these specimens of mankind. It happened to be a cold blowing day, i. e., cold for Moreton Bay. They sat round a fire in groups or families, of five, eight or ten, without any covering at all, male or female, looking most simial. One old decrepid woman, crippled by rheumatism, was beating, between two smooth stones, some roots, which had been collected during the day, and had the taste of potatoes, with the colour of chocolate. The only houses they had were a few branches of trees stuck into the ground, about five feet high; beneath which they sat, with the fire in the centre

jabbering and begging tobacco from us. This was the only protection they had from the weather. The community is very low in civilization, and numerically about fifty strong. They were preparing to go to war about "a gin," or woman who had been abducted from their tribe—a battle which the writer will speak of hereafter.

The pilot stated that he was never alarmed, although alone among them, but on one occasion. He heard them howling and yelling most pitifully one night, and in such a manner as he had never heard before. He tried to get some information from one who acted in the kitchen, about the cause of these dreadful cries. He loaded his gun, expecting nothing more or less, than to be attacked by them. At last he persuaded the servant to disclose the reason. She stated that the last time there was an eclipse some great chief had died, and the one which had occurred that night was no doubt caused by a like event—some great chief had expired, and lamenting this disaster, was the cause of the uproar which had

alarmed him. This explanation dispelled his fears. He had an eagle chained close to his door which he had wounded and preserved, not having so much injured the bird as to cause its death; it was a pretty specimen, but young and small. After looking at some pearls and other gems, the production of Australian oysters and mines, we returned to our good ship the "Maria Soames," much interested in what we had seen. The Surgeon, we believe, purchased the root of a cypress pine, which makes very pretty fancy ware, such as you may see on the pantiles at that delightful fashionable resort, Tunbridge Wells.

From the vessel we saw them fishing along the coast. They watch the porpoises and keep a little ahead of them. The porpoises drive the mullet in towards the shore, and the black fellow rushes in with his wooden and jagged spear poised in the air, which he hurls from him with surprising force and accuracy. You see him dash after his spear, and at the end of it transfixed, you perceive the quivering fish. He seldom or

ever misses his aim, and thus you may observe him, if he is a very expert sportsman, with a spear in each hand, carrying as it were, his double barrellled manton. These fellows are first-rate swimmers, in this respect almost equal to the fish themselves. The roe of the mullet dried and salted is a very nice relish for breakfast.

We were told they tame these porpoises and always feed them, as they look upon them entitled to a share of the sport which they had been instrumental in causing. Whether this is really the fact or not, the writer does not profess to avouch. Certainly they never injure or destroy them; and it is quite possible, since we know that the finny race can be tamed, as the tench in the tanks in India are by the Brahmins, and sometimes trout have become sufficiently familiar to eat out of the human hand. A very fine fish, not unlike the cod in firmness and colour, is taken off this island, called the snapper—a fish with a huge long head, and weighing thirty or forty pounds.

The natives could be seen on the follow-

ing day, hastening on to the rendezvous where the battle was to be fought for this sable Helen, a contest which the writer was close to in his progress up the country. These natives, although of extremely indolent habits, will walk great distances at a time and with incredible celerity, always stopping at sun-down, and carrying with them a lighted stick. Each goes armed with a long wooden spear, a boomerang, and a waddy, or thick club, not unlike a constable's staff.

CHAPTER VI.

THE BRISBANE RIVER—THE VISIT TO THE SHIP WITH “EMIGRATION BOARD”—LEAVE BRISBANE AT HALF-PAST TWO, A. M.—THE COURSE ADOPTED BY EMIGRATION OFFICERS—CAPT. WICKHAM—THE DEPOT—THE APPEARANCE OF THE TOWNS OF NORTH AND SOUTH BRISBANE—THE HIRING OF THE IMMIGRANTS — THEIR EXTRAVAGANT DEMANDS—DISLIKE OF THE BUSH—THE SQUATTERS.

THE vessel was anchored at least fourteen miles from the town, and four from the mouth of the river; the row or sail up *which* is very pretty. The small islands with which the river is studded at its entrance, covered over with verdure and lofty trees of the gum kind, or genus *Eucalyptus*, the low and graceful mimosa, and harsh-looking iron bark and blood wood tree, with here and there parasitical plants, all lend their aid, and contribute to give a

very picturesque appearance to the whole; the banks to the very water's edge are covered with fine timber; the sides of the river, in some parts, are abrupt and precipitous, at others, descending in a gentle slope. Several districts have been cleared, and you may see occasionally a settler's garden, yellow with Indian corn, among which is to be heard the discordant note of the white cockatoo, or the provoking laugh of the bird called the laughing jackass, whip bird, and blue pigeon; with allotments marked out for sale or building upon. Above your head you may see swans, pelicans, but more frequently and commonly the large winged, brown-coloured fish hawk, hovering over his prey, and gracefully with motionless wing, sweeping through the air, until he poises to make his pounce upon the victim. The river abounds with fish of different descriptions, all of course salt-water fish, since the Brisbane is a salt-water river. You may see the porpoise far off rolling and gamboling about, at his ease and in security. That horrid monster, the shark, tempted by

the refuse which is brought down from the boiling-down establishments, goes far up the river, and renders it dangerous to bathe. One black fellow lost a limb from the bite of one of them, and may be seen limping about the town.

The scenery is really very strikingly beautiful; such as Turner and Gainsborough would paint, and such as they alone, or any of Nature's best painters, would do justice to. First impressions are said to predispose much in favour or against persons and things; the former was the effect of our first view of Australia, and what our subsequent experience has confirmed. The river, at its entrance, has not sufficient depth of water, and the consequence is, that the schooners and steamers which ply between Moreton Bay and Sydney are constantly delayed in their passage to and fro. But when the settlement becomes more advanced, the dredging-machine will be set to work, and remedy this hindrance to regular communication.

We visited the vessel for the last time with

the Emigration Board, the object of which was to inquire from each immigrant whether they had been treated properly, and whether they had any complaints to make concerning anything which had happened during the voyage. The Board consisted of two justices of the peace, and the emigration clerk; certain particulars were registered of each person, his age, religion, the extent of his knowledge, his trade, &c.

This investigation by the Board we think is a very proper course to pursue; it protects the emigrant against maltreatment, and gives him an opportunity of redress if he has any grievance. However, one and all expressed themselves fully satisfied with the treatment they had received during their voyage. If there had been any little contradiction between one and another, they were now, as they ought always to be, forgotten and forgiven at the close of the voyage; for the differences which took place were not more important or greater than will occur between two friends doubled up in quarters on a march. Certainly not so grievous as

we are told sometimes happen among young “griffins,” and old “nabobs” on their route to India.

We and the officials, together with the Roman Catholic priest, on account of the tide, started for the ship at two o'clock in the morning in the custom-house boat, with a Mr. Duncan, an intelligent Scotchman, the collector of customs, who was to act as president of the Board, owing to the absence of Captain Wickham at Sydney, who returned with new honours; hitherto called the stipendiary magistrate, henceforth the government resident. We should have been sorry to have missed this excursion. The morning was hazy, with a light mist hanging over the river, and the grass just crisp with hoarfrost. In repassing the river which we had previously sailed up, at a distance from its mouth, through the mist which was just clearing away, as the sun appeared above the horizon, having tinged the sky with rosy hues—the reason why old Homer calls it “rosy-fingered morn”—we saw several pelicans resting upon one leg, upon an island

called Pelican's Island, as being the place of their general resort. All had milk-white plumage, with large pouches hanging down: as we approached, away they soared. To the writer the sight was novel, picturesque and pleasing. The plumage of the birds here is very beautiful, and their notes, save that of the turtle, anything but melodious. If Nature has clothed them with colours which attract the eye, she has not poured out upon them the riches of her harmony.

As we kept shortening the distance towards the vessel, we could not help, and who can help, having an interest, nay, even a feeling towards the ship, which has carried him so many, many thousand miles through storm and sunshine. There she lay before us resting herself after her long journey—reposing after the ceaseless motion of upwards of four months—looking weary and battered. The "Maria Soames" was a strong, old-fashioned ship, built by the late wealthy owner of that name, and named in honour of his widow, and as such was a favourite vessel, on which particular care had been bestowed.

The American, "Richard Cobden," was nearly extinguishing her at Gravesend. Perhaps the Messrs. Soames' were Protectionists.

After the Government Board had finished its duties, the emigrants were at liberty to go on shore as soon as arrangements could be made for landing them. The wife of the medical officer, Mr. Swift, had kindly assented to the writer's wish, that she should receive, with other ladies whom she might get to join her in the good office, the female single women at the depôt; acting as a kind of responsive committee to that of the ladies in England, to give them advice and encouragement, which reception is a kind of protection, and certainly is a comfort to young persons far from home and friends in a new and distant country. And all this she most obligingly executed.

The building used as a depôt at Brisbane is the old barracks, a good substantial edifice, which was used as such while Moreton Bay was exclusively a penal settlement. The immigrants remain here until they are hired; of course, they are expected to

take a fair and reasonable offer of employment, or else they must find quarters and rations for themselves. There are not many buildings of an imposing character at present. The towns of North and South Brisbane are placed on the banks of the river, on a very pretty park-like looking plain. It reminded one of Blackheath, at least it did the writer. There is opposite to the jail a school of arts, which my friend, Mr. Duncan, was chiefly instrumental in getting built, and of which he is the worthy president. Lectures are delivered in it on various literary and scientific subjects. The writer, at the request of the members, gave a lecture on the all-interesting question in the colony—on Immigration.

The new-comers had formed a very ridiculous estimate of the value of their labour; prompted by old hands, they asked the most extravagant rate of wages; as if it was quite impossible to render the price of the labour-market so ruinously high as to make it suicidal in the employer to purchase it. It is a great pity that there should always

be such a competition between the employed and employer—one trying to obtain, by an undue pressure, labour for less than a remunerating equivalent, and the labourer, on the other hand, striving to exact much more than the employer can give without consuming his capital, by taking advantage of the employer's necessity and wants. This hostility engenders a bad feeling between master and man. We asked a boy of seventeen or eighteen what his engagement was for? To make himself generally useful, was his reply. "What wages will you get?" "Only," says he, "twenty pounds a-year, with rations." "Only!" we said; "why you would not get sixpence a-day in Ireland." He was the son of the widow whose elder boy had stolen the money, of which we have already spoken.

Not only do they ask the most preposterous rate of wages, but undertake what they are profoundly ignorant of, with the same facility and readiness which the witty Sydney Smith ascribed to Lord John Russell, who he said would perform an operation for the

stone, or assume the command of the channel fleet; and you would not perceive by his deportment that the patient had died, or the fleet had been captured, under his hands.

This unfitness the residents complained of loudly, and really most justly. One Irish girl had engaged herself as a general house servant, to cook and wash being her principal occupations. She had not the slightest idea of either. Where she had lived we know not; but she barely knew how to boil potatoes, and could not read the clock. The bread she made might have been used to bombard Gibraltar, for harder could not have been compounded for cannon-balls. She dressed one day a fowl, which appeared as if it had expired by some horrid torture, or else had been attacked by convulsions of the most malignant kind, and died in a state of rigid collapse, its legs and wings sticking out in all directions: yet this young woman was hired at the rate of sixteen pounds per annum. The writer had also a specimen of her talents as a washerwoman, which were

not more brilliant than her accomplishments as a culinary artiste.

They all have a great aversion to going up the country into the bush, and this they often individually expressed during the voyage. One poor girl, who appeared to belong to a more respectable class than the emigrants ordinarily come from, wept bitterly at the idea of having engaged to go into the interior. Subsequently the writer heard that she was married to a thriving well-conducted man.

This reminds us of a case which occurred with another female. A settler, of sober age, heard that an emigrant ship had come into Moreton Bay; and, being well to do, like a sensible man he determined to have an helpmate to sweeten his success. He, therefore, came down with three hundred pounds to show his substantial wealth, with the full determination to return with "a cara sposa." He selected one of good personal appearance, a fine healthy young woman, among the best-conducted in the ship, and offered her his hand and heart and

all his store. She very prudently, not prudishly, requested a fortnight's consideration, to ascertain something about his habits and character. It was so completely a "marriage de convenance," that passion had not blinded judgment; the love was not sufficiently impulsive. To this he made no objection, though he urged less delay. He went across the river to North Brisbane, and related his success to the landlady of his hotel, accompanied with regrets that it could not be done at once, as he wished to get home. She replied, he need not fret about it at all, for she knew two young girls, one of whom she was certain would suit him very well. He had only to go and smarten himself up, and get a new suit of clothes, and he was tidy enough for any young woman in the colony. Taking her advice, he met these candidates, though, to the honour of the sex, it must be added they were quite ignorant of the cause to which their invitation to supper was to be attributed. He made a selection at once not being in the perplexity in which the late Sir Robert Peel found himself, even

after having consulted Hansard—the not being prepared to say which of two courses he should adopt. Our emigrant lost a fortune and a husband. However, she subsequently married a boatman—an union not so much approved of by her family as would have been the one with the rich old bachelor.

The squatters came down from the interior, some upwards of two hundred miles, to hire servants, shepherds, and labourers. This gave me first the idea of how little distance is thought of in the bush. They were well-dressed gentlemanly young fellows, of good family in many instances, some old Etonians and college men, who had come out here to better their fortunes. They were all booted and spurred, with cabbage-tree hats and light-coloured clothes, although this was the depth of the winter. We cannot say much for the condition of the horses which had brought them such great distances; only grass-fed, with perhaps at some public-house or station an occasional feed of Indian corn, the cultivation of which Cobbett pressed so much upon the farmers

at home. A horse, after he has borne you say forty or fifty miles, only has his saddle and bridle taken off him ; then he is hobbled, and turned into the bush to graze till he is wanted the next day or two, as the rider may feel disposed to stay at the station or not,—and if he is able to find him.

CHAPTER VII.

PUBLIC MEETING AT MORETON BAY—PENAL LABOUR—EARL GREY—PARTIES TO THE QUESTION—THE RELIGIOUS—THE SQUATTERS — THE LABOURERS' PARTY — CHINESE — COOLIES—EURASIAN LABOUR—PETITIONS TO LORD GREY FROM MORETON BAY, WIDE BAY, AND BURNET RIVER—WESTERN AUSTRALIA — THE ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM — TRANSPORTATION GENERALLY VIEWED.

A MEETING was held at Moreton Bay to petition for the separation of that district from Sydney, and to have a self-governing body, under the 13 and 14 Vic., c. 59. And the address, passed at that meeting, to Earl Grey, the late Secretary for the Colonies, contained a request that convict or exile labourers should be sent to Moreton Bay. The dearth of labour was so great, and the rate of wages so high, that the interests of the squatters were becoming seriously damaged.

This clause, advocating the advantage to

that district of the introduction of penal labour, was regarded by some as a premium offered to Government to obtain separate government and a local council. The reply made by Lord Grey was favourable to the wishes of the inhabitants, reserving for the council to decide, whether or no, criminal labour should be introduced; hereby showing that Earl Grey was desirous of meeting the wishes of the colonists, much as he has been misrepresented by an opposite statement. What interest could he possibly have to propose any measures inimical to the welfare and prosperity of the colonies? Under his administration Australia is indebted for a liberal and free constitution; the greatest extent of freedom has been conceded, consistent with imperial interests.

There are three parties with different objects, who view the question of the introduction of convict labour with the prejudices which belong to their own exclusive views.

One party, the religious party, objects to the introduction of convicts upon moral

grounds, as bringing upon the colony a wide-spreading pestilence, by letting loose upon it all the abandoned characters of the home population. The fashionable swindler, garotte robber, pickpocket, and murderer, all poured out upon a small population, even after each has undergone a probationary process of reforming discipline, are not elements likely to improve society. The ground on which this party rests its objection, all admit is of the most incontrovertible kind. The arguments they advance are of the highest quality, they are "not to do evil that good may come;" they allege that the people of God are to separate themselves from evil persons, without any compromise between principle and utility. They also look to the disastrous consequences to their family; "evil communications corrupt good manners;" and it is not desirable that the young should be exposed to contamination, by intercourse with the felons of the mother country. While all these arguments and objections, which this party put forth, have in themselves undeniable weight, one

important element of a punitive code is overlooked, viz., the redemption of the criminal from his evil course, and his moral reformation. While upon the same grounds on which they base their resistance of the introduction of exiles into their community, they admit the desirableness of the sinner's conversion; the offender is "to cease to do evil and to learn to do well;" but they do not wish to see their particular society, the arena upon which the maxim is to be carried out. A splendid rising colony like Australia is not, they consider, the place where convicts should be sent to. With a redundant population at home, say they, let the honest and indigent labourers be transferred, who, while they benefit, will not by vicious habits, deteriorate and demoralize the community they come to augment.

This is the position taken by the religious party, who consider this the higher obligation to be considered, and to stand at the very threshold of the question, all other points being inferior and morally subservient. We think, especially in that district

of which we are now treating, this opinion against the introduction of penal labour, is not the expression of the wealthy and exalted. The men of property do not like to depend on free immigration, which is irregular, over-priced and migratory.

To supply this very serious dearth in the labour market, several squatters were compelled, at their own cost, to introduce Chinamen, the very worst description of hands any employer can supply himself with. Vindictive, vicious, and passionate—they have found out now, how injurious was the acceptance of the alternative into which they were driven. Yet bad as this alternative was, it was better than the utter destruction of all they possessed. If you saw your property disappearing before you, as snow melted by the noon-day sun, anything that offered itself for its preservation, or its protracted destruction, you would gladly avail yourself of. Of two evils choose neither, if you can help yourself, but if you are compelled, choose the least. Mr. Gibbon Wakefield has advocated the introduction

of the Chinese; but he is writing without experience. They are very troublesome, and have introduced with them abominable vices. Imprisonment to these people is no punishment, accustomed as they have been in China to filth, want, and persecution.

Coolies from India would have been more extensively introduced, had the Indian government permitted it. Such as have been got, about two hundred, have given satisfaction. They have been very well approved of at the Mauritius, where the writer was a Special Justice, under the Apprenticeship Act. They are patient, diligent, and provident. A boon is conferred on them by removing them from India, where they are suffering much from a crowded population. They are only adapted to predial labour. Mr. Wentworth has introduced a measure for the introduction of a limited number, and under certain Governmental regulations, mutual advantage will be the result. With this "surveillance" the horrors of the slave trade cannot be renewed. Sufficient room will be appointed

them in the ship, proper food and clothing, with a fair proportion of the other sex.

Moreton Bay, if ever it becomes a cotton or a cane-producing district, must be cultivated by labour from Asia. It is a country capable of yielding either; but the cultivation of each, is in climates unadapted to Europeans, who cannot bear, during the day, exposure to a burning sun. If, therefore, this fine district of Australia is to have justice done to it, it must be by the introduction of this class, both because their constitutions are fitted for tropical heat, and the wages they will accept are such as will enable the cotton-grower to produce it at a remunerating price.

Eurasian labour has been mooted as likely to prove useful; that is, the children of Europeans by native Indian women. Many are of opinion, and the writer is one of them, that it is not at all desirable to bring this into the labour-market of Australia. A race with the indolence and vices of Asia, and with European constitutions. The feeling against this proposition

is almost universal among the influential employers.

The squatters are charged with wishing for convict labour from self-interested motives, careless of the moral condition of the colony ; as what they want to do is to make a fortune, and to return home as soon as possible, and that the cheaper they can obtain hands the quicker will this end be accomplished. Self-interest may form one of their motives, but it does not constitute them all. Moreover, new associations are formed by young men in the colony which attach them to it, and cause them to remain altogether, or else to stay so long that they return again, even after they have revisited the mother-country.

It is not alone because they want cheap labour that they advocate the introduction of convicts, but also because they require efficient labour, which the immigrants do not bring into the market. Paupers are not the best materials for the squatters—men who have lost their self-independence, indolent, dirty, and listless, debilitated by want and poverty,

and dissipation its parent. The healthy and athletic labourer—the steady, sober man in a parish—can command a market. Upon this ground it was that Earl Grey transported exiles to Australia. A compensation for the introduction of the physical deficiency of the immigrant; taking care that honest persons, at any rate not convicted of crime, should balance the defect of moral rectitude introduced by the convicts. The view which his Lordship took of the question was sound and statesman-like, however much upon this point he has been misrepresented, both in and out of the colony. Doubtless, the press, taking an utilitarian view of the matter, would prefer sending out all the refuse and sweepings of society, and all that were in any way chargeable on the industry of the country; but the squatter, who also takes his own utilitarian view, would rather not have them, to the utter exclusion of the felons. In some districts of Australia, Moreton Bay, Wide Bay, Burnet River, and Western Australia, the introduction of penal labour at present would be beneficial to the

settlers there located. And in all these places no gold-fields had been discovered when the writer left the colony. The immigrants from these districts are, therefore, attracted by the southern gold-fields, leaving as soon as possible their different employers "to have a try of their luck" in the diggings.

The settlers in those quarters petitioned Earl Grey for exiles. Sir Charles Fitzroy, in a despatch bearing date April 30th, 1850, thus addresses the Colonial Secretary:—"One of these petitions is signed by many 'stockholders and employers of labour in the district of the Darling Downs.' . . . The other is from the 'stockholders and employers of labour,' who have signed it (the petition), in the districts of Moreton Bay, Wide Bay, and Burnet River. The first of these two petitions was sent to His Excellency immediately before the receipt of your Lordship's despatches announcing that 'no more convicts should be sent to this colony.'" A despatch bearing date July 17th, 1850, was forwarded by the governor of Western

Australia to the same effect. To a new colony, convict labour is in its infancy most important. With convict labour, roads, wharves, public buildings, bridges, &c., are erected, while the colonist is compelled to employ his own resources in cultivating the ground to supply his own personal wants. In colonies, or in the parts of this extensive colony, where society has arrived at a certain maturity, the introduction of penal labour is not desirable, neither is it required, and by the settlers justly and wisely resisted.

But we conceive that the question does not turn alone upon whether it is advantageous to a new colony, but also includes another very important feature—What is it to the criminal? as well also as what is to be done with the criminal population of England? To the latter, the Australian answers you at once, that it is not the problem which he is called upon to solve. Send them where you like, but not here. It was once a colony for felons, it is not so now, neither shall it continue so. In the earlier days of transportation, the convicts openly declared

it was not intended for free immigrants, and that the class of those who came out, and to whom they (the convicts) were assigned, were little better than the felons themselves; and we conceive that in character the exile from home now is of a better cast than formerly. So much attention has been directed by government to improve prison discipline, so much of the thoughts of philanthropists have been bestowed upon the reformation of criminals, that certainly a great moral improvement has been the result in the moral qualities of the convict, very different when he is landed now, in disposition, to what he would have been if disembarked in the earliest days of transportation.

The assignment system was an evil in itself. The masters to whom the convicts were assigned, were exigent and cruel. A man was the bearer himself to a magistrate (a brother settler), for the infliction of fifty or a hundred stripes for a trifling offence or omission of duty, more cruel and oppressive than slavery. "Man is naturally cruel to his own species," is a remark of the chaplain

of Pentonville model prison, and his observation is fully borne out by the history of New South Wales when it was first a penal settlement. Severity was the instrument used in colonial practice to coerce the felons. The law of kindness was never tried, as it is now, to improve the offenders; that law which is much more effective than the law of terror, as experience has proved. Eminently successful has Dr. Browning been in proving the efficacy of kindness over prisoners, and for which he has received the thanks and testimony of Sir Geo. Arthur and Sir Wm. Denison. Reference to the "first fleeters" and to those subsequently sent out, for arguments or objections against the introduction of the present convicts, is to build upon false premises. The three probationary stages which the prisoners have to pass through now, constitute a discipline so wholesome and so severe, that if they do not effect the work of reformation in them, they are justly termed and sent out as "incurribles;" eighteen months as the extreme punishment which the human mind can bear in solitary

confinement, the period of associated labour, and eventually transportation under a ticket of leave, do, we are informed by persons capable by experience of forming an opinion, produce a moral reformation in the prisoner; if not always complete and entire, still such a social change, if not a spiritual one, as to render him hereafter an useful and diligent member of the community into which he is sent.

When we consider that three thousand are "annis communibus" transported, after having undergone this reformatory process, we may, after the testimony of Sir W. Denison, believe that the treatment of crime, as respects the class dangerous to society, is successful in its results. If these men, manifesting an improvement in their moral being, are to be excluded from all opportunity of leading a new life in new scenes, are we acting by their exclusion as a Christian people? These unhappy beings although felons, are men. To return them again upon the world is almost certainly to send them back to their old habits; as Sir James Graham

remarks in his letters to the Commissioners of Pentonville, 1842, with reference especially to the disposal of this unhappy class: "If you throw the convict back on society," he says, "he would still be branded as a criminal." . . . "His degradation and his wants would soon obliterate the good impressions he might have received, and by the force of circumstances which he could not control, he would be drawn again into his former habits; he would rejoin his old companions and renew his career of crime." Whereas if he is sent out of England he has an opportunity of recovering himself. He is not at any rate the same object of suspicion and distrust in his new sphere of action that he would be in the old one.

The Government will act most wisely by continuing the present system of transportation to some colony, or some part or parts of Australia. Dr. Lang, who seems only to feel himself acting rightly when he is opposing constituted authority and abusing Lord Grey, has, in a letter published in the "Sydney Empire," admitted, since his late

visit to England, that it is necessary, he believes, that some place should be found whereto to transport convicts, amounting to three or four thousand per annum. He points to the Falkland Islands. Why not New Caledonia, Port Curtis on the eastern coast of Australia, Moreton Bay, and those other districts where convicts have been asked for by the inhabitants? Doubtless all colonies will reject the introduction of felons as they become independent of their labour.

The writer does not intend the reader for a moment to suppose that he has any morbid sympathy or preference towards prisoners over free immigrants. He only reflects on the question as he finds it; and as it is a question which now occupies strongly the public mind, and one which is of important and paramount moment. The objects of punishment are for the sake of example, for the removal of evil-disposed persons from the opportunity of injuring society, and for the reformation of the culprit. This is laid down by Blackstone as the end which the law has in view when inflicting

penalties. Retaliation forms no part of the system.

If convicts were employed at home, they would interfere with the labour of honest persons ; the competition would be unfair towards them ; and it is upon this ground that the working-man in Australia, objects to the introduction of exiles. The depreciation of the market is the loss he has to bear, in addition to his having these persons as his companions and fellow-labourers in the bush. And while it is gratifying to read such accounts as those published by Dr. Browning, in his book, intituled "England's Exiles," of the effect of powerful, earnest, prayerful exertions, which few could equal, and we believe no one could surpass, upon the convicts under his charge, as well as the opinions of the various chaplains to gaols, yet it must be admitted that traces of the early character of the persons introduced into the colony may still be found in the profane and awful language of the classes in New South Wales, and the dreadful and terrible extent to which drunk-

eness prevails. The following is an extract made from the letter of a convict from Pentonville Prison :—" I am happy to say that many seem to have profited by their late afflictions, and to live an honest and upright life. But, on the other hand, I am sorry to say that some appear to be almost past recovery, and to have forgotten all the good resolutions, and the many solemn promises made while in their solitary cell."

We give this extract to show that we do not take an exaggerated view either way, of the permanent result of penal discipline on the one hand, and on the other, of the complete failure of it as a remedial process of reformation.

When the royal prerogative of pardon has been granted to the convict, we think that he should be received again as one who is to be treated as if he had never offended at all. The very character of pardon, we do not speak of the commutation of sentence, is to replace a man where he was before he injured society ; it is to receive him back as the prodigal who has come to him-

self; as "the lost sheep found again," we should rejoice over him, and encourage him in well doing. This, however, is not exactly the spirit in which convicts are treated in New South Wales. They are not, however, the objects of suspicion there as they are at home.

The class of immigrants most desirable to the colonists, in pastoral districts, are the labouring and farming people of England. Young persons with small families, of active and industrious habits, and handy workmen, willing to turn their talents to anything they may be called upon to perform; to become, in fact, what they agree to in their contract,— "Generally useful." Many plans have been adopted to promote the introduction of the description of labour required. It was thought by the Government that, owing to the discovery of gold, the territorial revenue, which is already heavily burdened, need not be expended in promoting immigration. His Excellency Sir C. Fitzroy yielded however to the evidence, that the

suspension of bounty immigration was detrimental to the colonial interests; and therefore, with the advice of the council, 100,000*l.* was remitted for its resumption. 10,000*l.* has been voted to the Chisholm Association, upon the loan principle, on the presumption that it will work (has worked?) well; it is a measure which did not originate with the Government, but was sanctioned as an experiment which the colony, upon the report of an Immigration Committee, was desirous of trying. It is the opinion of persons whom the writer considers better capable of forming an opinion than himself, that it is a system which will end in disappointment and failure. The machinery to carry it into operation will be cumbersome and complicated. The very outset is bad in principle, to let a man begin in debt.

The writer in an interview and conversation with the Honourable Deas Thompson, the Colonial Secretary, was informed by him, that there is ample scope for occupation in the colony, and will be for years to come,

for good and industrious persons. The stockholders and sheep owners engage with reluctance persons with a numerous family, not so much on account of the rations with which they have to provide them, but, as he stated to the writer, in consideration of the expense and inconvenience of transporting them to the stations up the country. Good religious persons are the description we want, was his expression, “*ipsisimis verbis.*”

The writer is well and practically acquainted with the utter destitution and wretched poverty of many of the industrial classes, either in town or country, at home. The miserable wages of a labourer in Dorsetshire, Bedfordshire, and other agricultural counties of England, are six, eight, and ten shillings per week, with four, six, or eight, nay, sometimes ten children to support, under a rent of four or five pounds per annum for a cottage, hardly deserving such an appellation, rather an hovel, with a small garden; paying higher for his exciseable articles of consumption, than the

squire at the hall, who obtains them from his London tradesman, while the former buys at the petty shop of the village an inferior article at a high price, passing through the hands of so many retailers before it reaches his. If the parish would supply this suffering class with the means of advancing the sum required by the Emigration Commissioners from each family or person, regulated by a scale, which may be obtained from them, it would relieve itself of a burden of squalid petitioners at the Board of Guardians, and they who are only now consumers without being producers of wealth, would in a new country not only be both, but would also enrich by their wants, that country which those wants had tended to impoverish, and they themselves would become happy and well fed.

In referring to our diary, one man told us that he earned in Huntingdonshire, eight shillings per week, upon which he had to support six persons in family. Upon the report of his brother from Australia, he determined to leave England for New South

Wales. He wished to leave his parish as he had lived in it, though rough in exterior, and a fine specimen of an English farm-labourer, respected, and with a good name. When he had sold all he possessed—and what property has a cottager, further than an eight-day clock, a mahogany chest of drawers, and a bed with bedding?—he found when his reckoning at the shop, the tally-man, and his rent were paid, that he had not sufficient remaining to provide himself with the outfit required, under the emigration regulations, neither enough to meet the capitation deposit. He obtained the necessary sums from the residents of his parish, not because they were desirous of ridding themselves of an able and athletic labourer, but from the good opinion which they entertained of the man; they assisted him in carrying out his views, for his own advantage. If an individual of this character found difficulty, although always employed, in getting together a sufficient sum of money to emigrate, how much greater must that difficulty be with indifferent workmen, and whom it is policy in the parish to

relieve themselves of. The industrious labourer deserves encouragement, such as the man spoken of appears by his own statement to have obtained. This class of man in the colony becomes an employer himself in a few years, and will help to form that middle rank so necessary to give solidity and firmness to the social body in any state, and at present so much required in Australia. This class will rapidly increase, as small capitalists are induced by the recent discoveries of gold, to emigrate, where they are not overpowered and beat out of the market by the pressure and weight of large speculators. It will also be created by those who have accumulated by gold digging sufficient to buy an allotment, glad to escape the diseases and dangers which miners are exposed to. A scale of wages is annexed in the Appendix of this work, taken from statistics ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, and laid upon the table on the 25th of July, 1852, ranging from 1837 to 1851.

CHAPTER VIII.

COOPER'S PLAINS—SHEPHERD—SHEEP—BULLOCK DRAY—
NATIVE DOG—QUAIL—SETTLER—BUCKING HORSE—
—CANE, COTTON, AND COFFEE—GOLD MANIA TOWARDS
BINGERA—DUKE OF YORK—YUNGUN—KANGAROO HUNT
—HOSPITAL.

WE took a ride over Cooper's Plains, which are close to Brisbane; do not, however, figure to your mind plains such as you see at home, wide treeless spaces of open ground; here a district is called a plain in contradistinction to scrub, a forest with impenetrable jungle. Although in the middle of winter, the trees were green and covered with foliage. It is a peculiarity of the trees in Australia, that they do not shed the leaf, but the epidermis, the outer coat, peels off. The prevailing kinds are of the eucalypti, the white and red gum, blood wood tree, cedar,

and iron bark ; all used for building and erecting ganyas or bark huts.

Suddenly we dropt on a shepherd with his flock—as suddenly and as mysteriously as the “man in the moon” did into Aylesbury, when Calvert was unseated—tending fifteen hundred sheep. He was what is called a “lag,” i.e., a transported felon, and a very old hand ; then free ; he had lost by ophthalmia the sight of an eye, and was lame of a leg ; notwithstanding these natural defects, he made an excellent shepherd, and had—a very rare exception to his class--saved some money. Generally, even now, but not so much the case as formerly, the men come down to the nearest public house or township, and there squander away in a few days the earnings of a whole year ; placing the amount in the hands of the landlord, and requesting him to keep it until he has drunk it all out : of course, he does not get the whole value of what he thus deposits, and better for him that he should not. When he is told that the sum is expended, he starts again to live a life of solitude and monotony in the bush,

far away from society and its humanizing influences, provided he has not first to recover from an attack of "delirium tremens," or what he calls "the horrors," from the dreadful spectres his stimulated brain conjures up before his eyes. Drunkenness is one of the crying sins of New South Wales. This shepherd of whom we spoke was an exception to the order. In coming up to him, we had passed by his bark hut, with a little verandah before it, and by the side a small kennel for his dog, his faithful and only companion for days and weeks together; his own house was precisely similar in form, but of larger dimensions. Conceive a house built from a pack of cards by children, and substitute for them the bark of a tree, and you have his dwelling, with a trench round it, to let the water drain away when the weather is rainy. This, from the extreme salubrity of the air, is a sufficient protection from the climate; his bed is a sheet of bark from the same tree which has afforded him the materials to raise his abode; before him lie his flock penned in, and he holds him-

self ready at a moment's notice to scare away, or destroy if he can, the "dingoe," or native dog, the squatters' great and serious enemy. Hanging up at the end of his verandah was the tail of one, which he had placed there as a trophy, similar in appearance to a fox's brush—the wild dog resembles him in colour and form—here he had placed it, just as a game-keeper nails vermin against the barn-door to let his employer see his diligence and watchfulness. In coming up to a flock, there is something very striking in the stillness all around, interrupted only by the sound of the browsing sheep, moving quietly and noiselessly along, with only one guardian to tend them, for the use of his fellow; and to cloathe, nourish, and enrich himself by the death of this peaceful creature.

The native dog "rushes" into a flock, bites and lacerates numbers, causing great loss to the master, not by what he devours, but by the number he wounds. Whether settlers will be able to extinguish this serious nuisance or not is, in our opinion, very questionable. Carcasses are rubbed over with

strychnine, the active principle of nux vomica, and placed in different parts of the station. Numbers, doubtless, have been destroyed by this means, and so particular districts may be delivered from the plague, but not the country generally. An Act has been passed in the Legislative Council for the destruction of the "dingoe." This is not the only foe the shepherd has to contend against. The scab and the catarrh mow down by hundreds his flock in the course of a few hours. His only resource is to send them off to the boiling-down establishments and convert them into tallow, instead of the fleece into cloth.

One man can tend from twelve to fifteen hundred sheep, with a hutkeeper, who shifts the hurdles and cooks his meals, which consist of tea, mutton, and damper.

In our ride over the plains we met one of our immigrants, who with his wife were on their way to the Logan, some forty miles or so distant. We came upon them about mid-day, "camped" under a gum-tree. They were Somersetshire folk, and not the brightest specimens, we should hope, of the county

The woman told me it was like gipsying. They had slept there the night before, and could not proceed, as the bullocks had strayed, and they had sent a black fellow to look after them. There was a chance, by no means an uncommon occurrence, of their remaining there a week. She said she thought it a strange country; but still did not regret having left England. She was lying on the top of the dray, while her husband was preparing the dinner. Now we make bold to say the group might have been a subject for Gould's or Ward's pencil, or for any of our modern artists; and would not look amiss when hung up in Lord Northwick's or Lord Ward's gallery, or that of any other patron of the Fine Arts.

Well, what was the group? The bullock dray, with its fair burden—ourselves, new chums—an old lag, with our horses—the bridles passed through the stirrups—the animals grazing where they would—an old hand making tea, and we sitting on a fallen tree, with a piece of damper and meat, the former the platter, which gradually disappeared as the superincumbent load dimi-

nished, with a tin pot of tea at our feet, and some three or four dogs, of any or every breed you please—the tea thrown into the pot, together with a handful of the coarsest sugar, for travellers in the bush do not measure either the one or the other, as careful housewives do in England. There is a coarse abundance of each in the colony. In the midst of our repast the “darkies” came in from their unsuccessful search after the stray oxen. One of them had had his arm shot off by a “white fellow.” The aborigines have a great dread of a gun, which they call “bung-bung.” When we had finished our pic-nic, which, rough as it was, we enjoyed after a long ride, away we went to see something more of the plains, learning a great deal from our guide, who had been a whipper-in to some hounds before he was “lagged,” somewhere in the neighbourhood of Whally, in Lancashire, of which, as we had some knowledge, he inquired with considerable interest, after a long absence. He had been successful at the “diggings.” In our ride we flushed quail, and some bird which he

called a bustard. We came upon a herd of horses, which were turned out to take care of themselves where they pleased, until wanted and found, which it is not always easy to do in the bush just when you require your steed.

Founded on our acquaintance with his county, he became very civil and communicative, and particularly warned us never to let a black fellow walk behind, if he were employed as a guide, because he is so treacherous, that he is very likely to knock your brains out with his waddy or club, when you feel most at your ease, and repose the utmost confidence in him, or to cut you down suddenly with his "tommy-hawk." He pointed out a flower of a yellow kind, something like the blossom of the horse chestnut, which before the sun is up, contains a considerable quantity of honey, sufficient to moisten the mouth, and to leave in it an agreeable taste, when one rises after sleeping in the bush. He had acquired great practical knowledge of the country, and had been recently employed to recover the property which had be-

longed to the unfortunate surgeon and mate of the ship "Thomas King," who were murdered by the blacks at Wide Bay. He had succeeded in obtaining from the natives a great part of it, and was well acquainted with the habits and character of the "darkies."

After riding many hours, we got some damper and milk at a settler's, and of course, mutton. The horse we rode not having proved a bucker—but of the nature of "bucking," we shall speak hereafter—we were very apprehensive of being put upon a steed accomplished in this art, by one of the old hands, who are rather apt to play practical jokes on "new chums." We returned at sun-down in safety to Moreton Bay, and saw some cane grown by Mr. R. Jones, the member for that district, which looked well, but not quite so well as we have seen at the Mauritius, or in the Brazils; as also some cotton plants in the garden of a Dr. Hobbes, one of Mr. Lang's immigrants, which looked very promising. The chemist of Brisbane, a Mr. Poole, has planted twenty acres, so that a pretty fair experiment will be made as to the capability of this fine

and picturesque district for producing cotton. The coffee plants we saw in the garden of Dr. Hobbes, did not look healthy. It is a delicate plant, and requires care, shade, and moisture, the two last of which it had not, so that this was not a fair criterion to judge by.

While sojourning at Brisbane, a report came down, that a gold field had been discovered at Bingera, near the Gwyder. All were immediately on the "qui vive," every body was off to make a fortune; women and children, and empty houses were the only things visible. Several of the storekeepers started with dray loads of goods, only to return losers by their hasty speculations, one proceeded about twenty or thirty miles, sold off and returned, having lost 300*l.* by his trip. The pedestrians started to other diggings, as although gold had been found at Bingera, it could not be profitably worked from the want of water.

The writer addressed a black by the usual salutation used there, "Peroo, you fellow, what you name?" he replied, "Duke of York;"

and then commenced some antics and capers, as if he were at a corrobary or war dance. He was a short grey-bearded old man, and had been so called by some of the convicts, when Moreton Bay was a penal settlement; this swarthy prince was an amusing old fellow, and rather a favourite among the inhabitants.

The writer was invited to join a hunting party, not after the Meltonian style over hedges and ditches, in pink jackets and top boots, but in a boat after a fish, called the "Yungun." The chase was graphically described to us by the Roman Catholic priest, father Handley. It is a large fish, of the order mammalia, suckling its offspring, like the whale, and grazes on the banks at the opening of the river, at certain periods of the year; and while it crops the rank grass which grows on the shelves of the bank, the hunters approach stealthily and noiselessly in the boat, and harpoon it. The flesh is liked very much by the natives, and it yields plenty of oil. The aborigines before they learned the use of the harpoon, caught them in strong large nets, made from the grass,

or of the bark of the curraing tree. A skeleton of this fish may be seen in the Sydney Museum.

The writer might, perhaps, have formed one of the party, had he not had much previous experience of small boats on a tropical coast. Not long before, the Surgeon-superintendent of the emigrant ship the "Argyle," who was on his way to visit the quarantine ground, together with the chief mate of the vessel, and two emigrants, were capsized in the ship's boat in a heavy squall; the two first named were drowned, while the two last were taken from off the keel of the boat, after having hung there many hours, in a very exhausted state, by some natives who swam to them from the shore. It was sad after having sailed so many thousand of miles to meet a watery grave, when the port was gained, but such was the destiny of the sufferers. The surgeon's widow heard of his safe arrival and his death by the same communication; the mate, also, left a young family to mourn his loss. On this occasion the blacks behaved with great humanity.

Our reverend friend was also a great Nimrod on land, being a lover of kangaroo hunting. Away you go with dogs of non-descript race, something of every breed in them, lurcher, greyhound, and sheep-dog; mounted on lean looking horses, perhaps with rusty stirrups, bearing for the ridges, where the "old man" may be seen in the long grass, which takes its name after him. Away go the dogs after the "flyer," who bounds, by the aid of his tail, many yards at a time; and take care of the trees as your nag threads his way between them; broken ribs and limbs are sometimes the penalty of careless riding. If there are no ox-fences, or five-barred gates, and raspers to get over, as in Lincolnshire, the plains are not as free from impediment as Leicestershire, nor is the pace as killing. Look out for fallen logs, which lie concealed in the long grass, or else you will get such a pealer as you will remember as you do your first "bleeding." At last the "old man" puts his back against a tree, and stands at bay; the dogs are at him, he seizes one in his short fore-paw, and

rips up the other with the claw at the end of his long hind-leg; you dodge behind the tree, and knock him down with your "waddy," a heavy-headed hunting-whip; cut off his tail for soup; preserve his skin for a carpet; and make steaks of his flesh, there and then. Look at him after a burst of twenty minutes without a check; he lies dead at your feet, weighing thirty pounds, a big "old man kangaroo"—such is hunting in Australia.

At Brisbane there is a very good hospital, supported by voluntary subscriptions, with a resident house-surgeon, who is skilful and attentive. Mr. Barton corroborated to us the statement relative to the virulent form in which syphilis developes itself in the colony among the "aborigines." We saw some lamentable cases in its most malignant stages. Bullock drivers and stocksmen, far from medical advice in the interior, saturate the system with mercury, and then expose themselves to the effects consequent on riding in the long wet grass. An operation was performed very neatly and successfully by the surgeon on a withered finger of a stock-

man, or shearer, who had been stung by a centipede; the man did well after the amputation. Neuralgia, diseases of the eye, and rheumatism, are the endemics of the colony. There were several invalids with pulmonary complaints at Moreton Bay, sent there by their medical advisers; one had tried Egypt and Madeira, but found more benefit from the air at Brisbane. One thing in favour of this pleasant district is, that it is free from hot winds and sand storms.

CHAPTER IX.

STEAMER TO IPSWICH—LIMESTONE—SCENERY—BREMER—
WILD FOWL—SIGNOR POCOFIT—BOILING DOWN—PIGS—
LOST IN THE BUSH—SURGEON OF “MERIDIAN”—COLOGNE
—STORM—CREEKS UP—KILLING A BULLOCK—POWDER
FLASK LOST AND RECOVERED—BUSH LIFE.

WE started to go two hundred miles into the interior, and took the steamer to Ipswich, distant from Brisbane about twenty-six miles by land, and seventy odd by the river. Limestone is contiguous to Ipswich, and built, as its name indicates, on that formation. It is a thriving little place, and much of the wool from the interior is brought down, to be placed on board these steamers, and then shipped for Sydney, by schooners from Brisbane. “There will be a great mob of things going down to-day,” said one to another,

which meant, that there would be a heavy cargo in number; we must remark that the Australians have a patois of their own, particularly idiomatic among the old hands, a mixture of slang, Saxon, and aboriginal languages. There will soon be an Australian as there is already a Yankey dialect.

The scenery along the river is picturesque, with wide sloping banks on either side, crowned with lofty timber. Where the Bremer and Brisbane rivers meet, the view is very interesting; the waters are overhung by large bluff rocks, with here and there the geranium, and convolvulus, and acacias studded about them. In our journey to the gentleman whom we were about to visit, we flushed, but at a considerable distance from the steamer, several wild ducks, teal, and widgeon.

While we were walking the deck of this small steamer, "The Hawk," which, with her companion, made a flight each alternate day to Limestone, an individual addressed himself to us, with a fine pair of mustachios, and something of a foreign air and appear-

ance. In course of conversation he stated that he had been a contributor and reporter to "The Times," and had visited most parts of the globe, had lived among the Ashantees, Caffers, and Bosjesmen, and was writing a work on Australia; in fact, had part of it in type. At all times a gentleman connected with the press is an imposing personage, much to be dreaded and conciliated, but one lately on "The Times," the great guide and exponent of public opinion, is to be especially stood in awe of. We, therefore, entertained towards him all due respect; and stated that we should have much pleasure in perusing his volume at the British Museum.

"Do you publish anonymously?"

"Oh, no, certainly not."

"Pray will you honour us with your name?"

"With pleasure,—Signor Pocofit."

"An Italian, we presume."

"Yes, by one parent's side; I have been a good deal in Italy."

"You speak French, no doubt, Signor."

"Excuse me Sir," he observed, "in Ita-

lian, we sound the 'g' *harshly*. and not as you do, *soft*."

"Indeed, our impression was different; and our recollection was that a relative who owned a celebrated mare, which won the oaks, pronounced her name making the 'g' soft, viz., 'Signorina.'"

"It was wrong, Sir—wrong altogether."

We addressed him in French, he shrugged his shoulders and gesticulated very as our Gallic neighbours do, but no French was enunciated.

"You speak English," we observed, "with the purest accent, we ever remember to have heard from a foreigner."

We then addressed him in Italian, of which we knew but little, but quite sufficient to confound our distinguished Italian fellow-traveller, who instantly commenced speaking broken English, as if a foreigner. We requested he would not be at the trouble of spoiling his Saxon accent, for his was so pure, and we understood it, and preferred it, when spoken in its native purity. Upon which, finding himself detected, he fairly

ran away into the fore part of the vessel, amidst the laughter of those who had overheard us, and was not seen again during the rest of the passage.

It is needless to say he was an impostor, and one of the exiles, who had acted as an assistant in the hospital, both in the convict ship and at Brisbane. The latter place he had been discharged from for tampering with some dying patient, and obtaining from him on his death what money he had to dispose of. His real name was "Fit;" but he had added to it the prefix "Poco," to make it foreign. He was reported to have been a clown at "Astley's." Whether true or not, Mr. Duncan, the collector of customs at Brisbane, told the writer he was a smart, clever, impudent fellow; and he was exactly what he stated. Mr. D. himself was a very competent judge of ability, being an intelligent, well-informed person.

One awkwardness felt by a "new chum" is, that you do not know whether the man who addresses you is or has been a convict; and it is not very complimentary

to ask one who speaks to you, "Are you," in the idiomatic phraseology of the bush, "'a clean potato?'" If he is not a convict, he must think he has a convict's look; if he is, why recall to him—why reproach him—with that which he is trying to make reparation to society for? We remember visiting Bethlehem with a Sardinian Count de B., and a similar embarrassment came over us. We could not tell who were the sane or the insane. We determined to be, in a good sense, "all things to all men." The religious instructor, a Mr. Mose, of the ship in which this "signor" was transported, returned to England with us in the same vessel, "The Cuthberts," who corroborated the remark of Mr. D. respecting his talent and effrontery.

Had we been like some of our countrymen, who place themselves in the corner seat of a railway carriage, looking sour and surly, with the caution written on their countenance, "Beware of the dog"—if you speak to him he will growl, and perhaps snap—we should have missed a great deal

of fun and humour. Where our friend the signor went to, or where he now is, we never afterwards heard.

At last we arrived at the "boiling-down establishment," not, however, without some difficulty as to which Smith it was we were to visit, as they both had boiling-down establishments. "Do you mean Schemer or R. J. Smith?" asked the commander. "We mean R. J. Smith," which was sufficiently descriptive of the person we required, and who was to put us in the way of getting up the country. The Saxon "Smith" is as common as the Celtic "Jones," or Mc or O' of the inhabitants of the land of cakes, and requires some soubriquet, such as Stanhope, Paget, or Ponsonby, or any other euphonious prefix. We found ourselves agreeably housed in a very pretty dwelling, surrounded by grounds laid out with great taste. Before we retired for the night, our fair and amiable hostess cautioned us not to be alarmed at the mice running about between the paper and the wall; and, certes, we did not repose much, for incessant races they ran:

it must have been a great field day, alias night, with them. Some great political changes must have been on the tapis in their commonwealth, if we could judge correctly from their activity. At any rate, what with the noise which they made and the buzzing of musquitoes, we had not much balmy sleep; and early in the morning, the breeze having set towards the house, we were aware of an odour acting on our olfactory nerves, which certainly did not arise from the distilleries of Hendrie or Atkinson. Oh! such an odour! Would that Mr. E. Chadwick or Dr. Southwood Smith could have an opportunity of exercising their anti-mephitic talents; or that any of the savans who are experimenting upon the deodorizing of fluids, would try their skill upon these masses of putrescent matter, which lie distant from this pretty place about five hundred yards, filling a ditch of twelve feet deep, with swine feeding upon a heap of coagulated filth, the refuse of the boiling-down house. We could not remain above a few hours with the kind and hospitable owners, and, therefore, before lunch we

bade adieu to this mode of turning the penny, after having gone over the "boiling down," where the fat and diseased cattle of the land are converted into tallow to illumine the residents at home. Perhaps the gentle reader who now reads this account of the writer's "degouement" is indebted to Australian settlers for the mutton which blazes before him. At the gorge of this mass many sharks feed to surfeit.

We determined to return from thence to Brisbane by the steamer, and crossed over to the other side of the river, to trudge to Ipswich, for, strange as it may appear, by crossing a river, you may be only three or five miles distant, whereas if you ride by land, you must travel thirty or forty. We therefore preferred walking; and in the attempt we lost our way in the bush. After proceeding for an hour or more, marking most closely our route, we determined to return, when we came upon a camp, which belonged to the blacks, and from the nature of the "gunya," we conceived it to be a place where some were buried.

Knowing that hostile tribes were to meet not far off, we did not feel very comfortable. To be felled by a whizzing boomerang, or transfixed by a spear from some invisible hand, or to have our brains knocked out by a waddy, was anything but the destiny we desired; to die like Mungo Park, or Leichardt, with their posthumous celebrity, our ambition did not sigh for; or to bear about us, as some do in Australia, the marks of a black fellow's vengeance for killing his kangaroos, was a distinction we by no means coveted, unnecessarily and ingloriously obtained. So considering discretion the better part of valour, we retraced our steps to where we had sought direction, and found that we had really lost our way, and were progressing in a line diametrically opposite to the one we sought. Reflecting upon the truth that the aborigines were not "vegetarians," but suspected even of cannibalism, the apprehension of being devoured acted as a most powerful sudorific; the knowledge of which fact may perhaps become useful to the faculty.

The Surgeon-superintendent of the emi-

grant ship, the "Meridian," determined to go alone, botanizing and calling at stations as accident or inclination decided. He bought a horse, and had not got fifty miles from Brisbane before his charger having thrown him, and run into the woods, he had to wander about for three days and nights, and at last met with some "darkies," who led him to a station, much exhausted by fatigue and want of food; as far as we know, he never recovered his horse—a lesson to him not to disregard the good advice and warning which were given to him before he started, of not going by himself to explore the country, as many have perished in doing so of hunger, or have fallen by the hands of the blacks.

We found rest at "Cologne," a name humorously given by its owner to a settlement opposite to the boiling-down establishment of which we have already spoken, and occasionally catching a slight whiff of its delicious aroma. We found the owner in his shirt sleeves, and dressed "en degagée" negligence, planting vines; when we sought the favour of a temporary asylum, and figured to

ourselves that he was some young enterprising man from the mother country, perhaps a farmer's son. He met us with great kindness, and with the proverbial hospitality of the bush, invited us to sit down and take some refreshment in a slab-built and shingle-roofed house, consisting of two rooms, while his better residence was in course of erection. We saw on his brow that nature had written "gentleman," and more so when in this hovel we observed, by a well-selected library, that our host at any rate had agreeable though silent companions with him. He was an old Etonian, the partner in a station up the country, which we subsequently visited. We were detained from continuing our journey by a violent storm of thunder and incessant rain, which lasted for three days without any intermission. Creeks and gullies, before quite dry, were now roaring with the waters which filled and rendered them impassable. It commenced raining on Friday, and came down in one unbroken fountain till Monday morning. In the mean time ten persons had been taken out of the creeks, one poor fellow

who attempted to cross, was carried off his feet and held on to a log of a tree several hours, "cooeing" for aid, when some one from the station extricated and brought him in, in a state of utter exhaustion. "Coo-ee, coo-ee," is the cry made by the aborigines, either for assistance, or to call your attention to anything, or to recover themselves if lost in the wood. In the evening of Monday we killed a bullock, an event which, when it became known as likely to occur, brought about our host's dwelling a number of darkies, to partake of the spoil. The ox had been placed for twelve hours previously in a stock, and when the man went to shoot him, dashed about the small space he was confined in, with flaming eyes and extended nostrils, mad with hunger and fright—woe betide us if he gets loose! The executioner was a good marksman, and the victim fell ingloriously, having received the bullet in the centre of his skull, right in the very star. It was but a short business to skin and hoist him to the cross pole; around us sat "kippers," i. e. "hobbledehoy blacks," and warriors, at one fire, eating, half roasted,

any part of the offal which was bestowed on them ; at another, "gins" or "lubras," wrapped up in the blankets given to them by the "bujjeree" (i. e. good) queen ; roasting tit-bits by their ember fire—displaying each a pearly set of teeth, such as any belle might be proud of, or Cartwright desire to imitate. One man who had been cutting firewood, and to whom had been promised the head of the ox, was sent by our friend to recover a powder-flask, which had been dropped in the morning, on the margin of a lagoon, while shooting ducks. He very reluctantly undertook the task, fearing lest he should lose his head—or rather, we should say, the ox's head. So we remarked, "He will never find it, let the poor fellow stop here." "Not find it," said Davidson, "if it was a needle, having been of the party, he would track the spoor, and bring it here." He was assured that his promised share of the feast should be kept and put by in safety for him, to take to the camp. Away he flew, and in a very short space of time returned, sure enough with the flask we had lost. So acute are their senses of sight and hearing,

that they will see what a white fellow cannot, and also hear sounds which make no impression on a Caucasian tympanum.

It was with some difficulty we could get them to be bearers of the skin, &c. of the bullock, to the "humpy," i. e. station, which was "close up," (near), for they will not work at all if they are full. My friend having dispersed their fires, they grinned and then assisted us. If you want them to do anything you must give them no food until the task is accomplished, for if you do, they instantly leave off work. "Black fellow laugh, white fellow work," say they, displaying a regular and beautiful set of ivories. At our behest the same man climbed a gum-tree for a fig or bar of tobacco.

In the bush, you must be your own valet. It is no use for fastidious dandies to undertake this line of life unless they are prepared to turn the tables and rough it. Straw-coloured kid gloves and patent leather boots are as useless here as a gossamer hat and nankeen unmentionables would be in the

Arctic regions. A public school is a good training for this independent and not unpleasant existence. A man soon qualifies himself to be his own valet, cook, housemaid, and if he understands something of washing it will not be amiss ; and, moreover, let him learn to do all " de bon cœur."

The weather having cleared we started for the interior, a journey of some two hundred miles, over hill and dale, marsh and brook.

CHAPTER X.

THE START — A GERMAN DOCTOR — “HOMO MORTUUS SEMPER FORTUNATUS” — THE BATTLE AT LIMESTONE — PARKY APPEARANCE OF AUSTRALIA — KENT STATION — THE PENALTY OF RIDING — HOSPITALITY OF A SQUATTER — HIS MODE OF LIFE — TURN POSTMAN AND DOCTOR — THE FLOCK OF SHEEP — LAMBING SEASON — THE GRAVE.

WE left Cologne for the bush, respectively mounted on Admiral, Abelard, and Polka, with a young “tiger” carrying our saddle bags and “swag,” i. e. luggage, which consisted of a change; since in the bush, travellers must learn to do with somewhat less than a portmanteau, and the endless wrappers, plaids, and comforters of an “exquisite,” starting from Euston Square, for grousing, or to join the “heavies” at Brummagem. We did not fail to take with us, the ever present tin pot of the colonist, to make tea in, and quench

his thirst at the creek; but should he fail to have this, the bark of a tree or a large leaf can be readily converted into a drinking cup. Our host, of course, did not forget his pipe, and tobacco to provide his own with and that of some stray shepherd—for tobacco is almost as current a medium of exchange and standard of value in New South Wales as Mungo Park describes it to have been in Africa. Our little groom, a sharp lad, the son of an old convict and brought up in Whitechapel, though not so well appointed as may be seen behind a coronet-crested cab, in Rotten Row, or riding behind a d'Orsay, was, perhaps, more useful and handy for our purpose, than if he had been sprucely got up as a London page.

At Limestone, we encountered a German surgeon, who had acted as a medical superintendant on board an emigrant vessel from Germany. We had already met with him in Brisbane, really an agreeable gentlemanly man, young, yet he had travelled much in many countries, and also in Australia. He appeared in despondency, perhaps he was in

u / love, as we saw subsequently his happiness by marriage announced in the newspapers; he wanted us to talk Latin, when our friend and ourselves mustered three languages between us. We were compelled to decline, although he might, for ought we know to the contrary, have spoken as classically as, perhaps, Dr. Townsend and the pope did, when the former was on his Quixotish errand at Rome to unite the Eastern and Western Churches. At all events, we understood his mournful quotation, "Homo mortuus semper fortunatus," although we could not, as we told him, subscribe to his melancholy mood. Now, probably, he would exclaim, "terque quaterque beate," &c.; but "the course of true love," Shakspeare says, "never did run smooth," in novel or romance, no more than in real life.

We here had an account from one of our immigrants, the same who had desired to have been landed at Swan River, of a fight which he had witnessed between several tribes, which we have already alluded to. Between three and four hundred met. His

earnest and enthusiastic description of the engagement was very amusing, but we regretted to learn that two of the blacks had fallen, a very unusual occurrence in their wars.

They fought with their usual weapons, the spear, boomerang, and waddy, guarding themselves, as best they could, with a small shield bedaubed with paint and charcoal, and feathers stuck over their bodies, and in the hair. The "gins," i. e., wives and women, like the inhabitants of Ipswich, stood apart looking on. But my friend, finding a boomerang fall inconveniently near him, retired from the fray. "Was it," we asked, "a real fight, as you would have seen in ould Ireland, in the true Tipperary style?" "Sure, your honour," he replied, "it was, only the 'gins' (wives), cut themselves when the men were slain." One was transfixed with a spear through the heart, the other died of his wounds in a short time after being struck, and he added, they were eaten by their enemies; this, however, we suspect, was an exaggeration, although the Macintyre blacks

have the reputation of being cannibals. This battle occurred within three miles of where we were located, and which, had we known of, we might perchance have witnessed.

It is much to be lamented that the authorities do not interfere to put a stop to these meetings between savage tribes; a very slight force would suffice to suppress them, as they have a great dread of fire-arms. Leaving the field of Mars, and my friend from the Emerald Isle, who was resting here on his way to the interior, and having wished our erudite son of Esculapius "valè," we continued our journey into the bush. The general appearance of the country in Australia, is, as generally represented in books, of a very park-like nature, and exceedingly inviting in aspect, only more thickly timbered than we should like in England.

We pushed along at a pretty good pace, and then after sun-down had a sharp ride, in a dark evening, before we reached Mr. K.'s station. As we were not well provided for a bivouac, having only the one requisite an Australian always carries with him,

namely, the saddle for a pillow, without any blankets, we were not sorry when we found ourselves under the hospitable roof of our host. In return for our reception we poured out upon his table, letters, papers, &c., which had been lying for him at the post-office. No one refuses to act as a postman for residents in the bush, who might otherwise be a sorry time without any news. We also prescribed for him, and flatter ourselves that he derived some benefit from our knowledge of the healing art; using one of these grand remedies, considered by Louis Philippe and Lord Brougham as sufficient to cure any malady, and which may be carried in the top of a walking-stick, viz., opium, a lancet, and calomel. Our friend was suffering from the effect of exposure to tropical climates, having been previous to sheep-farming the mate of a ship. We had also to attend to our own "malheurs." After several months at sea, we were not in the best condition for a fifty mile ride, and found the prescription of an unguent to our chafed limbs very seasonable. Burckhardt

recommends, if dressed as an Arab, to have the parts exposed to a scorching sun bathed with milk and water. He complains of having suffered much pain in his travels from the blistering of his ancles and feet: it was not in those regions that we paid the penalty of a long ride. Here we rested three days, and became first initiated into the routine and character of a "squatter's" life during the busy season of lambing and shearing. It cannot be better portrayed than in the words of Mr. Forster—Chambers' *Emigrant's Manual*, page 46, "Victoria."—"The life of one of these great sheep proprietors is described as being a condition of leisure and coarse abundance, interspersed with a peculiar class of cares. There is always a certain fear of shepherds deserting their charges, of sheep being worried, or dispersed by wild dogs, or of catarrh, scab, or foot rot having broken out in the flocks. Then there is a period of anxiety at the lambing season—'when a storm of sleet may destroy hundreds of lambs.' There is the trouble connected with the great sheep-shearing

season, sheep-washing, and minor anxieties consequent on the running away of cattle, the training of horses, &c." At the end of the garden was a grave standing alone, recording a few years before, the death of a former proprietor's wife, who in giving life to another lost her own, the mother and infant, as their plain simple tablet told, lay there, the rose and the bud both stricken together. It was very touching to see in the wilds, we might say, this last resting-place, surrounded by a neat wooden paling, and dressed with flowers, for although the property had passed into other hands than those which first held it, the present owner was a man of too much tenderness of feeling to suffer the tomb to go to decay, or to be disturbed. Often, doubtless, does that spot appear to the memory of the survivor, where all his hopes, and the brightness of his sun, were dimmed, and it may be pleasing to him to learn that the poor clay which lies there, lies respected and in peace.

CHAPTER XI.

BIRDS—COCKATOOS—BREAKFAST—IN AN ENGLISH MANSION
—IN THE BUSH—A RIDE WITH THE SQUATTER—A GAL-
LOP—A STOCK-KEEPER—HIS WHIP—A YOUNG MIDDY—
THE FREEDOM OF THE BUSH—GORDON CUMMING—HON. G.
MURRAY—AN AWKWARD SURPRISE—THE ENQUIRY—A
GENTLEMAN SAVAGE—THE REMEDY FOR THE BLASÉ—
BACHELOR SQUATTERS—MARRIED SQUATTERS—THE
VOYAGE—HUMBOLDT—ISTHMUS OF DARIEN.

IN a new country the slightest novelties, in themselves trifling, arrest the attention: while here sitting at breakfast in the depth of winter, with all the windows and doors open, we were much amused by watching the confidence with which the swallows flew in and out, picking the flies and insects from off the cloth ceiling of our room. One great nuisance we experienced at a particular station was, the ceaseless song—song did we say?—noise of the birds; at night of the curlew, and during the day of the bird called

the "Gipsy Boy," because his note sounds something like these words. The woods resound with these echoes, as also with the note of the cockatoos, which are a great plague to the settler, particularly the small farmer, from their destructiveness and boldness. Picture to yourself a white tablecloth thrown over a newly-planted field of wheat, and you see it as it appears with a flock of these devourers upon it. We eat some of them cooked in a pie, palatable enough, though certainly not adapted to suit the taste of gentlemen to whom an ortolan is no delicacy.

A breakfast, reader, in the bush, is a very different affair to the one perhaps you are now sitting down to, in a good stately mansion in the country.

We know no pleasanter meal than the breakfast-table in a large house, where there is a large party. Each coming down at the proper hour, since we are old-fashioned enough to like punctuality, and early rising; refreshed after repose, except where Cupid has disturbed some smitten heart by anxious hope. To see the blooming beauty of eigh-

teen, with all the freshness of youth, bearing on her brow the impress of high birth, and the still nobler impress of purity, intellect, knowledge of the world in which she moves, chastened by religious faith and the sense of her own moral dignity ; built up by the care and guidance of the best instructors, newly risen from her morning sacrifice, with the halo of prayer still beaming on the serene countenance, is a sight most agreeable, and affords a delight which is indescribable. More so when she salutes her silver-headed parent, of whose heart she is the joy and pride. Surely her destiny must be happy ! to love and be loved ; formed "for softness she and sweet attractive grace." Who can tell her destiny ?

But a big house is a big world. Is it not, we ask ?

The next comer in, although very gentlemanly in manners, and quite correct in dress, with an "air distingué," may be a very great rogue, but, of course, in a stylish way ; on the race-course, at the hazard and card-table, or in initiating at billiards some

young heir who has come into a good estate. A heartless gambler, a destroyer of virtue, in fact, a rouè of the first class, correct in all the forms of polite society, but a lazar-house of moral putrescence within, the evidence of the conclusion borne on the exterior, for vice *does* leave its tracings :—

“Heu ! quàm difficile est crimen non prodere vultu.”

Ovid.

In the bush we have met the same subjects to reflect upon ; though “ the study of mankind is man,” we have rougher materials from which to learn our lesson. There is not so well an assorted collection of viands on a side-table, or well-polished silver urns and mugs, &c., steaming with the berry of Arabia, and the leaf of China. No post arrival with letters, papers, and serials ; yet withal there is an abundance of good, plain, wholesome food, such as the settler has a right good appetite for after a thirty-mile ride before breakfast. The host does not ask his guest whether he will drive in the park, or ride into the post town, or go into the library, or the drawing-room, or take a turn with

the gamekeepers in strictly-preserved woods, or a run with the hounds. Although it would have puzzled Lord Byron to have found all these amusements for his hero here, as he did at Lord Henry's, still there was no ennui. If you are fond of shooting, there is before you any quantity of ground you like; no man-traps or spring-guns; plenty of game—quails, snipes, ducks, spurwinged plovers, wild turkeys, geese, kangaroos, and emus—go and shoot them, if you can, that is to say. Do you feel disposed to take a ride on horseback, not lazily in a park, with a flunky in silver and gold behind you, only say the word, and the stud-groom is sent into the bush, and brings in from fifty to a hundred first-rate cattle (tits); choose any one you like, they are all good, can go the pace and distance, such distances as will astonish you, though grass fed, and no corn in them, and without any gallop, save for their pleasure in the bush; but mind do not choose a "bucker."* Now ride with the host to a

* A "bucker" is a vicious horse, to be found only in Australia. His peculiarity consists in curling his

sheep station, and spin a yarn with him about sheep-farming ; he does not care a pin for county influences and borough interests, whether my Lord Doodle is in or out, or whether Squire Poodle's son, who is at Oxford, will turn out the Hon. Colonel Whiskerandos of the Blues, at the next dissolution. He neither troubles himself about the Russian ukases, nor the decrees of the Emperor of the French ; the chicaneries and secrets of diplomacy do not interest or excite his curiosity. He is more concerned about the price of wool, and that proper attention is paid by his servants to the golden fleece. If you prefer hard riding, take a gallop with a stock-keeper ; but mind you do not break your neck over logs in the long grass, or in tearing away at full speed after cattle, down a gully or ridge. You can always tell a stock-keeper by his long whip, made of green hide, with a stout handle of about two feet, to which is attached a thong of some eight to ten feet more plaited together ; he is in shirt back upwards, till he wriggles saddle, girth, and rider over his head.

sleeves, with trowsers banded up by a belt, a cabbage-tree hat, with a ribbon under his chin to keep it on. His well-trained horse will thread his way after cattle between trees without injury to his master; crack goes his whip, resounding through the hills and woods like the report of a gun; terrible too is the punishment he can inflict with that "knout;" he can draw blood at every blow if he pleases, or cut a pewter-pot into two pieces. In the chase after the bullocks, the horse is said to take as much pleasure in the excitement as the rider himself.

The writer was repeatedly asked by a young midddy, Mr. Walter Davidson, who was rusticating in the bush, whether a Melton man would venture to ride down the declivities he pointed out at the pace stock-men did. We were very sorry, but we could not satisfy his inquiring mind; all we could say was, that Melton men did do desperate things without breaking their necks, and, perhaps, they might manage this feat. It was very clear that our young friend could run up the rattlings of a man-of-war with

greater safety than he could break in a "bucker," judging by the limp he got for his temerity. He was a gentlemanly, amusing youngster, full of frolic and fun, but no horseman.

Now with all these resources in the bush, and with books, if you prefer remaining in the house, at your command, few in number and well selected, the time does not pass wearily away, particularly at the busy season of lambing and shearing. There is a freedom, an independence in these new lands which is not describable; wander where you will, gallop where you please, rest where you like, you will not be "prosecuted as trespassers with the utmost rigour of the law." In the absence of this terrible threat, which is enough of itself to set your hair on end, you feel a degree of liberty not experienced elsewhere. Your position is far preferable to that of Mr. Gordon Cumming amid lions, and pirouetting with hippopotami in the wilds of Africa; though you might meet with an enemy in the "human shape divine," embodied in a black fellow, less generous than

the tribe which the Hon. C. Murray wandered with in America buffalo-shooting, who only menaced him to test his personal courage.

Should you prefer a ramble, as the writer did on one occasion, in the plains or woods, you may meet with such an adventure as he encountered. Roaming and ruminating about this strange world of ours, we suddenly came upon one of the aborigines, squatted amidst some very long rushy grass, armed "cap-à-pie," slicing a pumpkin with his tomahawk, stark naked, his tattooed face begrimed and smeared with charcoal and paint. Having nothing with us but a Moreton-Bay cane, and not knowing in what mood this sable lord of creation might be, we confess we felt ill at ease. We however addressed him as best we could. He seemed to perceive that we were strangers in the place. He laid down his arms, and walked a few paces with us, asked of course for tobacco, of which we had not any to give him, as we informed him in his jargon. "Bale (no) baccy; white fellow give him black fellow." He wished to

know, pointing to a hut, whether my wife and children lived there. "You white fellow—Mary—piccaninie—sit down humpy," pointing to the building. We gave him to understand we were blessed with neither a Mary nor piccaninie. "Where you 'nangerie?'" i. e., where do you live? was his next interrogatory. We satisfied his curiosity, and bade him good morning, not sorry to have this sudden and unexpected interview over. Of course our apprehensions were laughed at by our friends at the station.

We remember at the time of the Great Exhibition, the special correspondent of the "Temps" wrote to Paris that "la noblesse" of England might be seen in the parks riding thorough-bred horses, fatigued with "ennui," and surfeited with self-indulgence and excitement. In fact, so "usée" were they, that the tone of society was such as to represent to his imagination the most profligate period of the Roman empire; that now they required men to fight with wild beasts, and which scenes they crowded to look at—alluding to the exhibition of Carter,

the lion-tamer ; and he did not think the day far distant when gladiatorial contests, as of old, would take place for their amusement. He contrasted their splendid luxury with the squalid misery and wretchedness he saw around him in all parts of the metropolis. To save us from gladiatorial exhibitions, send the blasé to the bush ; there, will be novelty, freshness, and wholesome excitement, in lieu of the arena stained with human gore ; send his poor starving fellow-creature there also, where he will find food in abundance. Each will be benefited by transportation. There will be occupation for the leisure of the one, and food for the hunger of the other.

Our host mounted me on one of his quiet nags, and we rode over ridges for some ten miles from home, to see if we could meet with a kangaroo, which we were not fortunate enough to do on that occasion. We had, however, a fine and extensive view from the summit of the country around us. We met some of his sheep grazing homeward, sundown coming on fast. This led our conver-

sation to the all-absorbing pursuit of New South Wales. He informed us that many owners had to blame themselves for losing their labourers ; they disgusted them by their bad management, bad tempers, and sometimes bad faith, speaking rudely and coarsely to them, and attributing to their negligence the loss of sheep, in order that they might be mulcted of their due ; in fact, to bring them in debtors at the end of the year, and so defraud them of their wages. Of the language in Australia among the labouring classes, the reader can form no conception ; the colony in this respect has gained a most disgraceful and unenviable notoriety. Such swearing, cursing, and obscenity were never equalled by anything which you may have accidentally heard—surpassed would be impossible. The custom is so habitual, that we believe many are unconscious of its use. This disgraceful and profane habit seems to have descended from the early convicts. One of our emigrants, a plain, steady countryman, said he was quite shocked at it ; but for this he would have liked the country and the bush

well enough, as he had good wages and plenty to eat, and a good hut to lie in. Our host, who was a Christian in principles and feelings, and as we casually heard long after was much esteemed and highly spoken of by his men, said that the squatters could afford to pay the wages then current among our people; viz., from twenty-five to thirty pounds a-year, and still have a good margin for profits. After remaining three or four days, we started for another station, and in the course of our march called at one where we met with some more of our friends who had come out with us, gradually dispersing and settling themselves in different localities.

Some writer on Australia advises every emigrant to marry before he starts for the colony, or as soon after he is in it as he can; that is, if he is fortunate enough to get any one to listen to his suit, as without a spouse he is as useless as the fifth wheel of a coach. Young married couples are the best description of emigrants to send to New South Wales. The truth of this remark does not apply only to the case of the industrial

classes ; we extend it to that of the squatters and settlers ; marry if you want to be happy and to grow rich, and marry before you come out ; surely among Albion's fair daughters, distinguished for beauty and virtue, you can find one who will take compassion on your misery and solitude. We repeat our advice, marry, not only that you may be comfortable, but that you may be rich, if that is your " summum bonum." Solomon says, " The glory of a king is in the multitude of his people." The riches of a settler are in the number of his children, and they are no hindrance to the aristocratic squatter, as there are no taxes, no tithes, no water-rates, light-rates, road-rates, nor any of the similar ills attendant on residence in the old country. Another good effect is, it will keep him at home, and out of the dissipation and expense of Sydney. Instead of " sweating his wool," into empty pockets, and a doctor's bill to pay when he has converted it into currency, he will have a good balance at his banker's, and be out of the power of the merchant from whom he gets his stores,

the vampire of embarrassed sheep-owners. We hope the 500,000 spinsters who exceed the bachelors, by the last census, to that amount, will take up arms and defend us against merciless critics, for wishing them happily and well married, in a beautiful and salubrious climate, where there is abundance, and where they may roam without the feeling so forcibly conveyed by the French word "gêne." But perhaps you exclaim, fair reader, "Oh! the voyage—four months at sea—I never could undertake it." We reply, the voyage is long, certainly, but not of necessity tedious; you are not compelled to be dull at sea; there is always something to attract attention, and with a few well-selected books, the time passes agreeably enough. But the dangers? Not greater than going to Birmingham or Exeter by an express train. Take the map of the world and place it before you. London to Australia 14,000 miles, viâ the Cape of Good Hope; average passage, from 90 to 120 days; but that will not long continue the route. The one which has been warmly advocated

by my friend Colonel Lloyd of the Mauritius will soon be in general use, namely, by the Isthmus of Darien ; 3,000 miles to Chagres ; from thence to Sydney, 7,800 ; a canal cut across of only 25 miles will unite the Atlantic Ocean and the South Pacific, and Humboldt the traveller and philosopher says the levels will admit of this being accomplished ; and then the voyage will not exceed 60 days, without changing the ship, steaming right through from one hemisphere into the other, joined by the ingenuity and art of man. So we hope the difficulty of the passage will not stand in the way of your making Australia your home.

CHAPTER XII.

CUNNINGHAM'S GAP—MAIN RANGE—THE DOWNS—MOSS IN AUSTRALIA—THE WOOD VINES—A HALT ON THE BLUE MOUNTAINS — THE ADMIRAL — MY IMMIGRANTS — THE STATION—THE WANT OF A WIFE—WANT OF COMFORT—
 A STATION WITH A WIFE—AN EXQUISITE—THACKERAY —SERPENTS—COLONIAL WINE—MARSHALL'S STATION— PLOVER—QUAIL—SNIPE—AN OXFORD MAN.

WE crossed the main range by Cunningham's Gap, first passed by a gentleman of that name, from whence burst upon him that beautiful and extensive country, the Darling Downs, twelve hundred feet above the level of the sea. In ascending it we were obliged to get off our horses, and drive them before us for three miles, the mountain being so steep. The day being warm, we found it hard work; but the magnificent view we enjoyed amply repaid us for our

trouble and toil. Lofty cedars, gum-trees, and iron bark, clothed the sides of the mountains around us, and skirted the ravines along which the torrents of rain find their way into creeks and gulleys which occasionally fall here during thunder-storms, laden with the glittering detritus deposited in the beds of creeks and their bars, or in alluvial plains, for lucky diggers to disentomb. Many of the trees are laden with parasitical plants; the stag-headed fern may be seen in great abundance, and various mosses, which by some writers were said not to grow in the colony. This is a mistake, as the curator of the Botanical Gardens assured us. The club moss is found in Australia, which is the connecting link between plants which are cellular and vascular, the lichens, algæ, &c., not being so. The woodbines are almost trees themselves, which creep round the sturdy monarchs of the forest, and by means of these a black fellow will run up after an opossum with the agility of a monkey. We rested at the summit of a waterfall, which arched over

the rocks to several hundred feet below. Here we refreshed ourselves with some cold beef, damper, and water from the rill in a tin pot. With first-rate appetites, we enjoyed it as old Carthusians and Etonians could do (for such we were), as much and more than we should have done the finest spread in Belgravia. While my friend was smoking his pipe, I occupied myself in cutting out my name on the bark of a gum-tree—let me be pardoned for the folly. But what public schoolboy has not learned to use his knife? Even the grave Sir Robert Peel, who hardly ever ventured upon anything without consulting Hansard, and who could not be accused of being a trifler, inscribed his name at Harrow on the desk, which may be seen to this day, and we believe Byron's also. An amusing brochure, written by "Cantab," and entitled "Across the Atlantic," states that while ruminating, with folded arms, like Napoleon and other great men, he saw that others of his countrymen had cogitated on the same spot, Mount Vernon, celebrated as the residence of Washington ;—as he per-

ceived by the inscription on the seat, that Potts of London had visited it in 1836, and Wilkinson of Manchester as late even as 1843. If the spirit of wandering leads the Cantab to go as far as Australia, he will find recorded on this portion of the main range the interesting fact that it was visited in 1852 by the writer, immortalized on a blue gum-tree. After catching our horses, and having accomplished this laborious idleness, we proceeded on our journey, without accident by flood or field, or any incident worthy of recording, unless it was that our groom nearly fell off the Admiral, who certainly was entitled to his rank if age and long service are the chief recommendations for high promotion. We stopped at a public-house to give the horses a feed of Indian corn. We remained an hour at this hotel on the downs, where we found the landlady in a state which Burns calls "unco fou," and the mistress of a really comfortable hostelry. Her husband was out in the bush, looking after cattle. We were served to some excellent roast sirloin of beef and boiled

eggs by two of our emigrants, who were located here, and, being a sober, steady, married couple, did not at all like (as they told me) the master they had hired themselves to.

We were not sorry to find ourselves at sun-down at the station we were making for, and just in time to sit down to a very substantial and capital dinner, but very roughly served. Our drinking-vessels were broken coffee-cups. This was the rudest-constructed squatter's residence we had yet seen. It was a slab hut, roofed with sheets of bark, and consisted of apartments, with a recess for the fire-place. Our host, a very gentlemanly young man, apparently in an incipient consumption, had papered its walls, partly for ornament and partly for shelter, with pictures from "Punch," "The Illustrated London News," and prints from sporting magazines, and every outré thing he could get hold of; so that, while stretched upon a cane sofa, with a blanket over us, and a lexicon for a pillow, we could peruse, by the morning sun, "Mrs. Caudle's Curtain Lectures," pasted against the walls, or get some hints from

“Punch’s Letters to his Son,” with the advantage of a fine current of air permeating the gaping chinks of the slabs. Above our heads was the nucleus of a very well-selected library. Our host had been educated principally in Germany, and although an extremely pleasant, gentlemanly fellow, was certainly in his own way a great oddity. His room was hung round with guns, foils, singlesticks, boxing-gloves, bugles, spears, boomerangs, dillies, nets, meerschaum pipes, and every nondescript article you could think of, and the use of many of which you would never divine, however fertile your brain might be. The cook’s and attendants’ hut was at some distance from ours; he summoned them by the most shrill and piercing dog-whistle we ever heard, and each time he required the Chinaman, we thought the drum of our ears would have been cracked by this steam-engine whistle. It certainly could not have been one of the mellow-toned silver whistles used in the time of Queen Bess, and handed down as a family heirloom.

We were pressed to remain there the day, and start next morning ; but the smoke was blown into the room in such clouds, that we were fairly smothered out of the place, and thought it advisable to proceed. When we bade adieu to our friend, who was giving directions to some men digging trenches for planting vines, in a shawl dressing-gown, with scarlet-morocco slippers on his feet, he seemed rather annoyed at our departure.

Why was he so odd and untidy, so comfortless and careless? Not because he had not the means of being otherwise, for he possessed a fine run of goodly flock, but simply because he had *no wife*. We hope Mr. W—— will change his state before we visit him again. On our journey we lunched at a house, the very opposite of this in comfort, neatness, and really, we might say, in elegance. A neat verandah ran round the building, interlaced with creepers, the passion-flower and jessamine, with a very pretty terraced garden. Within, the apartments had the air of well-furnished English drawing-rooms, and we were waited upon by a

page in green broadcloth, variegated with buttons. This abode belonged to one of the earliest settlers on the downs; his wife, whom we discovered in course of conversation to be a native, (born in Australia,) was a lady-like person, pretty, lively, and accomplished, and doubtless to her taste he was indebted for so much comfort and elegance. It was quite a cottage ornée. She had never been out of her own country. While discussing the relative merits of England and Australia, we pleaded in favour of the former, that if there were fogs and a gloomy climate, we had no apprehension of being stung by venomous serpents. She admitted that this was a great drawback; but that, lest the creepers should harbour any, and an accident occur, she was always prepared with antidotes, as she had a great terror of being bitten. Although we think Australia a splendid country, we had too much of the "amor patriæ" to concede everything to it. A gentleman, who was standing, as English gentlemen usually do, before the fire, to the exclusion of every one else wishing to enjoy

it, with his hands behind the flaps of his coat, quite "à son aise," said England was only fit to live in, if a man had ten thousand pounds a year. This made a person of our humble origin and moderate notions look at him again. What a curiosity to pick up a man, who could not live at home upon less than the income of the next Bishop of London, vegetating in the bush of Australia! We ventured to suggest that many members of clubs managed to live upon half-pay, pretty comfortably, although of course very economically. And added, that we thought Major Pendennis, as described by our old school-fellow Thackeray, contrived to get on well enough, without Tittlebat Titmouse's Whaddo estate, wearing his gold eye-glasses, through which he read with rage and horror the passionate declaration of his nephew's love for the actress.

Our new acquaintance certainly had a "poco curante" manner, and an air of "non-chalance" about him, which made us curious to learn something of his history.

It appeared that this Australian Brummel

was a gentleman by birth, and had been one of those numberless hangers-on about town, who can only spend money and lose it, but without energy or industry to earn any for themselves; one of the “³nati ²consumere fruges.” — He is now the acting super-intendant of the adjoining station, and can there at leisure devise plans for spending ten thousand pounds per annum, i. e. if he ever gets such an income, of which there is as much probability as of old-fashioned Toryism and defunct Protection coming to life again.

It must not be supposed that serpents are so abundant as to render residence in the colony dangerous. At certain seasons of the year they emerge from their winter hiding-places, and occasionally you may hear that some one has been bitten, in gathering fire-wood, and breaking up the decayed branches, in which they nestle. There are three sorts — the carpet snake, black snake, and deaf adder, which last is as poisonous as the cobra de capella: coldness and rigidity of muscular action supervening immediately,

now is it when the patient is no
bitter, though attacked?
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the patient expires in half an hour after being attacked. An ipecacuanha poultice is the best remedy to apply. ^(L. wharf?) The largest serpent of this kind will gorge an opossum the size of an ordinary cat.

After having tasted at this squatter's, for the first time, the colonial wine, made at Camden, on Mr. M'Arthur's estate, which we found palatable enough, very like the light-coloured Rhenish wines, we proceeded on our way, and arrived tired and chafed after a long ride at Mr. M.'s, where we remained during the greater portion of three days. The downs before us, reminded us of Newmarket Heath, with spurs on each side thrown out from the main range; a flat open country, as far as the eye could see. Mr. M. possesses a very valuable station, and in the course of a few years, with small capital and untiring perseverance, has accumulated nearly a lac of rupees. There was plenty of game here, quails, plovers, ducks, and large full snipe, some of which we tasted for dinner. Owing perhaps to the mode of cooking, the game is hard and dry. The next station we

were to make, was one in which my friend and companion had an interest, called Eaton Vale, where his co-partner Mr. Arthur Hodgson resided. On our way thither, we picked up a letter addressed to a squatter, a little off our road, but which we determined to deliver, in case it might contain matter of importance; it is no uncommon occurrence to pick up epistles which have been dropped days before, in tracts which are not often disturbed by travellers. We met here an Oxford man, who had taken a good degree at the University, but was now acting as a superintendent and engaged in sheep-washing: he had gone wrong, it was reported, through disappointment in love; and although one who had drawn deeply from the altar of the blue-eyed goddess of wisdom, had sought refuge at the shrine of Bacchus. What a state for a man of cultivated and classical mind to be reduced to! My friend told me, in colonial parlance, he was a dreadful "lushington;" a term commonly applied to a person who is addicted to drink. Nevertheless he appeared to be an accomplished

person, and an agreeable companion. But of such examples there are numbers in the bush, a condition brought on by their own heedlessness and folly; "their sin has found them out." We could not help feeling pity for this victim of a hopeless passion: how different, perhaps distinguished and happy, might have been his career, had he summoned fortitude to combat against defeat, or been fortunate in his projects! We regarded him with very different sentiments to those excited by the "quondam" man of fashion, whom we could only laugh at and despise.

CHAPTER XIII.

EATON VALE — ARTHUR HODGSON — BUSH TURKEY — THE BEST WAY TO GET A SHOT—LEICHARDT—A COMFORTABLE STATION—CORN STALKS—THE NATIONAL ANTHEM—AN ABORIGINAL BELLE—A MEXICAN—A BUCKER—OUR RETURN —SAWYER'S—A LED HORSE—A DILEMMA—A SHORT CUT THE LONGEST WAY—A BULLOCK DRAY—CARRION CROWS —STRYCHNIA—FROGS—THE RANÆ—SHEEP-SHEARING—HOSPITALITY—SCOTCH EMIGRANT—TROUBLESOME SERVANT—RETURN TO BRISBANE—PRICE OF LAND—SEPARATION OF MORETON BAY FROM SYDNEY—REASONS WHY DESIRABLE.

WE arrived at length at Mr. Arthur Hodgson's, of Eaton Vale, a retired naval officer, who has here an extensive station and many thousands of sheep and cattle; he has fenced in many miles in a fine large paddock. The fencing is made of iron bark, split; the post and rail are awkward things to get over, as there is every probability of getting pierced by a long splinter. The proprietor, who was an old Etonian, takes an active part in politics, and on that account we

had not the pleasure of seeing him, he being at a meeting held at Brisbane to petition for the separation of Moreton Bay from Sydney. The Herald,* in a leader on the pro-convict party says, "On this question Mr. Arthur Hodgson is a host in himself, and will exert more influence with Her Majesty's advisers than the league and the four legislatures put together." This gentleman advocated exile-labour, because none other could be obtained; but now that the Commissioners are sending emigrants to Moreton Bay, he has withdrawn his support from the party which desires the introduction of criminals: this he avowed at a meeting held in September, at Brisbane. But while some differ on the convict question, all agree on the separation of their district from New South Wales.

While here we saw numbers of wild turkeys standing above the grass of the plains, stretching out their long necks. As soon as they suspected us of trying to approach, away they stalked, walking at a

* June 5th, 1852, "North Brisbane Petition."

smart pace. We saw several of the commissioners belonging to a surveying party trying to shoot some, but without success. If you walk directly towards them they rise immediately. The best way (as we heard) is to ride round them, diminishing the radius of your circle until you approach near enough to make sure of your game. This plan was more successful formerly than now, as having been so much shot at they are very shy. We were told that they are excellent eating, and weigh from eighteen to twenty-five pounds. Another mode sometimes adopted is to drive a flock of sheep towards them, which they will allow to approach pretty near, at any rate nigh enough for a good marksman. Mr. Watt, an overseer at Eaton Vale, has been very successful, bringing home occasionally three and four of a morning, by watching at a water-hole in the creek, where they come down in troops to drink.

Beyond this station there are not above one or two more on the downs before you get into country uninhabited by white people. It was along this route that Leichardt

the German traveller intended to penetrate as far as Swan River; but he and his companions have perished in the attempt—slain by the blacks, as ascertained by Mr. Healy and party, appointed by government to make inquiries concerning their fate.

This was one of the comfortable stations, where we were kindly and hospitably entertained by Mrs. Hodgson in the absence of her husband. She was a daughter of Chief Justice Dowling, and a native. The children born in Australia are, from their lanky appearance and extreme leanness, called “corn stalks;” they have the appearance of poplars, shorn of their branches. Had we drawn our conclusions from the specimen which presented itself in one of Mr. Hodgson’s children, they would have been the very opposite to the “soubriquet” generally applied, for a fine little fellow he was, whose cheeks would have done credit to any county in England.

At these large stations there are generally hanging about some of the natives, who are looking out for “patter” (food); the

scraps which are left. They dislike work, but will, if hungry, fetch a little water or cut and break up firewood. We were much entertained here by a young woman who lay stretched before the fire, smoking, by the side of her mother, with two boys, her children, who attempted to sing, or rather hum in a low unmeaning moan; with very little of either harmony or time, as they have no poetry, or historical tradition of any kind. I sang for her the National Anthem with which she was much delighted, and asked my name,—“What you call?” I told her, and henceforth her boy is to bear it.

Mr. A. Hodgson had an overseer who was a Mexican, whom no “bucker” could unhorse. We heard of his prowess with these troublesome customers, and saw an inveterate specimen in a beautiful grey mare. It was impossible to throw this man; he has kept his seat till the saddle was wriggled over the animal’s head. These brutes have a way of their own of curving the back with their head between their legs, and working away till they throw the rider some feet into

the air, or twist the saddle off entirely, incredible as this may appear to persons who have no experience in horse-flesh. It is not an easy matter to get a horse altogether free from vice in Sydney; they are often only half handled and half-broken in, then turned into the bush, and allowed to run wild for twelve months or two years, and, when caught again, are as unmanageable as if a saddle had never been on their backs.

Our friend left us here to find our way, as best we could, with the young groom for a guide, he having to return with great haste to meet a person from whom he was about to purchase a station. On his journey he was overtaken by one of those awful thunder-storms, which no one can imagine, except travellers who have witnessed them in Australia. On the following day we started to return to Brisbane, by a route over the main range or Corderillas, different to the one by which we came. Accompanied by Mr. W. D——, who was to put us in the right direction, we arrived at a sawyer's hut, where three men were regaling themselves with tea

and damper, and as a great additional treat a few scallions. These men had from two to three hundred pounds in the bank. One of the party, a native, had been home to see London and to be present at the Great Exhibition; the trip, he said, had cost him a hundred pounds, which, however, he did not at all grudge. We sat down and partook of the fare which they offered us, rough enough, but with that hearty welcome, which, in this selfish world, makes anything agreeable.

Here the elder brother of my friend had left his led horse, which he could take no further, under the charge of his party; so "Abelard" was soon found and consigned to our care—a pretty roan, and a fast-goer. At the top of the range our friend took leave of us, with directions to keep the dray-track, and we could not possibly miss our way; and with now and then some misapprehensions, we found it tolerably well, except that our Lilliputian attendant and his horse got bogged, and extricated themselves with considerable difficulty. But the old "Admiral" having a light burden on his back blundered

himself out of it; if he had not, we know not by what process we should have got the boy again upon "terra firma." Afterwards this precocious youth persuaded us to try a short cut over some sand ridges, which glistened with crystals of salt as bright as gold, but in reality not the popular talisman; the effect was beautiful, though the cause was not the all-pervading one which now engrosses the attention of everybody in New South Wales.

We met several bullock-drays, which had been on the road upwards of three weeks, with from eight to ten oxen in a team, managed as much by the voice as the whip. There was at one station, which we did not visit, an old sailor, who addressed his draught cattle in nautical terms—luff—port—larboard—starboard, &c., and the consequence was that no one could guide them but himself, and we were told he made an excellent driver. How drays hold together on the roads they are taken through is to us most surprising. Such pitches, and hills! Nay, we should not exaggerate if we said

these heavily-laden carts, carrying stores up to the settlers, and bringing back wool, go up and down ravines. It is no uncommon thing in the colony to see a dead bullock by the side of the road, surrounded by carrion-crows and wild native dogs. The former are very troublesome in snatching up young poultry about a station, and the best way to get rid of them is to place upon trees pieces of meat poisoned with strychnia, and before they fly any distance down, you may see them tumble, as if shot by some noiseless gun. Notwithstanding these depredations, we must regard them as useful scavengers, in devouring the putrid carcasses which would otherwise infect the air with mephitic odours, enough to puzzle the hygeian talents of Dr. Southwood Smith and Mr. Chadwick. Even the troublesome mosquito has a use, as naturalists inform us; by living in swampy grounds they purify the noxious gases there generated, when nothing else could, save the croaking frogs, of which there seem to be a countless multitude in the colony, with certainly harsher

notes than in the days of Aristophanes. We seldom hear their accents without the thought recurring that by the chorus of frogs in the "Ranæ" of the Grecian dramatist, the right pronunciation of the dead language has been determined, unless animals, as well as men, change their natural notes in course of time. We are disposed to think frogs in these days are the same "croakers" they were formerly.

In Australia, where the great drawback is the want of water, the weary traveller is glad after many miles of riding or walking, to welcome the sound of the frogs' discordant cry, indicating as it does an approach towards the coveted liquid. The party which was sent in search of Leichardt, had to drink the blood of the horses. Have you ever, reader, endured the agony of thirst? It is far greater than the pangs of hunger.

At sun-down we made a station belonging to a settler of the name of Turner, who by industry and perseverance from being a poor emigrant had become a tolerably substantial proprietor. By him we were made welcome

for the night, and found him suffering from a relaxed sore throat; and a friend, also an invalid, who had injured himself by driving tandem with a restive leader. The distance from medical advice is a great qualifier to the pleasures of a bush-life, since it is not every one who is as distinguished a sciolist as my Lord Brougham. What a pity it is that, amid the many vagaries which seize upon his lordship, that of paying a visit to the bush has not been one of his eccentricities. At this place all were busy shearing. "Clip close, my boys, clip close," was the cry to the shearers. One ounce of wool left on each sheep, when perhaps fifteen or twenty thousand are shorn, forms in the aggregate a serious amount; here any one who thinks lightly of fractional parts will soon learn their value. And clip close some did, to the mutilation of the poor creature, large pieces of the skin being taken off by the shears. A small bucket of tar is placed in the middle of the wool-shed, with a brush in it. When a sheep has been wounded, it is dressed over with this tar mixture and

turned adrift. An expert man will shear from four to five score, and even six in a day, for which they were then receiving three shillings per score, with one shilling for diet. The sheep is placed with its head between the knees, and the operation of denuding it of its coat to make a jacket for us is commenced at the head; a boy, or boys, pick up the wool, fold it, and hand it in to a man, who packs it ready for pressing into bales. A sheep yields from two and a half to three, or three and a half pounds of wool, which may be taken at an average value of one shilling and threepence, depending, of course, upon the quality and the state of cleanliness in which it may be presented to the market. Sheep-washers were getting five shillings a-day, and three glasses of grog. This is very hard work; immersed all day up to and above the waist in water, washing the dirt from the sheep previous to shearing. The wool pressed in the bush is pushed into the bale by a clumsy and primitive contrivance of a screw-press; in Sydney by the more powerful and scientific means of

hydraulic pressure. To give the reader some idea of the hospitality of the bush, three more unexpected visitors arrived to rest for the night, and were made heartily welcome. Our couch was in the store, amid saddles, bridles, rum casks, hides, tea, sugar, and general stock for the use of the station; and from which the shepherds and stockmen are supplied with clothing and everything else they may require.

Before sun-down the next day we made another home at a supervisor's; a gentleman who had once had a large flock in the Melbourne district, but had, during the great depression of trade, become unfortunate. A "Super," as he is termed, gets from a hundred to a hundred and fifty pounds per annum, with house and rations, and the use of a nice garden, the constant appendage of every squatter's station: horticulture he is allowed to practise, but not agriculture on licensed runs. He was a very pleasant, cheerful little body, and; we were informed, a first-rate jockey, and bore his adverse fortunes with fortitude and good temper: he had

married (paradoxical as it may appear to ladies in the "beau monde," who look for settlements and an establishment), in order that he might become rich. We remained here until Monday morning, and our little groom, who certainly was a very smart lad, but who always contrived to be at mischief, when out of sight, had gone off at day-break, of course on horseback, together with a native black, for a gallop, under the excuse of looking for some horses in the bush, without any orders to that effect. Of course he had not spared his horse, as either were never satisfied, except when at score. We were too slow for him. He liked to go the pace. He had, in fact, gone off to escape his catechism and the collect, which since making our acquaintance he had been rather reluctantly compelled to say.

We were sorry here to see one of our Scotch emigrants going out with his gun on the Sabbath, ^{so} readily does the ^{natural} man fall into ~~evil~~ habits. His eldest boy, whom we instructed in some of the first propositions of Euclid, was acting as a

shepherd, an occupation he told me he very much disliked, and hoped as soon as possible to give up. He had charge of three valuable rams, which had been lately imported, having cost upwards of forty pounds a-piece. The calling is doubtless very monotonous, and they who follow it for any length of time become too indolent and listless to attend to any other employment which requires active and continuous application.

At this station we were quite abashed at observing one of the aborigines walking about in all directions and at all seasons, in the presence of everybody in pure buff; but no notice being taken of it, we soon became like the rest, accustomed to the novelty.

We started again with our troublesome little companion, who, in spite of remonstrance and command, would chatter and talk to us when our thoughts were busy with the surrounding objects. He was a clever boy, but a great plague; he had got from some shepherd or crony, a horrible imitation of a musical instrument, producing a sound something between a jew's-harp and

a comb and piece of paper, which he kept incessantly playing for sixty miles, when not allowed to talk. For the sake of variety we encouraged him in his harmonious propensity. We passed through a dense scrub or jungle, rendered almost impervious by tea-tree and brushwood of different kinds, with our horses up to their hocks in mire. "Here," says our groom, "a dray has been," and sure enough it had; "and here are some native cherries." On all sides of us we heard the endless dissonance of birds. On emerging from this pass, we met, in the afternoon, some drays camped for the night; and having had nothing since the morning, we took a snack with them. Their bullocks were hobbled; tea and meat on the fire; opossum rugs and blankets under the dray, or upon it, formed their only bed, and this perhaps for weeks and weeks together, always ending with a smoke of the pipe. We generally met with the drays one or two blacks, and in some cases, women with the drivers; it may be hoped, their wives, for we are sorry to say

there is no morality to spare among them. We travelled a long way without coming to water, which our horses sadly required. After a tedious, wearisome, but interesting ride, at midnight we arrived at Ipswich and returned to Brisbane by the steamer, where we had not time to deliver another lecture upon our impressions; and if we had, the attendance would have been very scanty, as the whole town was to let, the men having gone off to the Bingera diggings.

The country we travelled is divided into settled, intermediate, and unsettled districts. In the unsettled parts, the squatters are the pioneers of civilization, renting large blocks of land, or as they are called in Mexico, "ranches," upon which they depasture sheep, horses, and cattle. The wealth of an individual, as in the patriarchal ages, is measured by the number of sheep or cattle he possesses, and is so expressed.

The price of land (one pound per acre) is preposterously high in Australia, and, in many instances, impracticably so. Centralization was the favourite theory of Mr. G.

Wakefield, and has proved, as some others he has attempted to carry into practice, a failure. In lieu of consolidating colonization, it has had a diametrically opposite effect. This plan scattered and dispersed sheep proprietors : they sought out and took undisturbed possession of immense tracts in a large country, so that it became policy to recognise the tenure by granting leases, upon something like a quit-rent, of those lands which the Government had not the power of recovering. Whether it has introduced this tenure as one which will become permanent, we know not. But it is very evident to any one, that, for very many years to come, it will be quite impossible for squatters to purchase the fee-simple of runs at the present upset price. If the purchaser obtains the frontage of water, all the land behind him may be said to be his, for no one will settle where he has no access to water.

One reason why the inhabitants of Moreton Bay wish to be separated from Sydney is, the delay and inconvenience arising to them

from the surveying of land. Suppose an immigrant of small capital is desirous of an allotment,—it has to be surveyed, sent for approval to Sydney, and, by the time the purchase can be legally and formally completed, the purchaser has consumed his capital and lost his time in waiting for preliminary arrangements. It was the most fatal policy ever adopted. The high price of land, instead of producing funds to support emigration from home, checked the stream, by lessening the number of purchasers. Who would go further to pay more? Land could be bought, and better for agricultural purposes, in America, and Canada, and the Cape; but at the antipodes, the immigrant is made to pay four and even eight times as much per acre, as if he located himself nearer England.

Separation was also desirable on account of the delay in the administration of justice.

CHAPTER XIV.

SYDNEY—THE HEADS—BOTANY BAY—PORT JACKSON—
 CIRCULAR QUAY—FIRST FLEETERS—STATISTICS OF FIRST
 FLEETERS—SOULS—STOCK—EXTINCTION OF SYDNEY
 TRIBE—COL. COLLINS' ACCOUNT—DR. LANG'S—PITT-
 STREET AND GEORGE-STREET—THE SHOPS—GOLD SALES
 —QUANTITY IN SHOP WINDOWS—BILL NASH, THE
 EMANCIPIST—THE ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM—HIS AFFRONT
 UPON OUR MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN—GOVERNMENT
 HOUSE—HIS EXCELLENCY'S COUNTRY HOUSE—THE FATAL
 ACCIDENT TO LADY MARY—SYMPATHY EXPRESSED BY
 COLONISTS—HIS POPULARITY IN SYDNEY—HIS RUMOURED
 REMOVAL—THE TREASURY—THE GOLD ESCORT—SUB-
 SCRIPTIOIN LIBRARY—THE CLUB-HOUSE—CAFÉ DE
 PARIS—THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—THE WANT OF A
 HOUSE—THE FORMS OF THE HOUSE—THE GOVERNMENT
 BENCHES—QUALIFICATION AND FRANCHISE—THE OPPO-
 SITION—THE SPEAKERS—W. WENTWORTH—THE COLO-
 NIAL SECRETARY—STUART DONALDSON—BOB NICHOLLS—
 D'ARVILLE—THE SPEAKER—SOLICITOR - GENERAL—AN
 ENGLISH M.P.—THE RACE-COURSE ON HYDE PARK—ST.
 JAMES' CHURCH—THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL—
 COURTS OF LAW.

THE steamer called the "Eagle," which plies
 between Moreton Bay and Sydney, being
 under repair, we were necessitated to take a

passage in one of the coasting vessels. After ten days' sail we entered the Heads, at three o'clock, on a beautiful starlight morn. Either side of this magnificent port is ornamented with handsome houses, the residences of the government officials, professional and mercantile gentlemen. The harbour is second only to Rio de Janeiro. Some islands rise up here and there, but not so numerous as in the waters of Rio.

Port Jackson derives its name from a sailor who first discovered it when the original explorers landed at Botany Bay about six or seven miles distant.

The Circular Quay is the spot where the first fleet landed their convicts. Captain and Governor Phillip anchored off this place 19th January, 1788, in the "Sirius," accompanied by a tender, three store ships, and six transports, having found Botany Bay, the intended place of their destination, unsuitable for a settlement. The expedition numbered one thousand and thirty persons, seven hundred of whom were felons. The 26th of January is held as the anniversary of the

colony. Here was to be seen only the poor ignorant, unclad savage, wondering at his white brother, before whom he was to disappear. There are only three left of the Sydney tribe.

Compare the town now with the few hovels and huts which the first settlers raised upon its site, only sixty-five years ago, and you can scarcely credit its so recent growth.

It is amusing to read the history of the expedition, written by persons, contemporaneous with its formation ; one by Lieutenant O'Hara, and another by Colonel Collins, which, in the beginning of this century, were humorously reviewed by the witty canon of St. Paul's, Sydney Smith. It is also instructive as showing what changes a few years may bring about, for weal or woe.*

Dr. Lang, a Presbyterian clergyman, has published a very interesting historical account of New South Wales ; and one which may be depended upon, where his violent

* A.D. 1788.—2 bulls, 5 cows, 1 horse, 3 mares, 3 colts, 29 sheep, 19 goats, 74 pigs, 5 rabbits, 18 turkeys, 29 geese, 35 ducks, 210 fowls.

prejudices do not pervert or contract his judgment. He arrived in the colony in 1823, and may be said to have kept himself in hot water ever since, and not without coming under the punishment of the law.

Feb. 17th, Sydney Herald.—“Our readers will be surprised to hear that Dr. Lang has clandestinely left the colony. It appears that he was in negotiation with a creditor, who has had an execution against him for some months, as late as three o'clock on Saturday; and finding that he would not agree to his terms, Dr. L. procured a special clearance at the Water Police-office, and sailed yesterday morning in the ‘Wandsworth’ for London. A messenger was sent to the heads of the ship, but was just in time to meet the pilot-boat coming back: the Doctor was off.”

The two principal streets are George-street and Pitt-street. In the first are some very tasty shops, with plate-glass windows, and some very handsome buildings are in the course of erection on the site on which barracks once stood, now designated Wyn-

ward-square, in compliment to the gallant officer of that name. In these windows may be seen gold glittering in every variety of form, natural and artificial—in nuggets, dust, and in the original matrix of quartz; specimens of all kinds, with notices that gold will be bought to any amount, at the best prices; and to attest the ability to do so, that it is not colonial bounce, the window sill is spread over with heaps of sovereigns and bank-notes, and you may see within some lucky digger, who having escaped robbery, dysentery, and ophthalmia, has come down, to convert into currency his golden harvest.

Or if you turn into any of the numerous auction rooms, the day after the escort comes in, you may see—and if you can, buy—pretty yellow-looking lumps from about the size of a pin's head to a horse-bean; or if you prefer it, a flat piece, which some of Fortune's favourites have fallen in with, about the size of a small dessert-plate. One of the greatest buyers is an old pardoned convict of the name of William, or as he is there

more commonly called Bill, Nash, who robbed the Bristol mail, of which he was the guard. His wife (or better half?) followed him, as some say, with the booty, and set up a fine shop in Pitt-street, in the haberdashery line, or to speak idiomatically, in the soft goods' business. Under the old system, what some would call the good old times, he was assigned to her as a servant; her own husband her domestic! What a burlesque on transportation as a punishment!

He is very unpopular with the old hands, as he returned to England, and offered an intentional affront to our most Excellent Sovereign, when driving out in the park, by drawing his horses across the road, as her equipage was passing by. He cut a great dash in the Regent's Park, and was known as the flash returned convict. We stood by him at Messrs Cohen's auction-room, when the gold fraud, which was in course of investigation at Melbourne, was discussed. He addressed us, and we cannot add that he prepossessed us much in his favour. He looks what he is and has been.

In a little cupboard-looking shop in King-street, he may be seen in shirt sleeves spreading a tray full of sovereigns in the shop front, and heaping up bank-notes as a border to them, inviting any one to sell their gold to him. We believe he is among the wealthiest men in New South Wales, if he is not the most distinguished in manners and reputation.

Government House, the residence of Sir Charles FitzRoy, the Governor, is a handsome castellated building, in something of the Elizabethan style, with well-proportioned and commodious apartments. His Excellency has also a residence in the country at Paramatta, about twelve miles from Sydney, associated with which, to him are some painful and distressing circumstances. In starting from his house in a carriage and four, he driving, his wife and aid-de-camp inside, the horses took fright, and dashing off, became unmanageable, by which the carriage was upset, the aid-de-camp was killed on the spot, and Lady Mary expired after lingering a few hours in

great agony. The inhabitants deeply sympathised with him; as he is deservedly popular and esteemed by the good people of Sydney; evincing, as he does, an earnest wish to advance the interests of the colony, and promote the wishes and happiness, nay, even the amusements, of its people. The only cloud which overcast his popularity, arose in consequence of some representations he made to the Home Government, with reference to a meeting which took place on the 11th of June, 1849, at the Circular Quay, and which, notwithstanding the weather being most unfavourable, was numerously attended, to protest against the continued introduction of convicts, threatened by the arrival of the ship "Hashemey." The people of New South Wales are unanimously opposed to this measure, and the colony is now so far advanced as to be justified in depending solely on free labour. It was rumoured, while the writer was there, that Sir Charles was likely to have the command of one of the Indian presidencies: we think the Australians will lose him with

regret, whenever he is relieved or promoted from his post.

Opposite to Government House is the Treasury, the Whitehall and future Downing-street of Sydney. Here every ten days is deposited the gold brought down from the interior by the armed escort, in a crazy, jingling old dray. From hence may be seen a very goodly structure, the nucleus, we hope, at some future period, of a fine national institution—a subscription library, supported by shareholders, and containing, at present, several thousand volumes, with a reading-room attached, supplied with European newspapers and literary periodicals.

In the same street is the club-house, the Athenæum or “White’s” of the aristocracy of New South Wales, a very neat-looking edifice, and well enough appointed; but by and bye, we presume, as Sydney increases in wealth and population, and consequently with it the introduction of more abundant labour, the “squatters” and landed gentlemen and merchants will unite, and have as fine a building as those we see

at home—the tempters to selfishness and ease.

Let us now go to the Legislative Council, met under the New Australian Constitution Act, as passed by Parliament in 1850. The chamber is at the extreme end of the old convict barracks, the other being the depôt for emigrants, &c. There is a sad want of “a house” for the senators to meet in. They follow as much as possible the forms observed in the British House of Commons. On the right of the Speaker sit the organs of Government, and such of the Executive Council as are entitled to claim a seat among the legislators of Australia, two-thirds of whom are elected by the people, the rest being nominees and officials. The franchise is reduced from twenty to ten pounds, and furnished by the same Act with powers of self-modification. On the left of the chair the Opposition place themselves. As we enter we perceive that a question is before the House, and a harsh-featured, curly-headed old man is on his legs, stuttering and stumbling out his words,

apparently in great wrath, if we may judge truly from external signs what is working within; his countenance coloured by emotion or else by the sun, fumbling his spectacles, shutting and opening the case, and speaking with awkwardness and an ungainly gait, sending out venom and invective against Earl Grey and the local Government, attributing to either the worst motives possible—tyranny, mal-government, jobbery, and every evil intention which can be conceived as the motives to action in ill-constituted authorities. Full of self-esteem and confidence, with an absurdly exaggerated estimate of his own importance, this is a Member who never overlooks the interests of number one. He wanted a grant of a million acres or more in New Zealand from Sir George Gipps for a few blankets and old rusty muskets, and has managed pretty well to get extensive grants of land in days gone by;—he wanted to sell his estate by lottery, but was not allowed by the Attorney-General, and on that same land a gold-field has since been discovered. As a grateful return to

the discoverer of Australia's treasures, he called Mr. Hargreaves an "impudent and shallow fellow." It is the Member for Sydney we are speaking of, William Wentworth, the son of an old settler, and generally called "Billy," the leader of the party which sets itself against Government, and heading a section which wants, what New South Wales is not ripe for at present, a "responsible Government." He may be known by being always dressed in a pepper-and-salt suit.

We consider that the mannerism and idiosyncrasy of any public man who assumes a prominent place, is a legitimate and fair subject of criticism ; but beyond that, we have no right to enter into the sanctity of the domestic circle and the history of private life.

Who is he who rises with so much tact and good-temper to reply, with an air of official self-possession and truthfulness, in honesty of purpose, to the intemperate and violent attacks of the Honourable Member for Sydney, evidently received with respect and regard by the House? It is the Honour-

able Deas Thompson, the Colonial Secretary, a man respected and relied upon throughout Australia as an excellent man of business in detail, and with a perfect knowledge of the wants and resources of the colony; an old and efficient servant of the Government: and the estimation in which those services were held may be gathered from the substantial proof of it which was given by the Council, with the complete, and, we may say, the unanimous approbation of the community, by voting a sum of three thousand pounds upon a prospective increase to his income of five hundred pounds per annum. His ability as a speaker is not great; he wants fluency and smoothness; but the reporters make his speeches read well. His remarks are always business-like, to the point, and practical. He is no orator, but possesses one very important talent in an Executive—he can receive sarcastic and virulent attacks from Members without being irritated into an unguarded and hasty reply. He is considered an able man by *all* the Australian colonies. He is as estimable in domestic

as he is useful in public life, and, therefore, in all relations regarded and respected.

An opposition, Edmund Burke remarked, is essential to produce an efficient and active government; in the Sydney Council, this element is at present in a very flourishing condition.

There is another gentleman, a Mr. Stuart Donaldson, who may be said to be the Joseph Hume of the House, as he looks narrowly to the expenditure. As there is a "Cupid" in our own House of Commons—my Lord Palmerston—so we would say there was an Adonis in the Sydney Legislative Council in the person of Mr. Stuart Donaldson, who is rapid, voluble, and embarrassed in his delivery, but still with the material of a fair, if not quite a first-rate, speaker within him. It would have been some advantage to the colony had he been selected to be the bearer of the draught of the new constitution for the formation of the Upper House, but which is not to come before the Council until another Session, when Mr. William Wentworth intends to bring it home with him,

under his particular auspices. This was a disappointment to Mr. Donaldson, the Member for Durham, as it was a disadvantage to his constituents. He would have had an easy access, in all probability, to the House of Commons, in which he might have acquired a better style of senatorial oratory. There would have been an "avenir" for him, not as great as that which he prophesied to the colony in his valedictory address, but still gratifying and encouraging.

There is also a lawyer of the name of Nicholls, an attorney of considerable practice, whom it is rather amusing to hear address the House, as he speaks to the Chair, as if he were examining a reluctant witness at the Old Bailey.

The most Parliamentary speaker is a honourable gentleman of the name of D'Arville, who has been many years in the colony, and has the leading practice at the colonial bar. He speaks with ease and smoothness; his language is pure and unaffected; his delivery agreeable and persuasive; his voice well-managed and melodious. He has been

recently offered a seat on the judicial bench by the authorities at Melbourne, which he has declined. He is justly popular and respected as an independent member and leader at the bar. We met him at the mess of the regiment quartered in Sydney, the 11th. His amenities in social life accord with his public courtesies.

The Speaker, Sir C. Nicholson, has lately had his income voted to eight hundred pounds per annum, upon a motion introduced by Mr. W. Wentworth, in which he stated it was not intended to allow the speakership to be any longer an undisputed tenure. He has given satisfaction to all parties in the House by his impartiality and gentlemanly deportment.

The Attorney-General, the Honourable Mr. Plunkett, has a weak, feeble voice, and unprepossessing delivery, more so than his colleague, the Solicitor-General, who is the son of a former judge in the colony, Judge Manning, and has an agreeable manner, with considerable facility of language.

When there on one occasion we were

addressed by a gentleman under the reporters' gallery, with a beard that an Arab might have envied, and who subsequently we discovered to be an M.P. for some Scotch county (Linlithgowshire), and who, we believe, is still a member, who had come out, *perhaps*, to get up colonial politics.

After leaving the Legislative Council Chamber, by winding your way to the left, you will arrive at the race-course, or Hyde Park, and from the top of it, on the right, St. James's Church presents itself; a little to the left stands the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Either of these buildings the metropolis of London would not be disgraced by; and below St. James's Church are the courts of law.

CHAPTER XV.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY—BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE—THE GOOD SENSE OF CLERGY AND LAITY—HIS OWN UNIVERSITY—HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH SIR CHARLES NICHOLSON—THE ARCHDEACON—THE PROBABLE RESULT OF THE TWO SYSTEMS—THE OPENING OF THE UNIVERSITY—ITS CONSTITUTION WELL ADAPTED TO AUSTRALIA—THE WANT OF ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY—THE PROTESTANT CATHEDRAL—LYONS' TERRACE—HIS ANTECEDENTS—WOOLMOOLOO—SYDNEY MUSEUM—THE DOMAIN—THE FASHIONABLE PROMENADE—THE BOTANICAL GARDEN—ITS BEAUTIES—THE SHIPPING—FLOWER-SHOWS—THE CURATOR—GOVERNOR MACQUARIE—TRIAL BY JURY—ATTORNEY-GENERAL FINDS TRUE BILL—THE JUDGES OF NEW SOUTH WALES—LORD SHAFTESBURY AND HIS EXCELLENCY—SYDNEY NOT WORSE THAN ANY ENGLISH GARRISON OR PORT TOWN—TALLOW FRAUD—GOLD FRAUD—NOT ONLY PAUPERS AND CONVICTS SENT OUT—ALSO YOUNG PRODIGALS—THE FOLLY OF SENDING THEM OUT—THE BEST WAY TO SEND THEM OUT—LETTER OF INTRODUCTION—THE MR. V.'S—THE WAY TO GET ON.

In the middle of the race-course stands the Sydney University, for which the colony, in a great measure, is indebted to Wentworth—the most useful measure he has ever propounded for their advantage. * But it has

raised a controversy, which was raging with considerable warmth, between the Bishop of Newcastle, the clergy, and some portion of the laity.

The Principal is a first-class Oxford man, and formerly head-master of Bury St. Edmund's; a person of unquestionable literary and classical attainments. The Professor of Mathematics was senior wrangler of his year; as also was the Professor of Chemistry, a gentleman of the highest pretension in the inductive sciences. So far, therefore, as sufficiency of talent was concerned, there could be no doubt respecting the efficiency of the institution. But the Bishop of Newcastle, in the absence of the Bishop of Sydney, thought that a portion of the five thousand pounds per annum which was voted by the Council, should be appropriated to founding professorships of theology, regulated in amount by the same principle that the Church funds are, for teachers of different creeds.

The College was separated from the University; but this was not sufficient for his lordship, who is rather arbitrary in his discipline, being of a "sic volo, sic jubeo."

temperament. He assumed that the Bishop of Sydney would object to the principle of the University, as being a godless (so he said), even an heathen University, because secular knowledge was alone taught in it. Upon this ground he objected also to affiliated colleges.

But the good sense of the laity and clergy called a meeting, which wisely decided on founding a College in conjunction with the University, for members of the Established Church. The Bishop of Newcastle stated in a correspondence he had with the Speaker of the Council, that it was his intention to appropriate his house for the purposes of education in his diocese, if such a resolution was carried. He will now have an opportunity of gratifying his opposition and satisfying his conscience.

It is, however, no more than consistent in him to express these sentiments, as he decidedly belongs to the Oxford school of Divinity. So does the Venerable the Archdeacon to the old-fashioned high church party. The exaggerated notions of the powers of priesthood entertained by either

have not lost any of their force, by a residence of forty-five years among a convict population, where authority was all-powerful and arbitrary. Surely it must have a humanizing effect on youths of different religious views and opinions to meet together for secular instruction, who are hereafter to meet in the commerce and transactions of life, in one common arena of honourable competition. This association is certainly less likely to engender and foster bigotry, intolerance, and the "odium theologicum," than the system which its opponents would maintain.

We were present at the opening of the University, at which the clergy (of all denominations) attended in full canonicals, as also his Excellency the Governor and staff, civil and military. An inaugural address was delivered by the Principal, in which he compared Wentworth to Alfred, and dilated on the future literary eminence of Australia's sons. It was an important day in the history of New South Wales. Sir C. Nicholson, the Speaker of the Legislative Council, in an oration full of talent and eloquence,

stated that Australia had no past, but a glorious future before her.

The constitution of the University is one well adapted to the state of the colony, if not (but why not?) capable of general adoption: certainly well suited to Sydney, the capital of a country in which there is no established church endowed by the State.

A sum of twenty-eight thousand pounds or thereabouts is, under Governor Bourke's Church Act, apportioned according to the population of the various denominations. The amount is distributed among the Anglo-Catholic, the Roman Catholic, the Presbyterian, and other Protestant sects.

Much reliance is not to be placed upon the subjoined census, which was made previous to the gold discoveries.* The Roman

	£.
* Church of England - -	17,064
Presbyterian - -	2,174
Wesleyan Methodists - -	650
Roman Catholic - -	7,511

Total at Sydney - £27,399

Census, March 1st, 1851.—93,137 Church of England; 56,899 Roman Catholics; 18,156 Presbyterians; 10,008 Wesleyans.

Catholic population, by the great influx of Irish, is increasing rapidly.

We cannot say much for the architectural beauties of the University, which are readily eclipsed, such as they are, by the Roman Catholic Cathedral—a fine edifice. We regret to say that the Anglo-Saxon Cathedral, St. George's, stands still, a monument of the tardiness of any gifts from the members of the Established Church. When completed, it will be a very handsome and imposing structure. St. James's Church, at the head of Hyde Park, or the race-course, is a handsome brick building, with a lofty spire, well attended on Sundays, and with a fine organ. When looking round, one can scarcely realize the truth that sixty-five years ago there were only to be seen the wandering savage, and a few huts, where now this fine city extends in all directions.

Across the park may be seen a fine row of houses called Lyons' Terrace, which are now letting at a rent of three hundred pounds a-year. They were erected by an old convict of the name of Sam Lyons, a person who

amassed a considerable fortune. He is one among the number of successful felons, and bore the character of a man most punctual and honourable in his transactions in the colony. This quarter may be said to be the commencement of the Belgravia of Sydney. From hence may be seen the jail and military barracks, standing on a plain of sand, with a view of the swamps which supply the town with water. That part of the city is called Woolloomooloo, and looks down upon busy crowded streets not many years ago the refuge and hiding-place of bush-rangers. We had nearly omitted the Australian Museum, in which there is a collection of the mineral productions of the colony, with the various implements used by the inhabitants of the Polynesian isles, the aborigines, and New Zealanders, in warfare and agriculture.

Continuous with Hyde Park is the domain in which the band of the 11th regiment plays once a week, when it becomes the rendezvous of the fashionable and élite of Sydney; some on horseback, and some in

pretty carriages, Here and there you may notice a squatter, or as they are called by the Sydneyites, a "Jacky Rue," who has ridden from Wellington or Bathurst, or perhaps five or six hundred miles, to have an interview with his merchant or agent, and to purchase his yearly stock for his store. Why they have received this soubriquet, we know not. They generally spend a good sum before they return into the bush, to vegetate for another twelve months on tea, mutton, and damper, with the scarcely ever extinguished pipe of tobacco.

His Excellency the Governor, and his daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Keith Stuart, are very regular attendants at these weekly promenades. From hence may be seen the Botanical Gardens, as pretty a spot as any poet could wish to be in when under the influence of the Nine, or climbing the heights of Parnassus. The lower garden on a Sunday is crowded with people: in the afternoon all classes of the community may be seen enjoying themselves en masse. When the tide is in, the walk which is laved at its

base by the sea, and over which the spray is thrown, is indeed a beautiful place for a stroll. Before you are the shipping, and you may see a large vessel sailing up the harbour almost within a stone's throw of where you are seated. The men-of-war and large steamers catch your eye in the distance, and the north shore opposite forms a very pretty background to the landscape, worthy of any painter's pencil. The writer has ruminated many an hour agreeably away, in a delicious climate, in these grounds, listening to the dashing of the tide as it gradually came up. As there are plenty of chairs about, without selfishness, one may take a book and pass half the day reading under the shade of the Moreton Bay fig-tree, or under the canopy of the mimosa, or beneath the yellow jessamine.

¶ There are flower-shows in Sydney. The curator of the garden, Mr. Moore, an intelligent and well-informed Scotchman, delivers during the year a course of lectures, which the public are invited to attend; but some over-prudish persons object to the presence

of young people, because the lecturer must descant upon the sexes of plants. So this interesting study of nature is to be neglected, because her laws must be explained. We hope that this false delicacy may wear out, with the gradual enlightenment of the age in which we live.

Mr. Moore was commissioned by the Governor to go to New Caledonia, an island off Wide Bay, in H.M.S. "Havannah," to collect plants, and to make any botanical discoveries he could. He was successful in his explorations, and spake to us highly of the beauties of the place.

In the Sydney gardens may be seen most of the tropical plants—the coral tree, the judas tree, the heliotrope, the geranium, a great variety of the passion-flower, the *Westraria* from China, the sugar-cane, coffee plant, cotton plant, flax, the English oak, and common privet.

There is a drive round the domain and gardens, bringing you to a seat cut in the solid rock, called Mrs. Macquarie's Chair: the drive continued brings you out by the

Government House. No occasion ever seems to have been omitted by Governor Macquarie of imprinting his name where he could do so. It may, therefore, be seen on many public buildings. Sydney is much indebted to him for his good taste and judgment in brick and mortar.

In 1824, that bulwark of the liberty of the subject, trial by jury, was introduced into the courts. A just and impartial administration of the laws commenced, which previously had been so lamentably wanted, as may be gathered from the accounts of the early condition of the colony, when under the rule of the New South Wales Corps, which, in 1808, put Governor Bligh, under arrest: a corps of gentlemen who disgraced the honourable profession to which they belonged.

The Attorney-General at present performs the functions of a grand jury, until that body are brought into operation.

The judges are respected and regarded as men morally and intellectually competent to fulfil the responsible and arduous office which they occupy. There are some able

men at the Australian bar. The number of civil cases tried in the Supreme Court in 1851 was 119; in 1842 there were 1,069; but that was a year of great commercial depression throughout the colony; a state of affairs in which the gentlemen of the long robe find most to do, when all other interests are at a discount. Whether this indicates a litigious spirit or not, in a population of 260,000 souls, we must leave others better versed in these matters than ourselves to decide.

The number of criminal convictions in the like amount of population was, in 1851, 574; in 1837, 866: each year since showing a gradual decrease in crime with an increasing population, speaks loudly in favour of free immigration, the absorption of the old felons by a better class. Lord Shaftesbury had stated in public, that Sydney was one of the most wicked and dissipated cities in the world. His Excellency Sir C. Fitzroy called him to account for this statement. It was alleged in defence, that it was not worse than any other maritime or garrison

town of like size, that the decencies of society were not more openly violated than is ordinarily the case under similar conditions. This, we believe, is the truth; but the general tone of morals, although not offensively conspicuous in broad daylight, is, we fear, very low; at least so we were informed by persons likely to be well acquainted with the subject, and competent to draw just conclusions. Drunkenness and immorality are rife; and in the trading there is too much of what is called "colonial experience" and "pointing," too Yankee and Yorkshire. Absolute frauds have been practised on London houses; advances were obtained by a Jew upon what was represented to be a cargo of tallow: into the casks had been introduced a tube of a few inches in diameter through which the probe might be inserted to discover its quality, the tester little dreaming that the rest of the cask was filled with rubbish; this was not detected until it reached the consignees. A more recent fraud was perpetrated in the sale of a gold field in shares, by false representations, to the amount of

forty thousand pounds. So much for the gullibility and avarice of the British public. Not that we are to judge of the whole community by one or two of its black sheep, or to draw general conclusions from particular premises ; but, doubtless, as the colony advances, this spirit of "pointing" will disappear, and a fair legitimate system of trading and commerce will be introduced. Australia has not been only the receptacle of England's criminals and parish paupers, but too often of the unmanageable members of families at home sent here to break off evil associations, and bad habits of idleness and intoxication ; or who, like the prodigal, have demanded their inheritance: and their history is, alas, too often the exact counterpart of the parable of our Lord—they come to want, or are obliged to adopt occupations more debased and degrading than the servants who serve in the homes they have left, and the happiness they have darkened by their heedless sinful career.

We would strongly argue against the absurdity of parents sending young men out

to New South Wales with money to invest in sheep farming. In nine cases out of ten they never get further than Sydney, until all their money has been expended in extravagance and folly. Associated with others similarly situated on the voyage, they are not likely to throw off the habits which have led to expatriation; but, on the contrary, to augment their force and predominance. There are plenty of sharpers at the antipodes, as well as in London, constantly on the look-out to profit by the thoughtlessness and recklessness of these improvident youths. Many of the sons of persons in the higher walks of life enter the police force, as the last desperate chance of their forlorn hope. This is sometimes the case in South Australia, at Adelaide, as the writer was informed by a near connexion, who acted as private secretary to Colonel Robe, the Governor.

But what would you advise to be done with troublesome or superfluous members of families, who can be sent from home with from one to three thousand pounds? We

should say, supply them with a letter of credit for a sum to be paid quarterly, sufficient for their maintenance, and consign them if possible to some squatter, to gain experience and to get an insight into the ways of the colonists, and when correct information can be obtained concerning the necessary mode of life, let them then have their inheritance. There will be more probability, even under the most unfavourable circumstances, of their moral condition having improved, of their making some advantageous use of money, at any rate of delaying the destitution which they would sooner arrive at under the other plan so often adopted. It is really almost cruelty to send young men out under the system of which we have spoken. Some even have to resort to shepherding and menial duties for subsistence. The writer met a noble lord who is described by one writer as on his travels, who was reported subsequently to be washing bottles for a livelihood, a consequence resulting entirely and solely from his own excesses. We saw a young gentleman who

landed with upwards of two thousand pounds, and had been, as it is called, "cleaned out," eagerly seeking after employment in the New Gold Escort Company, from Sydney to Melbourne, after running a career of two years with the reputation of being a fine "sporting fellow," who had come out to New South Wales for the sake of the *turf*!

Another class of recruits for the colonies are those with perhaps very slender resources, but furnished with letters of introduction which really are worth nothing to them,—as useless as themselves. His Excellency has hundreds of such applications for employment constantly made to him, as his private secretary could affirm. We brought with us two Mr. V.'s, distant relatives of Lord V., from the south of England, with special commendations to the governor, and sent them with an expectation of success, but received no reply, which we consider rather strange. These young men possessed a sum of about fifty pounds between them, which, at the present rate of expenditure in Sydney, and with their extravagant notions, would not

last very long. The idea is that any place is to be had for the asking, and that appointments rain down upon new-comers; a great mistake, as the Australians view with extreme jealousy the employment of new arrivals, of this class particularly, until the natives have been provided for; and the policy of the government is now to give occupation to the descendants of old settlers. Fortunately for the lads I have just mentioned, a letter of introduction to some old maiden cousin, who was in easy circumstances, excited her pity, and afforded them a home. Australia is not at present at all the place for this class of immigrants, unless they have the moral courage to descend, not in morals but in position; "they must stoop to conquer." There are now certainly the gold fields open to them. Trade and commerce are the only available pursuits in Australia: it is not yet sufficiently matured or populated (like New York) to sustain men of literary habits and followers of the fine arts, much less idle young gentlemen. All is bustle, enterprise, and activity.

CHAPTER XVI.

PETTY'S HOTEL — THE TURQUOISE RING — THE COLONIAL CHURCH—WANT OF A CONSTITUTION—ABSOLUTE POWER OF COLONIAL BISHOPS — PERVERSIONS TO ROMANISM — BISHOPS OF NEW ZEALAND AND NEWCASTLE —THE PETITION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE CLERGY TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—MR. GLADSTONE'S CHURCH BILL—SUBURBS OF SYDNEY—BURIAL GROUND—HOT WINDS AND STORMS—ADELAIDE—CENTRAL AUSTRALIA—RANGE OF THERMOMETER — MELBOURNE —THE BRICKFIELDER, OR SOUTHERLY BURSTER — LADIES' BONNETS — MEN WEAR VEILS—THE SAND HILLS BUSH-RANGERS—WOOLLOOMOOLOO —DR. WARDLLE—A VILE CRIMINAL—MR. ROBERT LOWE, M.P.— HIS KINDNESS —CONVICTS NEVER RECEIVED INTO SOCIETY—REMARKS ON GENERAL SOCIETY—THE APPEARANCE OF RESIDENTS — AVERAGE DURATION OF LIFE IN NEW SOUTH WALES — THE PRESS — THE MARKET-PLACE —SYDNEY MORNING HERALD—THE EMPIRE—JACKSON CREEK LUNATIC ASYLUM—FREQUENCY OF INSANITY.

It often occurs that a young man goes to a hotel quite beyond his means, and when all his ready money is gone, a stranger in a strange land, the broker is sent for to buy his stock, gun, and any convertible property he may possess; he is then thrown upon the

wide world : certainly he can find occupation, BUT OF WHAT KIND? Melancholy as this picture is, it is quite as melancholy to be obliged to say it is not highly coloured, but one which is frequently witnessed. We heard a well-dressed gentlemanly man, sitting in the coffee-room of Petty's hotel, the Clarendon of Sydney, with a handsome turquoise ring on his finger, perhaps the keepsake of some loving mamma, and otherwise well appointed, declare that he would be very glad to get a bullock-driver's place up the country at seventy pounds per annum. What an alternative! Sent away as far as possible from home to sink into "deeper depths," to associate with the refuse population of England, the misfortune and disgrace of the colony; to become familiarized with vulgar and disgusting language, and never to hear the name of his Creator mentioned, except in conjunction with swearing and blasphemy.

Let parents and guardians pause before they hurl these youths into perdition: "Nemo repentè fit turpissimus." But to dwell no longer on this unhappy topic, we will lay

before our readers the more interesting question of the Church constitution, which now occupies the attention of her members, and which the Lord Bishop of Sydney has gone to England, as we believe, to obtain: namely, the self-government of itself by a mixed authority of laity and clergy. The authorities at home are of opinion that the constitution prayed for will interfere with the Queen's supremacy. That the Church should have some self-polity we think no one will question, although there may be some difference of opinion as to its degree. We must also bear in mind that the prevalent tendency of the colonial Church authorities and dignitaries is towards high Puseyitical doctrines, which not only manifests itself in the diocesan charges, but also in the internal arrangements. This state of things may be accounted for from the fact that most of the prelates were appointed

- during the late Archbishop of Canterbury's primacy, and all belong to that school except the Bishop of Melbourne.

The arbitrary power possessed by the

bishops over the clergy, who really have no protection at all, the bishops themselves desire to give up; and in one or two instances it has been a power which has been tyrannically, or, to speak mildly, injudiciously, used. Bishops not more than any other class of men are to be intrusted with undefined and unlimited powers. It is justly observed by Blackstone, such powers should never be committed to one person, where there is no responsibility for their abuse. Two clergymen, we are sorry to say, have seceded from the Established Church to Romanism. The clergy are in general well respected, and deservedly so, although the style of preaching is cold, formal, and legal, without warmth or feeling. The Bishop of Newcastle is no great orator, although by much labour he appears to have acquired the ability of preaching extemporaneously, but his delivery is stiff and lifeless. He has the name of being active in his diocese, rides fast, and gets over a vast quantity of ground in a short time; an advantageous faculty in an extended charge. He and the Bishop of New Zealand

lately took a yachting cruise among the Polynesian seas.

While we were at Sydney, a petition was presented by the churchwardens to the Legislative Council for an increase of stipend, (founded on the gold discoveries), which was rejected; upon something of the arguments resorted to by advocates of the voluntary principle. It was alleged in the petition that they were in great poverty. How far the different congregations should have allowed them to fall into these straits, is a fair question. At the best the income is very inadequate for a married man, where rent is so high as in Sydney, and the gap between the bishop and the clergy is too great; there being no intermediate grades of incumbents. In fact, the clergy have, with very few exceptions, no fee in their appointments, but depend entirely upon the continuance of the good pleasure of the bishops, whose curates they virtually are.

Mr. E. Gladstone exemplified this position in his speech on the introduction of his Church Discipline Bill for the Established Church in Her Majesty's Colonies.

There are many suburbs about Sydney worth visiting: Balmain, Camperdown, Newton, Paddington, Redfern, &c., to which there are omnibuses and stage-coaches.

A visit to the burial-grounds on the left of the Paramatta road amply repays any one, who seeks either recreation or instruction in moralising upon the destiny of poor humanity. To the righteous believer in God's mercy displayed in his Son, it suggests the way to happiness and glory; while, alas! to the unrepenting child of Adam, it points the path to his punishment and sorrow. Here then end all man's efforts and hopes, the goal of all his desires and passions. The record we read on the tablet, shows that in the zenith of his success and sunshine of his prosperity, in the fulfilment of his ambition, he is cut down. The Roman Catholic and Protestant burial-grounds are contiguous; and here lie side by side, in the peaceful slumber of the grave, many who in life could hold no communion without rancour and animosity.

In this delightful climate, as we are bound in justice to call it, notwithstanding many objections arising from the sudden changes

of temperature, hot winds and sand-storms —there are, perhaps, not more disagreeable days in the year than we experience at home during the foggy and murky months of winter and spring.

The hot winds blow from the northward, and come down upon you as if propelled from a furnace, or after having passed over red-hot plates of iron. Immediately they commence every window and door is closed to keep them out. Everything cracks with the heat, the very walking-stick in your hand feels hot. The papers which you may carry in your hand curl up and become quite crisp, and an unquenchable thirst seizes upon you. The bush is set on fire and adds to the already scorching atmosphere. You are stunned by the incessant chirp of the locusts. The birds are said, at times, to drop down dead under its baleful influence. The effect is much worse at Adelaide, as they last there for ten and fourteen days at a time; the furniture, as the writer was informed by his sister, becomes so hot that it is almost impossible to lay a hand upon a wardrobe. The

interior of Australia is yet a region untrodden by the white man's foot, but is generally supposed to be a vast desert of sand and rocks, which heat the wind as it passes over them, descending from the Gulf of Carpentaria and the Torres Straits. The writer did not find these dreaded blasts very oppressive; they seldom last more than twenty-four hours at Sydney. Christmas-day and New Year's-day were two of the hottest ever known there, the thermometer at half-past one P.M. standing at $102\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ in the shade, on the first, and at 108° on the last occasion. But the heat was not so oppressive as to render it either dangerous or utterly unpleasant to be abroad, which we happened to be on each of these memorable anniversaries.

Melbourne is subject to the same visitation; but not Moreton Bay, as it is further north, and lies above the cause which produce these "siroccos." After the languor, the lassitude, and enervation which some persons experience during these hot blasts, comes the "Brickfielder," or southerly burster. The air cooled by passing

over plains of ice, at the south pole, rushes in with great velocity, the two giants contending for mastery; Boreas has in this hemisphere to yield before the strength and weight of Notus. While the contest is going on, clouds of sand invest the city, we should rather say obscure it altogether; but a storm, such as you, reader, unless you have seen it, can form no conception of. Your hair is clotted with it, your eyes blinded, and your throat parched; your hat and clothes matted with sand, your path scarcely traceable before you, and your vestments invisible—you look a walking pillar of sand or brick-dust.

Ladies make sad lamentations over ruined bonnets; and a favourite dress put on for the first time since its arrival from home, becoming quite spoiled, is trying to the most amiable temper. Gentlemen wear veils, green and purple, such as you see worn by sporting celebrities, going to Epsom on the Derby day, and for the same reason—to escape the dust and sand. They who adopt this precaution

act with sound practical wisdom. Making all due allowances for this drawback, Sydney is a delightful climate, to persons who prefer warmth to the cold and damp of England. There is no sultry weather in Australia. But do not measure the dust which sometimes envelopes Sydney by the very worst Derby day that ever was seen.

The sand-hills and Woolloomooloo were, no great while ago, the lurking places of "bush-rangers." In St. James's Church may be seen a tablet raised to the memory of a Dr. Wardell, by his sisters: he was assassinated by two "bush-rangers," on his way home. They were lying in wait for some other person, when he passed; he seeing them intended to capture them—they desired him not to approach, and said that although he was cruel to his assigned servants, they did not wish to do him any injury; but that if he attempted to come near, they would assuredly fire upon him; he persisted, and the consequence was, they shot him. Had they allowed themselves to be taken, they

knew they were certain of being executed, and even pointed out to him, that they would fare no worse for his death, than if they allowed themselves to be made prisoners by him, unarmed too as he was.

One of the vilest wretches that was ever sent out as a felon, a disgrace to a name in other members of the family highly respected, was a certain Knatchbull, who had been an officer in the British navy, and who, after attempting and accomplishing a long and black catalogue of crimes, was publicly executed at Sydney for the diabolical murder of a poor widow, by striking her on the head in her own petty shop with a tomahawk, for the sake of a few shillings she might be possessed of, and which he coveted, as he was going to be married to some maid-servant in the morning. He died, we heard, as he had lived, a hardened villain. Sir Edward Knatchbull sent, for the benefit of the orphans, a boy and a girl, one thousand pounds. Previous to this signal act of kindness, we believe Mr. R. Lowe, the M.P. for Kidderminster, had taken compassion on them, and had adopted them into

his own family. This wanton and cruel murder deeply excited the public sympathy, and roused universal indignation when it was rumoured that the murderer was to be reprieved. However successful in commercial speculations convicts may become, they are never received into general society; but, as one said to me, "we mix among our pals and feel our own independence." They give their children the best education England affords—a voyage which now for that purpose will be rendered unnecessary, from the institution of the Sydney University. Some of their descendants are members of the Legislative Council, but with only one exception, that of a surgeon, who was transported for a duel, no convict has ever been returned to the Assembly. The children are not well received, the mark of Cain being still recognised as handed down through the parent.

The society of Sydney is exclusively composed of men of business: all are engaged in making money; and that being the paramount object, gives one uniform colouring to the general tone of conversation. There

being no men of leisure, but all consisting of active spirits whom the pressure of numbers and competition in their respective spheres have forced out to seek fortunes abroad, the table-talk runs on money, the price of wool, tallow, gold-fields, flour, and commercial speculations in general. It is not about the last new opera, or play, or novel, or lady B's. or C's. last soirée, or any other of the fashionable topics which engross the conversation in London circles ; nor do they even waste time in questioning how long this ministry or that may be in or out, except as far as the colonial policy may affect their local interests.

One circumstance which arrested the attention of the writer, having visited other tropical climes, was the absence in the residents at Sydney, and also at Moreton Bay, of that dried-up, parchment look, which may be observed in old Indians. They have not the Asiatic appearance which may be seen in an European regiment on its return from a long servitude in the East. The native-born women are very pretty, lively, and agreeable, without the indigenous listlessness of India.

It is not possible at present to say whether the average duration of life is greater or less than in Europe, as this vast region has not been colonized by us long enough to form a correct estimate.

Trade is now in so disturbed a condition, owing to the discovery of the gold, that it is impossible to give anything like an average of prices. Perhaps at present the coming supply will be greater than the demand. The Americans were expected to arrive with large cargoes of "notions," i. e., "odds and ends." The interest of money is now six per cent. upon tangible and good security. It has been fifteen per cent. The enormous prices which land and houses are fetching at Melbourne, and the spirit of wild speculation which is abroad there, are likely, it is deemed by persons competent to form a judgment, to end in a great monetary crisis; such a one as the colony experienced in 1842, when every one, to speak generally, sought purification in the insolvent court. However, Sam Lyons, an auctioneer, and formerly a convict, paid all his dues up to twenty shillings in the pound, leaving himself nothing

but his credit. The markets are well supplied with fish, meat, fruit, and esculents.

At one period of the history of the colony it was inundated with newspapers, which were continually waging war one against the other, and all against the government. At present the press is in able and impartial hands. The "Empire" and the "Sydney Herald" are the two metropolitan papers. The latter is considered the "Times" of Australia, the earliest and most authentic news always appearing in that journal. The former has not the same extent of circulation and age to recommend it; but it is ably conducted, and doubtless with an increasing population, there will be ample scope for both. The proprietors of the Sydney "Morning Herald" have realized a handsome fortune, although not originally brought up in the trade of catering for public curiosity.

Dr. Chapman, the chief medical officer on the staff, mentioned to the writer that insanity was frequent among the people in Australia, arising from excessive drinking.

CHAPTER XVII.

REFLECTIONS DURING NIGHT AT SEA—THE POLAR STAR—ORION — PLEIADES — WORSHIP OF HEAVENLY BODIES—TURNER'S PICTURES—THE CHRISTIAN FEELINGS—PROFESSOR WHEWELL—CONJECTURE AND SPECULATION—THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS—THEIR MIGHTY MUTATIONS—GEOLOGY — REV. H. MOSELEY'S ASTRONOMICAL LECTURES — DR. CHALMERS—RETURN FROM SYDNEY—A DRUNKEN BLACK STEWARD—ICEBERGS ROUND THE HORN—FLOATING OR FIELD ICE — ACCIDENT TO CARPENTER — FALL FROM FORE-TOPSAIL YARD—RIO DE JANEIRO—THE HARBOUR — THE HEALTH OFFICER—THE CUSTOM-HOUSE BOOK—THE YELLOW FEVER — PREDISPOSING CAUSES — THE MARKET-PLACE OR BAZAAR — SLAVERY — TREATMENT OF SLAVES—BOUGHT OR SOLD LIKE ANIMALS—A BELLOWING BLACK — WHAT RIGHT OF PROPERTY IN A SLAVE — THE APPEARANCE OF RIO DE JANEIRO—PRODUCTIONS OF THE BRAZIL — EMPEROR'S RESIDENCE — ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS—THE BRAZILIAN CONSTITUTION.

ONE of the most exquisite and sublimest emotions a person experiences in taking a voyage, is the contemplation of the firmament on a fine cloudless night in the tropics. The brilliancy and number of the heavenly bodies

in the southern hemisphere exceed those of the northern. Gradually we left behind us the Great Bear, or Charles's Wain, and Polar Star, and substituted in their place the Southern Cross and the Magellan Clouds. Now the writer and his fellow-passengers are glad to see the very converse of this taking place, these clouds having disappeared, and the Southern Cross describing a small arc on its visible horizon, which appears as the chord, and the Polar Star rising higher each evening, as the two pointers which form a part of Ursa Major direct him towards that brilliant object. The constellation of Orion, his belt and square, the Pleiades and Sirius, are all leading points in the celestial sphere which arrest and engage his attention; and the soft, pale light of the Milky Way, and those balls or globes of fire which the planets seem to be when they emerge on the circumference of that unchanging circle of which he appears in his vessel to be the centre, "on that deep which *He* maketh to boil like a pot."

These heavenly bodies have been often,

in many countries, objects of adoration. And it is not surprising that where the glorious light of the gospel does not shine, these should become subjects of worship. There is in their appearance an imposing beauty and sublimity, which relieve the mind, in paying homage to them, of its load of speculation and of wondering conjecture, how worlds have been called into being. Perceiving the influence of light and warmth upon the animal and vegetable kingdoms, it is natural that a labouring imagination should resort to them, as the architects and preservers of all things, which it cannot explain to itself. There is something indicating a more inquiring and intelligent spirit in adoring the great luminaries, than in kneeling before stocks and stones and creeping things, as many pagans still continue to do. If we could ever desire a poet's mind, it is when we gaze upon the heavens on a serene, calm night at sea, with a light, balmy air, the ship tracing her way on the phosphorescent waters; for to his imagination they must present themselves with an

intensity and a height of sublimity which do not belong, even in conception, to the ordinary mind, or to the colder and severer calculations of philosophy and mathematics. Often has the writer looked upon moon-light scenes with a fellow-passenger who is well acquainted with Turner's pictures, and speculated whether if faithfully transferred even by such a hand to canvas, they would not have been considered exaggerated in effect and untrue to nature. A painter is said to admire all that is good and beautiful in the natural world: here is food for his mind of the richest quality, and inexhaustible materials.

But to the Christian believer with the Book of Books in his hand, or in his memory, how does the survey of the vaulted sky studded with sparkling lights, on an azure ground, raise the soul from earth to the throne of the Ancient of Days! If the beauty of His work fills the heart of the beholder with adoring reverence and delight, so does its universality astound the mind. The one is a witness to man of His love, the latter is

a testimony of His power. "The heavens declare the glory of God ; and the firmament showeth his handywork." It was to these He pointed when He challenged his servant Job to answer Him. "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons?"

"It is," says Professor Whewell, in his *Bridgewater Treatise*, "extremely difficult to devise any means of bringing before a common apprehension the scale on which the universe is constructed, the enormous proportions which the larger dimensions bear to the smaller, and the amazing number of steps from larger to smaller, and from small to larger, which the consideration of it offers."

The soul delights to wander amid the mazes of conjecture and speculation when beholding the heavenly bodies, which have been placed there for signs. Does it not ask itself whether these worlds are inhabited by beings of intelligence and life? and if so, whether of a higher or inferior order?

Whether their history assimilates itself to the history of ours? Are there in those bright orbs, sin and bloodshed—war and the different passions which disturb the peacefulness of this? And if so, is the Redeemer the Captain of their salvation as of ours? and does the efficacy of that meritorious obedience and precious bloodshedding extend to them? Are they justified by the same righteousness, “The blood of His cross having made peace, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven?” Col. i. 20.

When we behold in them the wisdom, power, and goodness of the Omnipotent, how stupendous and great without controversy does appear “the mystery of godliness!” 1 Tim. iii. 9. Or are they the spirits of the righteous and the pure which are full of light and glory? We say that the soul loves to make these conjectures pass like a bright cloud before it, for conjecture it is, and no more; and if it elevates the immaterial part of man to his Creator, the speculation is not only harmless but beneficial. Surely these systems, independent as we are told they are

of the great laws which adjust the globes of our system, were not called into being for no other purpose than monuments of the Great Creator's power? No,—doubtless they teem with intelligence and life! But while under the blessed light of revelation they are the subjects of our thoughts, under the same light we are to look upon them as reserved for stupendous and terrible changes. To the savage they are objects of wonder and admiration, as evidences of a creative power, benign and great. To the Christian as reserved for mighty mutations, in the terrible convulsion of nature, when the world shall be destroyed by "fire," as it bears now the evidence to science of having been once submerged. The same science, viz. Geology, fortifies the probability of its next destruction by fire. The deeper we descend into it, the greater the heat.

The Rev. H. Moseley, in his Lectures on Astronomy, says, "the increase of temperature for every thirty-seven feet we descend, is 1° Fahrenheit. Now, if this law of variation regularly continues, the temperature of

boiling water will be obtained at about two miles below the surface, and that of melting iron at about twenty-four miles. At the centre it might be somewhere about one hundred and twenty times this heat," (page 27). There are then, it appears in the earth itself the elements of its own diffusion; its internal fires, keeping, as some tell us, the interior in a state of fluidity.

"The cloud-capp'd towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,—
And, like the baseless fabric of a vision,
Leave not a rack behind."

The sun is to become black as sackcloth, and the moon as blood "at the opening of the sixth seal, and the stars of heaven are to fall unto the earth" (Rev. vi. 12—17). Many stars have disappeared in the heavens after apparently burning with a bright flame. "Some have undergone permanent changes, or have absolutely disappeared; as the celebrated star of 1572 (observed by Tycho Brahe) in the Constellation Cassiopeia." —(*Whewell's Bridgewater Treatise*. Vide

Barnes' Notes on 2 Peter iii.) We might suppose that the destruction of this earth, or the perturbation of the solar system, would produce such a convulsion, as to hurl all the celestial order into one universal conflagration and confusion;—it would affect all other heavenly bodies. Science has taught us that such is not of necessity the consequence of the fulfilment of Scripture.

Dr. Chalmers, we remember, has a very beautiful passage on this point in his *Astronomical Sermons*. He says the destruction of a world, although a work of desolation and ruin to its inhabitants, would no more affect the universe, than the eddying leaf falling into the stream from a tree would disturb the forest, although its population of myriads of insects and life, would be extinguished by the catastrophe.

On the 13th of January we took our departure in the bark "Cuthberts" for England, commanded by a skilful mariner and an obliging Captain, vigilant in the discharge of duties, and attentive to the comfort of his passengers; therefore with Captain William

M'Dean we should be glad to sail, if ever again we traverse the ocean. Our passengers consisted of a motley crew, as is usually the case at present in all ships bound from Sydney to England. The sailors, considering the mixed character of the men, and that they were all runaways, behaved well, and gave us no cause of complaint; and this was more than in these times might be expected, as nearly all of them had been at the diggings; and, having been more or less successful, had contracted or increased habits of self-indulgence and dissipation. I should not, however, omit here to enter in the log the misfortune we had in having for a steward a dirty, drunken, insolent black to wait upon us in the cuddy—an American republican, who was even tyrannical over the passengers, but who was eventually dismissed and sent forward among the sailors, it having been discovered that he had consumed and wasted a great quantity of the cabin stores, and swilled two barrels of rum. His substitute was the still more drunken cook, who was also cashiered, and we found in one of the crew a person who

had acted before in that capacity—an excellent, clean, steady young man, who would have contributed greatly to our comfort had he been the attendant from the commencement. He and his mate had made at Port Phillip diggings twelve hundred pounds between them, but had been robbed by a partner.

We had little incident on our way home. On the 11th of February, not far from Cape Horn, we sighted two large icebergs, and passed between them at half-past 1 P.M.; they were of great altitude and extent, and about four miles distant. One had the appearance of a huge block of solid ice, and was nearly the largest ever seen by the Commander, who had been trading for years previously on the coast of North America. The other bore a resemblance to a high mountain, which had been worn down by torrents, and frosted over with silver: it seemed by its form to have turned over. It was very cold, blowing strongly, with occasional storms of hail. The thermometer was $29\frac{1}{16}^{\circ}$ Fahr.; rate of sailing, $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots; course, E. $\frac{1}{2}$ N. by compass;

wind, S.W.; lat. $56^{\circ} 10'$ S.; long. W. $129^{\circ} 30'$. Sailing under reefed mainsail, whole foresail, with double-reefed topsails, and fore-topmast staysail set. Sea running very high, and of a creamy appearance. Even in these icy and inhospitable regions there were birds flying about. Our thoughts reverted to the unhappy expedition of Sir John Franklin, who has, in all probability, perished amid similar regions of eternal snows and ice. We saw afterwards, at great distances, several more icebergs, and were not sorry when we got out of the way of meeting any more, or being jammed up by floating masses, which in these latitudes are very dangerous; more especially in the summer months, if there is anything like the season which the term conveys to the minds of those who live in more genial climes, as the ice then melts and floats about, affecting the temperature, and causing by its dispersion, thick hazy weather. We had a remarkably fine passage round the much-dreaded Cape Horn, but lost time by springing the main-topsail yard; in repairing which

the carpenter nearly cut off his foot by a stroke of the axe, which incapacitated him for at least a fortnight—a very serious hindrance to our progress. Fortunately we had on board a Surgeon-Superintendent of a Government emigration ship on his return home, who soon put him to rights.

Considering the number of falls which the men had from different parts of the ship, it was wonderful that there were no serious accidents. One sailor, while reefing, fell from the fore-topsail yard, and was saved by being caught in the rattlings on his descent.

On the 19th of March we got sight of Rio de Janeiro: on the sixty-fifth day we anchored in that beautiful harbour, the finest in the world. It was a fine Sunday afternoon. We passed under the miserable-looking fort of Santa Cruz, from which we were hailed. This stood on our right; on our left was the Sugar-loaf Mountain and another contemptible fortress. But the harbour! Here Nature has poured out the riches of her beauties with no sparing hand. A magnificent entrance, so easy, and at the

same time, so secure when within, as to need no pilots, where, by a needy government, they would certainly have been placed, if the most distant shadow of a pretence could have been made, in order to squeeze money from ships. On either side are precipitous mountains, bold and barren, conveying the impression of having been heaved up by some tremendous convulsion of the elements. Immense blocks of porphyry and granite occur in their formation. Here is exemplified a good illustration of Mrs. Mary Somerville's work on physical geography, descriptive of those mighty changes which ages produce, gradually, yet certainly and effectually.

While we were admiring the harbour and the many isles with which it is studded, the health-officer came on board—an individual with a pale tropical complexion, dried up like a piece of parchment, as if all nutritious matter was evaporated from him, and nothing remaining but a withered wreck. He had been many years resident in this unhealthy and mortiferous climate, rather different to his native country, which was Denmark : his

demeanour was gentlemanly and prepossessing. After him came the Custom-house boat. We were then at liberty to land in this pestiferous city. The fever, that is, the yellow fever, had been very fatal this season, and had carried off a great number of persons. We were warned that, although much on the decrease, it was still very prevalent. It may be produced by any violent emotion either of passion or fear ; but more frequently among European sailors drunkenness and exposure at night are the predisposing causes. Twice a-day a steamer cruises among the shipping to take to the hospital any patients who may have been suddenly seized with the fever during their stay in the harbour—a very excellent precaution to prevent the spread of this malignant endemic. Should the reader ever have occasion to visit Rio de Janeiro, let him take care never to be tempted, during the heat of the tropical night, to sleep on deck, exposed to the dew. To do so is almost like giving a challenge to the fever to commence its deadly attack

At 7 A. M. on Monday morning we landed

at the market-place or bazaar, which presented the usual appearances of a tropical mart. All the fruits and esculents which may be met with in similar latitudes, were exposed here for sale, with this exception that the market was exclusively tended by slaves, who rent themselves at so much "per diem," say one, two, or three millereis a-day, the coin being worth 2s. 4d. These poor creatures may be seen bearing heavy loads of hides, coffee, and sugar, in droves, lightening their weight of woe by singing a low, monotonous, drawling song, taken up in time, one after the other, in regular rotation. These poor brethren, as we must call them, notwithstanding their sable skins, believing, as we do, in the unity of the human race, are bought and sold like beasts of burden, and fetch in the slave market at present about 100*l.* per head. The ship-chandler, who supplied us with stores, stated, that he purchased from a widow, a slave, whom she was desirous of selling to a master who would treat him with kindness and consideration, as she was compelled to part with him, not being in

such circumstances as would enable her to keep him longer ; and having been a favourite with her husband she wished him to fall into hands, who, on that account, would give him indulgences he might not receive from one, who had been entirely a stranger to his former owners. This slave got intoxicated, and perched himself on the top of the house, in such a situation that it was dangerous to attempt any approach towards him, and there he sat, bellowing most lustily the whole night through, to the great annoyance and terror of the neighbourhood. In the morning, when he had recovered from the fumes of his intoxicating draught, he descended. As the new purchaser found him so untractable he sent him to the slave-market, to be sold by auction for whatever he would fetch. I cannot understand by what possible argument one human being can be possessed of any vested right in the body of another. Nor is it surprising that slaves should use every effort to obtain freedom. Forming, as they do in the Brazils, two-thirds of the population, a rise has been apprehended

among them, and, consequently, fear has operated to a certain extent as a check on any further increase of their numbers. The slave trade is, therefore, carried on surreptitiously. While we were there, an English man-of-war steamer, called the "Sharpshooter," was preparing to cruise along the Brazilian coast, to prevent the running in of two American vessels, well armed, and who were determined to risk an engagement in the event of their meeting with any opposition.

The slaves are now we were told well treated by the Portuguese, from commercial rather than humane considerations, as a strong young slave is worth a considerable sum of money.

The town of Rio, is a tawdry-looking place, and dirty beyond the power of language to describe. Lisbon is a paradise in comparison. No wonder it is visited by such fatal maladies when so little pains are taken to promote health or cleanliness. In every corner, filth seems to remain just where each depositor finds the most convenient resting-

place, without any propriety of selection. The water lodges in the centre of the streets, which have no flag-way, and are so narrow, that when one of their miserable conveyances passes you by, you are splashed over just as you would be on a slushy day in London, by some careless cabman, driving too close to the curb-stone. The liveries, trumpery although bedizened with lace, have a comic appearance on the black lackeys. The inhabitants look cadaverous and grave, there is scarcely a smile to be seen on any one countenance, as if all gaiety and gladness of heart had fled away from their part of the world. The mules are noble-looking animals. Your attention will be drawn to the fine seat which the men have on them, riding with very long stirrup-leathers, and large rowelled spurs at their heels. The women of the better class had a very personable appearance.

After breakfasting at the Hôtel de Bourse, in the Rue Alfonda, where we were well accommodated, we went again into the bazaar, and saw a good supply of fish, poultry, pigs, and fruit. The poultry was very excellent,

of which we had evidence on board during our subsequent passage ; so were the pigs ; but the sheep, which cost 2*l.* 10*s.* per head, were the most miserable animals any one can conceive, being no more than skin and bones, without an ounce of fat or flesh upon them. At the steps, on entering the market, sat many mendicants, wretched objects of disease and penury, begging alms from all who passed by to provide for their miserable daily subsistence.

The principal productions of the country are sugar, coffee, a bean upon which the slaves are fed, and cattle. Bananas, pines, citrons, oranges, custard apples, and all fruits belonging to the tropics, are seen exposed for sale.

The population of this execrably dirty place amounts to 260,000. Here the Roman Catholic faith is to be seen in all its supremacy, and exhibits its overweening love of dominion. It is said that money can obtain immunity from anything save an insult or offence against the church. Just as on the continent of Europe, may be seen monks and

friars of various orders walking about in the costumes belonging to their different corps. Every natural sentiment is sapped from them to aggrandize their Church. At the head of the great square is a very fine cathedral, most gorgeously adorned inside with gilded roof and a fine altar-piece; it reminded me, by its splendour, of the Houses of Lords and Commons. Adjoining it is the Royal Chapel, which we had not the opportunity of visiting, as the Emperor was in the mountains during the sickly season with the Empress and family, consisting of three children. The palace of the ancient and proud House of Braganza is placed in the midst of filth and poverty, a luxurious court surrounded by squalor and pestilence. The royal revenue is somewhere about 100,000*l.* a-year, which would be in this country a large sum, but that the Emperor has many loans to liquidate. Here the Prince de Joinville came for his wife in the heyday of King Louis Philippe's prosperity. One thing which will make any visitor remember Rio above all others, is the extortionate price asked for

every article of sale, not only by the natives, but also by foreigners. Your own countrymen are quite as ready and apt in pawning upon you spurious diamonds and pebbles as any Portuguese, and squeezing you as far as you are to be compressed. So keep a good look out after your pockets, and draw your purse's strings extra tight when you have landed, and return to your ship every night; or else, during the sickly season, go some short distance from the town to sleep, as there you escape the contagious and fatal infection of the yellow fever. It is a sad pity to see a country, for which nature has done so much, rendered almost uninhabitable by the neglect and filth of its people. The only man who seems to partake of the spirit of the age in progress is the President of the Customs'-house Duty, who is now causing vast and important improvements to be made in the department and buildings over which he has control, and all of which we surveyed. Opposite to the Custom-house, you pass into the street where artificial flowers are made with feathers, very elegant, beautiful, and

expensive. A bouquet of these makes a very pretty ornament for a plateau. You must take care that the feathers have not been dyed, but are the natural plumage of a bird.

The Government is composed of two Houses of Assembly, as we were informed by an Englishman. The Upper House is self-elective, and the members are chosen for life; the representatives of the Lower House are elected by persons duly qualified, under certain conditions, to vote them into that office.

CHAPTER XVIII.

AUSTRALIA METALLIFEROUS—SIR C. FITZROY APPLIES FOR A GEOLOGICAL SURVEYOR—STEEL—GOLD—FIRST NUGGET—HIS EXCELLENCY'S PROJECTED VISIT TO MELBOURNE—REV. C. CLARKE—SIR R. MURCHISON—THE SHEPHERD M'GREGOR—THE ABORIGINES AS GOLD-FINDERS—MR. HARGREAVES—MR. MACLEAN—MR. WENTWORTH—MR. HARGREAVES' REPLY—MR. HARGREAVES' DECLARATIONS IN SYDNEY—MR. STUCHBURY—COAL—MR. HARGREAVES' STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO THE GOLD DISCOVERY—MR. HARGREAVES' REPORT TO GOVERNMENT—THE LOCALITIES IN WHICH HE FOUND GOLD—MR. DEAS THOMPSON'S LETTER TO MR. STUCHBURY—HIS REPLY—AWARD DUE TO MR. HARGREAVES.

AUSTRALIA was long known as a metalliferous country. The discovery of copper in the Burra Burra Mines, near Adelaide, together with other information, which the government of the Australian colonies had received, suggested, we may suppose, to his Excellency Sir C. FitzRoy, the advantage the colony

would receive from the appointment of a geological surveyor. It was ascertained that other ores besides copper and iron were abundant; consequently in a despatch to the Earl Grey, bearing date, Sydney, 1st March, 1849, his Excellency writes, requesting the Secretary for the Colonies to send out a gentleman competent to undertake the mineralogical and geological survey of the colony. Copper mines had been opened in the district of Bathurst, Carcoar, and Summer Hill, and an iron mine had also been opened in the neighbourhood of Bermera, of so fine a quality, that it was adapted for the manufacture of the best description of cutlery and hardware; the ore found on the surface yielding from sixty to seventy per cent. of the purest metal. In paragraphs 8 and 9 of the same despatch, His Excellency writes, "In some parts of the colony, I am informed, that auriferous ores have been discovered. A specimen, weighing three ounces and a half, was lately exhibited to me. I have not been able to learn the precise locality where it was found, except that it is on the western

side of the great dividing range in the Sydney or middle district.

“An extensive gold field is also said to have been recently discovered at the Pyrenees, in the Port Phillip district; but I have been as yet unable to obtain any authentic information on the subject. If in the course of the visit I am about to make to that district, I should obtain any particulars respecting it worthy of being communicated, it will be my duty again to address your Lordship on the subject.”

From this communication it clearly appears that the government was quite alive to the probable auriferous character of Australia, previous to the confirmation of the expectation, by the public declaration of Mr. H. Hargreaves.

It had been prognosticated by eminent geologists of different countries, that gold existed in New South Wales, from the general natural features of the country. The Rev. C. Clarke and Sir R. Murchison, had both published their opinions on the subject; their conclusions being deduced from the geo-

logical formation of the country. There is but little doubt, that gold had been long obtained by a shepherd of the name of M'Gregor,* who came into the colony in very indigent circumstances, and gradually increased in wealth, by means which could not be understood, and which were known to himself alone. It has also been affirmed by some, that the aborigines occasionally brought gold into the settled districts from the Macquarie.

It was reserved for Mr. Hargreaves to announce the existence of gold, in such quantities as to render the development of it profitable to the miner. The attack, the ungenerous and ungrateful attack made upon him by W. Wentworth, Esq., in the Legislative Assembly, provoked from Mr. H. the following history of himself, and of the circumstances which led to the discovery of gold by him. Mr. Wentworth designated Mr. H. as a "shallow impudent fellow," and

* M'Gregor was shepherd to Mr. Templar, *very* poor, shoeless, and gradually became possessed of cattle: he sold his gold in Sydney, but would not divulge where he got it.

was seconded by a Mr. M'Clean, Member of the Council of Legislature, adding that the discoverer was an "impostor." Mr. Hargreaves is the son of a British officer, was born on a march, and emigrated to Australia, of which country he has been a resident for twenty years. Having, he says, nothing to lose, he determined, being of robust constitution and health, to try his fortunes in the mines of California, where he states that he was a successful digger. From his observation of that auriferous region, and the similarity of its construction to that of Australia, he felt convinced that in the gigantic rocks of Australia, which lived in his memory, he had left greater treasures behind him than those which he was seeking in the western hemisphere. He does not assume to himself any scientific knowledge, he is not versed in the technical phraseology of the erudite geologist, he only claims the credit of having discovered a gold-field worth working, simply from analogical reasoning, based upon his own practical observation. Mr. H. had often expressed his conviction when working

in California, that there was a widely extended gold-producing field in New South Wales. This conviction was confirmed by an Australian shepherd, who was with him at the diggings, and as the report runs, revealed to Mr. H. on his death bed, the place, where he had, previous to his departure from Australia, gathered in small quantities pieces of gold while tending his flock.

Mr. H. says that on his return from California to Sydney, he frequently stated to certain friends his certain conviction that he could show them a gold-field in the colony. This declaration was laughed at, and his reiterated statements were attributed to an imagination excited by his success in California, and by some of his intimate friends were regarded in a serious light as indicative of an unsound mind; or, in colonial parlance, they decided that he was neither more nor less than "cranky." At this very time, Mr. Stuchbury, the Government geologist sent out by Earl Grey at the request of Sir C. Fitzroy, and upon the recommendation and by the selection of Sir H. de la Beche,

(Mr. Bate Jukes and Mr. Bristow having respectively declined the appointment), was engaged in a scientific survey of the colony. But he had not recorded any discovery of gold in his explorations, although the existence of the precious metal had been surmised by distinguished geologists, based upon scientific theories, and such theories had been confirmed by the piece of gold weighing three ounces and a half, which His Excellency had reported to Earl Grey in his despatch of 1st March, 1849. By instructions given to Mr. Stuchbury through the Colonial Secretary, and by order of His Excellency the Governor, the surveyor was directed "to proceed at the earliest opportunity to those districts in which metalliferous ores had been already discovered, and in some of which mines had been already opened. These were, Yass, Molong near Wellington, Carcoar, where copper ore had been obtained, and Bermera, where an iron mine had been commenced, and from which steel, apparently of the first quality, and adapted for the manufacture of the best descriptions of cutlery, had

been produced.* In some parts of the colony auriferous ores are stated to have been discovered, and a specimen weighing about three ounces and a half was exhibited to the Governor in 1849. The precise locality where it was found was not ascertained, but it was understood to be on the western side of the great dividing range, in what is known as the Sydney, or Middle District. Coal is chiefly found at Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, and Illawara." These instructions of Mr. E. Deas Thompson bear date the 23rd December, 1850.

In a letter dated Sydney, 3rd April, 1851, from Mr. H. Hargreaves to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. H. states that he made the first discovery of gold upon Crown lands at his own expense, "as a speculation, and as a means of bettering my fortunes, in the event of my search proving successful. I have succeeded beyond my expectations. . . . My first discovery was made on the 12th February," 1851. On the 30th of April,

* A pair of scissors was sent to the Exhibition by Mr. Jennings of Sydney.

1851, Mr. E. Deas Thompson encloses to Mr. Stuchbury the following communication of Mr. Hargreaves, pointing out the localities where gold had been discovered by him:—"Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, and in reply beg to say that I am quite satisfied to leave the remuneration for my discovery of gold on Crown lands to the liberal consideration of the Government.

"The following are the localities where it exists, viz., Lewis Ponds and Summerhill Creeks, Macquarie and Turon Rivers, in the district of Bathurst and Wellington. I am now waiting His Excellency's pleasure as to the mode of testing the value of my discovery." Mr. S., upon this direction, proceeded with Mr. H. to the localities pointed out, and thus writes of Mr. H., "who will remain at Enyong. . . . I think, from Mr. H.'s experience, you could not, at the first moment, engage a better person to carry out your views."

On May 19th, 1851, dated from Summerhill, Mr. S. thus writes:—"Gold has been

obtained in considerable quantities. Many persons, with a tin dish, or such inefficient apparatus, having obtained from one to two ounces per day, about four hundred persons of all classes are digging, occupying about one mile of the creek. I have no doubt of gold being found in greater or less quantities over a *vast extent* of country."

On the 26th May, 1851, Mr. E. Deas Thompson writes to Mr. Stuchbury:—"I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to call your attention to the very meagre and unsatisfactory, and particularly to the unscientific and unbusiness-like character of the information you have as yet afforded the Government on the subject of the gold discovery." On the 26th of May, 1851, Mr. S., dating from three miles west of the gold-diggings, writes:—"Lumps have been obtained varying in weight from one ounce to four pounds, the latter being the heaviest I have heard of." On the 9th of June, 1851, Mr. S., from Orange, states in reply to queries put by the Colonial Secretary, "I have not found gold in its natural matrix.

I am not aware that any ore of mercury has been found, but *report* says it has been discovered near Caputu."

This is a correct account of the gold discovery, gathered from the best and most authentic sources, viz., official documents. It is but just and fair that he who has laid open to the world such vast resources of wealth should have awarded to him the meed of praise which he deserves: "Palman qui meruit ferat." The colonial press unanimously upheld Mr. H. Hargreaves' character, then subjected to the attack already referred to, and made by an old political schemer.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION — H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT — THE INCREASE OF GOLD — FREE TRADE — GOLD DIGGING LABORIOUS AND UNCERTAIN — SOME FORTUNATE — KID GLOVES AND PENKNIVES — PERSONS UNFITTED FOR THE DIGGINGS — GOVERNMENT CLERKS — THEY OF THE BETTER CLASSES WHO WILL GO TO THE MINES — COUNT FIRST THE COST — MANY START FOR THE GOLD FIELDS WITHOUT MEANS — HALF-PAY OFFICERS — THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT — HON. KEITH STUART — HIS SUCCESS AT MAJOR'S CREEK, BRAIDWOOD — NO ARISTOCRACY AT THE DIGGINGS — SAILOR LUCK — ABUSE OF IT — PUBLICANS BENEFITED — THE LARGE SUMS SQUANDERED BY DIGGERS — KNOCKING DOWN HIS DUST IN SYDNEY — DEMORALIZING EFFECT ON SOCIETY — A DIGGER'S WEDDING — CABS — CHAMPAGNE.

It is, indeed, incredible to realize the fact of thousands upon thousands of people occupied in picking up gold, with simple implements, and in the purest state, and in large quantities. Had it been predicted that simultaneously with the opening of the Great

Exhibition, a mine of countless wealth would be laid open at the antipodes, as was the fact, the seer would have been looked upon as labouring under some aberration of mind. While the noble and philanthropic philosophy of an accomplished, wise, and virtuous prince had conceived and matured a palace for the commerce of the world to meet in; instructing nations that the noblest description of contest and competition was in arts and science, rather than in war and bloodshed; the medium of exchange to go, "pari passu," with the increased commerce which this design might create, was by Providence laid open to man. It was a year memorable for Australia as well as for England.

Gold-digging is laborious and its result capricious and uncertain. It cannot be said of it, as Mr. McCulloch said of writing for the press, that it is laborious, *unprofitable*, and *disreputable*. It is certainly laborious, and *may* be both unprofitable and disreputable. It would mislead the reader and would be contrary to the truth to say that all who go gold-digging are successful; but on the other

hand it is undeniable that many persons have in a few months acquired sums, which they never would have got together in a lifetime of laborious and long-continued industry. Failure and success do not appertain to gold-digging alone, they are the alternations of all callings and professions in life. Many, without counting the cost, undertake what they are incompetent to perform. On the first discovery of gold, before the real character of gold-digging was understood, young gentlemen went prospecting and gold-seeking with kid gloves and penknives, just turning over a piece of quartz with the open blade, and expecting to have as a reward for this condescension to toil a large piece of gold. Of course such persons acted most unwisely when they gave up, small though they might be, the incomes which they obtained in government offices, or at lawyer's desks. Some there were, who, notwithstanding the blisters which they got on their fingers, persevered, till at last they could go to work "secundum artem," and dig down their forty, fifty, or sixty feet,

if necessary, to get at the precious ore, either in the more portable and agreeable form of nuggets, or of auriferous earth to be washed out at the cradle. Any one of the genteel classes, or such whose training has not accustomed him to labour, must prepare himself, if he goes to the diggings, to undergo fatigue and privations which he has never experienced before, and with a hearty resolution and fixedness of determination that will insure his conquest over them. Many have returned penniless and disheartened to Sydney and Melbourne from the diggings, and would gladly resume the occupations they had thrown up to make a fortune in the gold field, simply because they had not looked well before they leapt; they had no doubt a hearty good will to find the gold, but they wanted one very important element of success—aptitude to get at it. Such persons were physically unfit for the calling: if they make up their mind to seek the fickle lady in this path, their pluck must compensate for what they lack in experience and habits. Another great source of failure and disap-

pointment to such persons is that they go up to the gold field without *sufficient means*, also with exaggerated ideas of the facility with which gold is obtained. They have not the necessary provision to give themselves a fair chance, or their industry and resolution an opportunity; for the maxim "labor omnia vincit" holds most especially in gold-mining; it is here as ever, in all pursuits of life, "the hand of the diligent that maketh rich." But if the miner has not capital enough to meet temporary failure, he returns, as has often been the case, disgusted and disheartened. This has been the upshot with numberless persons, indeed, of all classes. Many have gone to the mines, remained scraping the surface, expecting to obtain gold at once, and their expectations, extravagant as they were, failing to be realised, they say gold-digging is all nonsense, and in many cases are too glad to return to their ordinary callings.

Another class of persons who have attempted gold-digging are half-pay officers. One steamer brought out quite a cargo of them; they also were not prepared for the

laborious process of delving, and the consequence has of course been bitter disappointment. Here and there, even among this class, I know of some who have been successful after long perseverance. The Hon. Keith Stuart, the son-in-law of His Excellency the Governor, Sir C. Fitzroy, has been upwards of twelve months digging on Major's Creek, at Braidwood, and for a considerable time, although employing six or seven men, did very little good, still always clearing expenses; now having taken into partnership a hard-working Scotchman, who acts as overseer, he is making a profitable return; say, as generally understood, a hundred ounces per week. If officers, who will try their fortunes in this path, would exercise the same durability of purpose and continuous application, there is no doubt in my mind but that eventually they will be successful. But let it be remembered, that they must expect and be fully prepared to rough it in every sense of the word. There is no aristocracy at the diggings, no distinction of classes—all are "hail fellow, well met," and

the wise course to pursue is to hold good fellowship with the industrious and honest, however humble they may be. Twelve to fourteen months of continued labour and repeated interruption by flood is a good trial of perseverance; many are prepared for a month or two months' hardship, but shrink from a lengthened privation, such as the Hon. Captain Stuart has endured. A gentleman who accompanied the German traveller, Leichardt, to the Gulf of Carpentaria, along the east coast of Australia, has been successful, and now by my side, my friend and fellow-passenger, Mr. Armstrong, from the north of Ireland, has, by a continued perseverance of eighteen months' hard work obtained a considerable quantity of the precious metal.

The persons who have been most successful at the mines have been sailors. It is a mistake to suppose that an experienced digger has better promise of success than one who is new to the business. In prospecting, experience may give an advantage, but in mining it is apparently quite a lottery. Although

sailors have been remarkably fortunate, it is to be feared that they have benefited but little by it permanently. The publicans and inn-keepers are the parties for whom they have worked, the idle and dishonest, those for whom they have toiled. It will appear incredible to strangers who have never come in contact with society in Australia, as now constituted, what sums of money are spent and lost in a few days, which it has cost months of toil and self-denial to accumulate. One sailor who had made 600*l.* in two months, spent it in six weeks, in dissipation, drunkenness, and every kind of excess. Another, the son of a Presbyterian minister, who had been mate of a ship, spent 800*l.* in fourteen days. A digger of this class thinks very little of 20*l.* a-night, as long as the money lasts; then he returns to his claim to get more, and when he has got together another sum, he comes again into town to knock it down; and returns again with fewer shillings in his pocket than he had hundreds of pounds when he first came down. The effect of this dissipated practice injures

the constitution, and by the habits which are contracted of sensual indulgence, is and must be highly demoralising. And in fact, the truth is, that such persons, as justly observed to me, are quite spoiled for steady work and moderate, yea, even abundant, remuneration. Large sums are expended at weddings. A successful miner comes down and gets a wife; cabs and hackney-coaches are hired at enormously high prices, for a week or a fortnight, and hundreds are thus squandered in riot and excess, and a great quantity of champagne is consumed. Prudence and prodigality distinguish all classes of persons. While it is deplorable to see the extravagance and dissipation of some, it is equally satisfactory to see men who could never have obtained sufficient means in any other way, apply their good fortune to beneficial and legitimate purposes. These instances are also to be found among the notoriously thoughtless and improvident class of mariners.

CHAPTER XX.

A PROVIDENT STEWARD—THE POLITICAL ECONOMIST—A SOMERSETSHIRE LABOURER—AN OLD “LAG’S” LUCK—A SAWYER’S WIFE IN SILKS AND SATINS MAL AISÉ—FOOLISH NOTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS—SAD PLIGHT OF PENNILESS IMMIGRANTS—WORK AT 2*l.* AND 3*l.* PER DIEM—A YOUNG SCOTCHMAN’S HARDSHIPS AT MELBOURNE—SAVINGS LOST AT MINING—AN OLD RAILWAY NAVVIE; HIS PRIVATIONS—A GARDENER’S TRIAL OF THE GOLD FIELDS; HIS ACCOUNT OF THEM; LOST HIS SAVINGS—A PERSEVERING DIGGER—AN OFFICER WITH HIS SONS—THE ACCOUNT OF A GENTLEMAN FROM EDMONTON; HIS FAILURE AT BINGERA; HIS SUCCESS AT THE TURON; SHOT AT, AND RETURNS THE COMPLIMENT—PLANTING, OR PEPPERING, OR SALTING—HOAX PLAYED ON MR. HARGREAVES IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS—A BULLET GILDED—GOLD AT NEW TOWN—PUBLICANS AND SYDNEY ’BUSSES DID A GOOD STROKE—A SERIOUS FRAUD AT MELBOURNE—SPURIOUS GOLD—MANUFACTURED AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE steward of a vessel obtained in a few months several hundreds of pounds; he has married, bought land, and settled down to steady and regular labour. A fellow-passen-

ger has a nugget which this miner struck out of Bendigo, weighing eighteen ounces and a-half, in which may be seen distinctly the mark of the pick, presenting the appearance of having been subjected to the action of fire. If the monies made at the mines were more generally invested in this manner, it would produce that middle class so much wanted in the colony. It would rejoice every one to see the hard-working man successful. The political economist would recognise in this application of wealth the elements of great national prosperity, viz., the cultivation of the soil, and the extension of legitimate commerce. A Somersetshire labourer, who had worked in England for ten and eleven shillings per week, and came out a bounty emigrant, settled, after three years' service, in Adelaide; he went to Mount Alexander, and in eight weeks netted three hundred pounds; he returned to his farm, satisfied with his success, to join his wife and family, and to improve his land with this most important accession of capital. Two successful men, whom the writer met with at Moreton Bay—one an old

sapper and miner, an intelligent Scotchman, who had been employed in the survey of Scotland; the other, an old convict, formerly a whipper-in to a pack of hounds near Whally, in Lancashire—after an absence of ten months, bought allotments, and then returned to the mines. It is pleasing to be able to mention such instances of the useful application of money, when so great a misuse of it presents itself in every direction. It is also amusing to see the wives of diggers rustling in silks and satins at one time, and at another, without shoes or stockings, and in working clothes, looking much more at ease and at home in this costume than in the dress of a higher order. I particularly remarked a sawyer, who I knew had been lucky, when taking his wife to their kirk, survey her with just and honest marital pride, in her silken dress, although it was very manifest that she was evidently labouring under what our Gallic neighbours well express by “mal aisé.”

The erroneous and extravagant notions formed about the diggings by immigrants cannot be removed too soon, and they should

be told the naked truth at once, that while many prosper, many also fail. From the highly-coloured accounts given by the press, there is no doubt that many persons unfitted for the occupations most in demand have left home, and find themselves without any resources, unless they resort to shepherding. Some came out with such absurd ideas, as that the gold-seeker had only to go out of his tent or hut after a shower of heavy tropical rain, and scrape the gold off the surface of the soil. Several also of the new comers land without one farthing in their pockets, and yet will not engage themselves in service in the colony, as they left England expressly to go and try their luck at the gold-mines. The consequence is that they are quite incompetent to meet the expenses of travelling from one hundred to two hundred miles up to the mines; and even if with perseverance, and the sale of a few articles of clothing which they have brought out with them, they are able to reach the auriferous districts, they are unprovided with means to purchase necessaries, implements,

and the license fee. They may, as some have done who have attempted and succeeded in reaching the desired spot in this sad plight, obtain wages, amounting to 2*l.* or 3*l.* per week, but this is very uncertain, as the work is generally carried on by parties, formed before they proceed to the diggings, and strangers are seldom employed. The proprietors who engage labour are very few in number, and quite the exception, the rule being the other way. A young man, a native of Glasgow, came over from the Scotch settlement of Otago, in New Zealand, and when he reached the mines, and had paid for tools and license fee, found that he and his companion had only one shilling between them to buy food with until their claim yielded. On the diggings many sheep's heads are thrown about, and they collected these and lived upon them for one week, when fortunately their claim began to yield, and in fourteen days they were in possession of 400*l.*; but our friend was no advocate for gold seeking. There are several remarkable instances of persons succeeding who reached the mines

penniless ; but the best course to pursue without money, is to look for work until they have sufficient to give themselves and the gold-mines a fair chance. To be induced to attempt it without funds because some have not failed, would be just as sensible and reasonable as for young barristers to eat sprat suppers because Lord Eldon did so, and became Chancellor ; or tripe and ham, because Erskine when living at Blackheath was forced also by poverty to adopt that diet, and he too arrived at the dignity of Lord High Chancellor of England ; or to suppose that because Johnstone and Garrick came up to London with only three half-pence, every one to arrive at great celebrity and fame should do the same—if they had the exact sum.

Many have lost the savings of years at the diggings. One old man, who had been a contractor for tunnelling on some of Brassy and Mackenzie's railway lines, took up with him 200*l.*, and five of his fellow-passengers formed the party ; for five months they worked away at the Turon and buried all,

owing to the holes filling with water. The privations were too great for this man ; he had not been accustomed to a sheet of bark for a bed and a gunya hut, and to the unvarying tea and damper. To use his own words —“ it nearly finished me.” Immediately on landing he went off without experience, and almost without inquiry. One of the gardeners of the Botanical Gardens at Sydney, went up to the Turon, took his wife with him, and in three months lost all his savings, 75*l.*, and also his health ; he was glad to return to his former occupation. Another acquaintance of the writer’s lost 30*l.* in four months on one occasion, in Bell’s Paddock, Braidwood ; and 20*l.* in two months on another trial, but he means to return to it, and perhaps will eventually succeed. An officer, with his two sons, now a stipendiary magistrate, an aged man, lost 50*l.* in five months ; but neither he nor his party had in them any elements of success. A young gentleman, the son of a merchant from Edmonton, came out with three friends with the sole object of going to the diggings ; he went from Sydney

to Mailland, and overland from thence to Bingera, about 250 miles ; lost at the Bingera gold-field 40*l.* ; from the scarcity of water they could not make the yield profitable ; he passed on to the Hanging Rock, made 75*l.* in a fortnight, and from thence proceeded to the Turon, where, after eight months, he found he had netted 700*l.* He justly remarked, that the diggings were demoralizing from the rambling, erratic sort of life. However, he intended to try Mount Alexander after Christmas. He had been shot at and struck in the leg, by a ball, fired by a black fellow ; for which he returned a heavy charge of buck-shot in the part that people usually employ to sit down upon.

All townships have been anxious to have gold found in their vicinity, to increase the trade of the place and enhance the value of every description of property. And the most ingenious methods have been practised to induce a rush to the spot. Hence the custom of "*salting*," i. e., burying gold in localities where prospectors are attracted by rumours of the precious ore having been found. One

instance of this kind occurred at Adelaide, which became pretty generally known; the object in this case was to sell the land at a high price to a Mining Company. And the Bishop of Sydney, in laying the foundation stone of a church at Sofala, at each turn of the trowel brought to light a nugget of some value, which however it appeared had been placed there with a view of enhancing the value of the neighbouring land. This in technical gold-digging phraseology, is called "*planting*."

Mr. H. Hargreaves, when sent to explore the northern districts, had the following attempt palmed upon him, as he reported to Government. Messrs. Hay and Leslies, superintendents and squatters, stated that gold had been found in the vicinity of the Darling Downs, anxious to attract diggers to those districts. Mr. H. Hargreaves addressed the Colonial Secretary, after having inspected the Northern districts, in these terms:—
"The Canning Downs' gold excitement was got up with a leaden bullet covered up or rather over, with gold leaf, previously

beaten out into a nugget-like looking specimen. The perpetrator of this hoax, a Mr. Thompson, an artist, told me so himself, in presence of other gentlemen." This is one of many hoaxes of the same description. Another quite recently attempted, was a pretended discovery of gold at New Town, six miles from Sydney, which field Mr. Deas Thompson and several other gentlemen rode out to examine, but the result was found to be no more than a trick played by some of the publicans and omnibus proprietors, to induce (as it did), an influx of people from town, and during which excitement they managed to do a "good stroke."

But a fraud of a much more serious character has been discovered, viz. the adulteration of gold with twenty per cent. of copper, or as is stated in evidence at the police court in Melbourne, with Muntz' metal. Advices had previously come out that spurious nuggets and gold dust had been extensively manufactured in Birmingham, either to be sold to gold buyers or else for the purpose of "peppering" or "salting"

claims, for fraudulent sale on the diggings. The principals sent out to their agents in the colony, the strongest acids and hardest stones to try the gold with, but the spurious metal was so well and strongly gilded as to resist the usual tests ordinarily applied. The writer, when present at Mr. John Cohen's gold sales, saw some of this factitious metal, of the form of shot, in which form pure gold is found, with a slight pellicle hanging to it ; but it was agreed on by all present that the imitation was most ingeniously contrived ; and when acids were applied by Mr. Hall, a jeweller and purchaser for the banks, the metal was found not to be acted upon. The extent to which this fraud may have been carried on, and with what degree of success, is unknown, and will remain so until advices are received from home. The loss to some will, no doubt, be a very serious matter.

CHAPTER XXI.

THE INVESTIGATION AT MELBOURNE—LEAD SOLD FOR GOLD — “POINTING” — GAMBLING — INTOXICATION — THE MORAL DANGERS THE MINER IS EXPOSED TO—A SCENE ON THE LORD’S DAY AT THE MINES—TOSSING—PREACHING—A PRIZE-FIGHT—SLY GROG-SELLERS—AN EXECUTION—THE CONFESSION—“BAILING UP”—VANDEMONIANS — A VESSEL ROBBED—INSECURITY OF LIFE—THE OVENS — HIGH PRICE OF DRAYS, ETC., ON A MOVE—MIGRATORY CHARACTER OF THE MINERS—TURON AND BATHURST; STATE OF SOCIETY AT THOSE MINES — SIR CHARLES FITZROY’S ADDRESS — MELBOURNE—DANGER OF BEING ABROAD AFTER SUNSET—HAMMERING A MAN—APPREHENSIONS OF LYNCH LAW AT THE OVENS—“SHEPHERDING” A LUCKY DIGGER—CRUEL ATTACK—DYSENTERY—BAD WATER—A SUCCESSFUL PRACTITIONER—A DENTIST’S CHARGE—OPHTHALMIA—SAND—INSECTS—FLIES—MOSQUITOES—COUNTRY SALUBRIOUS—INFLUENZA—HOW THE INTENDING MINER SHOULD PROVIDE HIMSELF; THE BEST WAY FOR HIM TO PROCEED—WHO SHOULD GO TO THE DIGGINGS—THE LAST RESORT OF YOUNG MEN UNFIT FOR MINERS — COLONIAL EXPERIENCE — PICKS — CRADLES — REVOLVERS.

THE investigation into this fraud took place at Melbourne, on December 31, 1852, before the mayor and Mr. Hall, J. P., when a

charge of selling spurious gold was brought against James Karey, by Mr. L. J. Montefiore, who stated that he bought 732 ounces at 3*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.* per ounce, and that the purchase was made conditionally, viz., that the gold should be assayed. The prosecutor deposed, that he detected some as counterfeit. "I examined every particle of the gold, with the acid test, and the result was the discolouration of two pieces, which indicated the presence of copper. The defendant said this was only dirt, and I thinking it was copper, was not deceived by its appearance."

Mr. Charles Bruce Skinner, the Government gold assayer, who held a certificate from the Government Assay Master at Calcutta, stated that about ten days ago Mr. Montefiore brought him two parcels of metal in a paper. One resembled Mount Alexander gold, and the other a sort of spurious gold. Mr. Montefiore expressed a wish that he would assay the latter, which he did, and found it to be 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ carats or 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ less than standard gold. He had not the

slightest doubt but that the spurious parcel was not native gold, and he thought there could be no second opinion upon this point. Did not test the other parcel of gold, as he did not think Mr. Montefiore required it. One of the bags was opened in court and examined by witness, who swore that its contents contained a proportion of spurious gold similar to that he had assayed, and which he was certain was not the native gold of the colony, and it must have gone through some manufacturing process to be in its present state. His opinion was that Muntz' patent metal must have been mixed with it—such gold never came from the diggings. He did not think the gold had been alloyed here, but in England.

The loss on the quantity bought by prosecutor would be from 500*l.* to 600*l.*

The Mayor said the case appeared to be one of very great importance to the commercial interests; they would, therefore, postpone their decision until Monday, the defendant's bail to be extended.

Thus the case stood when the writer sailed

from Sydney. The effect of this has been to make buyers cautious and shy, and to suggest the necessity of gold-sellers being licensed; but the best safeguard will be the precautions which buyers and gold dealers will take for themselves, by increased skill in applying the necessary tests, and by multiplying the number of persons competent to assay, which has been already done. Considerable profits have been made by speculators in the precious metal since its discovery. One species of fraud practised at the diggings was the following ingenious contrivance:—A digger took to the Commissioner his bag of gold dust, had it weighed in his presence and sealed; a receipt of its weight, not contents, is given to him, upon presenting which at the Treasury to which it may be consigned, the same bag is delivered to him. He offers for sale the receipt of the Commissioner, and the unlucky purchaser finds the bag, when opened, contains not gold dust, but lead shot. Of course this has ceased to entrap any one now. Doubtless some more complicated

method will be discovered to defeat detection, as is generally the case; the vigilance of society provokes and sharpens the ingenuity of those who prey upon it.

Some gold buyers have been suspected of using false weights, and what is called in colonial dialect, "pointing." Many are the dangers morally and bodily which attend the fortunes of the digger. Gambling, drunkenness, and dissipation of every kind and degree, are helping to demoralize any virtuous sentiments which may linger amid the wreck of the human heart. Conceive such sights as the following, which have been seen at the mines, all enacted within a stone's throw of each other on the Lord's day. The service of the church being performed on one part of the creek, attended by the sober-minded and industrious miners; on another part, within the sound of the preacher's voice, a prize-fight was going on between two diggers for 20*l.*, which lasted for three hours; and contiguous to them a party gambling and drinking. The Commissioners, it must be mentioned to their

credit, on the day following punished the prize-fighters. It is not intended, by recording this instance of brutality, to produce the impression, that such is the usual and ordinary state of social order at the diggings. There are many well-disposed as well as evil-disposed persons collected on the gold fields. But the mind, not well fortified by religious sentiments, is apt, in the absence of the softening influences of domestic life, to be degraded step by step into paths which it never contemplated before without horror and dismay. The descent to sin is gradual. Sly grog-selling is also one of the sources of great evil and disorder. A culprit who was executed on the 24th of September, 1852, for the murder of his mate, was engaged with others in this illicit commerce. He attributed his career of crime to the vice of gambling and neglect of all religious impressions. It was sad to see a young man in the prime of life die on the scaffold, well-informed and well-educated. He said it was fortunate their career had been stopped; one was murdered, one was drowned in crossing

a creek, and he himself executed, for they had together led a cruel life. In many, say most, sly grog-shops, the spirits are adulterated and drugged so that the digger may be robbed while in a state of insensibility, and if resistance is offered, murdered. It is presumed that the unhappy man and his mates had been engaged in many lawless acts of robbery and violence.

" Bailing up " is stopping a man for the purpose of robbing him. Either waylaying him, or going into his hut or store in gangs of three or four, and obliging him to reveal his wealth, and deliver it up. This has often occurred, and more frequently at Mount Alexander in consequence of the contiguity of Van Diemen's Land. An assize has been instituted at the diggings, over which Judge Barry presided. Forty out of sixty cases of crimes were committed by the Vandemonians. There was a most formidable band, composed of liberated and run-away convicts at Victoria, headed by a lag who has been celebrated in the colony as an excellent race-jockey. Happily for society these

desperate banditti have been taken up. Not, however, before they had committed many depredations, and been guilty of many acts of sanguinary violence. A vessel, the "Nelson," lying in the harbour of Victoria, was boarded and robbed of a large quantity of gold-dust which had been shipped for export. Some of the party concerned in this act of piracy have been captured. Several stringent enactments in the Vagrant Act have been passed by the Melbourne Legislative Council to prevent the immigration of the convict and ticket-of-leave men.

Life is at the best generally insecure at the gold-fields; not however so much so in Australia, as it has been in California, and it is less exposed to the hand of the murderer in New South Wales, than in Victoria. At some diggings, lately found on the banks of the Ovens river, society has been in a most frightful state of rapine and bloodshed. The concourse of people was very great, as the field was reputed to be marvellously and incredibly auriferous, which will appear when we come to consider the comparative value

of gold-bearing localities. When any new place is reported to be rich in the precious ore, all means of locomotion rise to an enormous price; horses, drays, and carriages fetch apparently impossible rates. This migratory disposition of gold-diggers affords a veil to the lawless, to escape the vigilance of the law, while the absence of the victim prevents any particular notice, and confines all proceedings to a passing enquiry. Many deeds of violence and robbery which have never come to light, have, doubtless, been committed in drunken brawls. The Turon and Bathurst fields have hitherto been the most secure. His Excellency, Sir Charles Fitzroy, in his address to the Legislative Council on its prorogation, thus expresses himself concerning the state of society at the mines within his government, on the 28th December, 1852: "I have much pleasure in observing, that the same good order and willing obedience to the laws and the regulations of the Government which have so creditably characterized the conduct of the population at the gold fields since their first

occupation, are still maintained." But as the diggings approach nearer to Sydney from Port Phillip, it is feared this creditable character now justly commended by Sir Charles, will be lost in the accession and approach of the Vandemonians.

In Melbourne no one who values life (or property if he has any), ventures about after sunset. The insolence and power of the wicked is so dominant, that if an unlucky or prudent wight is without money or valuables when attacked, he is well "hammered," for his misfortune or his precaution. No one goes out without fire-arms. This, however, is not the condition of Sydney. But it is to be borne in mind that the latter is the elder settlement; and has that best and most effective police—good and plentiful gas lights. It was apprehended that at the Ovens, lynch law would come into common practice if the disorganized state of society continued much longer. A short time before the writer left, a digger who was known to have about forty pounds weight of gold, was "shepherded" for a consider-

able time, i. e., watched until a favourable opportunity presented itself to attack him. That opportunity, lucklessly for the poor fellow, occurred; he was "bailed up" by four men, and just as the party was leaving him, the disguise of one of them fell off, by which accident he discovered the robber, and calling him by name, the party returned and cut his throat; happily these horrid wretches have been captured. At the Owens river a case happened which came to the knowledge of the writer by a private channel. The Commissioners, to defeat as much as possible the schemes of these thieves, give to the depositor a receipt for his gold; the bag containing it is registered with the name of the digger (or owner) written by his own hand, but a blank space is left in the receipt to be presented at the Treasury or Bank, to be filled up by the applicant or his agent, so that if a person is robbed of this voucher, unless the blank could be filled up, no use could be made of it. A man was known by a gang to have made a deposit of treasure at the Commissioners', and to have in his

possession a receipt with the blank space to be filled up by himself with his own name, when presented for the deposit; they "bailed him up," and insisted on his filling up the blank with his own hand-writing to be by one of them presented at Melbourne; he for some time refused to do so; to murder him would not have served their end; they therefore kept him in durance, and punctured him with probes, until, finding himself growing faint from loss of blood, he was compelled to fill up in due form the Commissioners' receipt, which one of the party took into Melbourne before any intimation of the circumstances under which it had been obtained could be made known to the authorities. This was an instance of the most refined barbarity, cruelty, and daring. Other deeds of violence were constantly reported of the dissolute from the Ovens. The Californians are not the most lawless at the diggings, as has been presupposed.

For safety the well disposed camp together, for the "pointers" go in gangs and large bodies. This practice, and keeping in-doors

after sun-down, are the best security that can be adopted.

These are not the only dangers the miner has to encounter, and against which he must be prepared to contend. Dysentery has been very prevalent at the mines, arising from bad water and exposure to wet; in many cases at the different gold fields, the digger has to work up to his waist in water. The same sickness is also produced by the excessive heat. As there are all professions at the diggings, there is no lack of medical advice; and some surgeons have found the practice of their calling as profitable, and more so, than delving for gold. Mr. G., rather an aged man, came up to the mines, very poor, in fact, penniless. He borrowed from a friend of the writer's a pan, to wash the earth from his claim on his first arrival. Having been a practitioner in the West Indies, he had had considerable experience in the disease of dysentery; gradually, his fame spread, and in a few months having abandoned digging, he realised, by medical practice, and the sale of paper, pens, wafers, and cooling effervescent

draughts, a handsome fortune. A miner went to one practitioner and offered a pound to have a tooth extracted. This son of *Æsculapius* told him the price was two pounds, and as he would not pay it, he had to endure the pain. A sort of ophthalmia is very prevalent, arising from the refraction of light, the great heat, and that peculiar local nuisance of Australia, clouds of sand and dust, which are neither more nor less than sand storms; to protect themselves from which many wear veils, similar to those you may see used by gentlemen of the turf when going to the Derby on a dusty day. Ophthalmia may also be produced by the irritation caused by minute insects. But the chief tormentors in the hot weather are the flies and the mosquitoes; any one who could find a specific against these, may reckon upon being, in a very short time, a Rothschild or Overstone. From the great salubrity of the climate of Australia, and the absence as yet of any local disease, the general health at the mines has been remarkably good, and the mortality comparatively small. The reverse is the case

at California; there the places of burial present the appearance which might be expected in a long populated country; there, fever and ague are doing their full work on poor humanity. Perhaps neuralgia and rheumatism are the only endemics in the southern hemisphere; otherwise, it is a most delightful and healthy country; you may sleep out in the open air at night with impunity, and, notwithstanding the great and rapid alternations of temperature, the climate is invigorating and salubrious.

Influenza carried off great numbers both in Sydney and also at the diggings, attacking fatally the aged, the delicate, and the young during the close of last year.

The intending immigrant who purposes visiting Australia with the view of trying his luck at the mines, will be curious to know how he had best equip himself, to succeed in his design. If he has been accustomed to labour, he has one most essential property of probable success. He had better choose some companions like himself, say three or four, and then look out for a ship

to New South Wales, from the nearest port to his residence, and select one, the regulations of which assimilate most to those laid down by the Land and Emigration Colonization Society; these are so nicely framed, that the moral, and physical comfort of the passenger is ensured. The food sufficient, nay, ample, wholesome, and palatable. This forms a very important consideration in undertaking a voyage, the average duration of which may be computed at one hundred and twenty days. Every precaution is also taken by the Government to ensure the cleanliness and safety of the ship which they charter for the accommodation of the bounty emigrants. The writer must, in justice to the general liberality publicly acknowledged in the press (while he was in Sydney), by the passengers in free ships, state, that the comfort of free emigrants is fairly and sufficiently attended to by the owners and captains. The Passenger Act is a great protection to those for whom it was enacted.

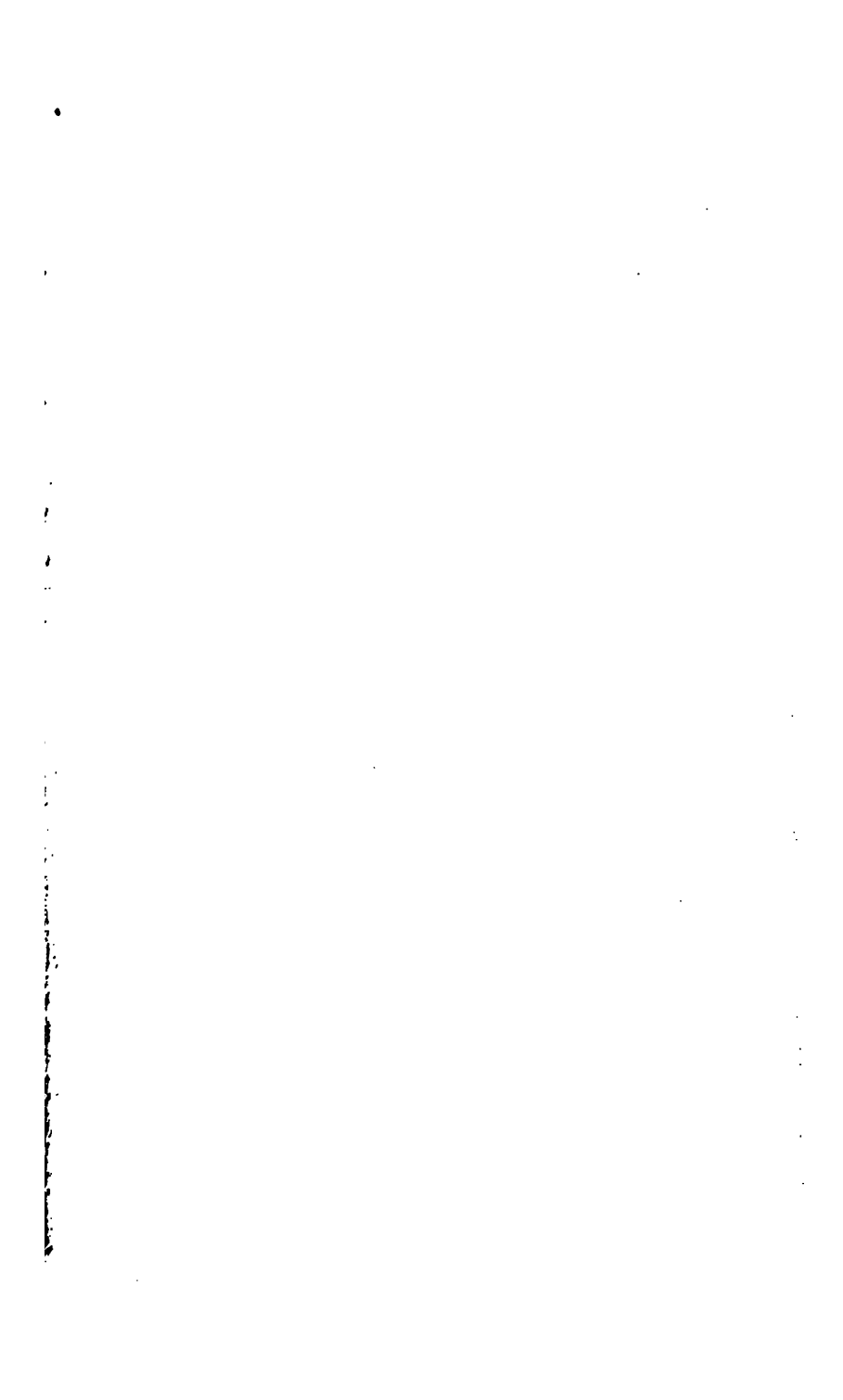
Who should go to the diggings? All

who think they can improve their fortunes, is our reply; who have strong perseverance and full determination. Napoleons, in the explanation of the word *impossible*—a word which is not found in their vocabulary. But if, reader, you have a competent income at home, meeting your wants, and adapted to the requirements of your station in society, stay in England, because you may not succeed; and if you do, you must certainly undergo privations to which you have been unaccustomed, and which your previous comforts doubly unfit you to contend with. This most particularly is advanced as advice to those who are engaged in merchants' offices and Government employments; for since, if your health fails, or your means become exhausted at the mines, you would find it difficult to fall back upon your former calling, and then you present the most deplorable object in New South Wales, of which, alas! there are already too many instances in well-informed and well-conducted young men, who cannot find suitable occu-

pation for themselves, and being without "colonial experience," are not selected even by those who do require the description of labour these young men can offer for employment. The alternative is then starvation or the bush; i. e., becoming a shepherd, or a police or storekeeper's overseer, after some "colonial experience" has been obtained. This last is a quality rather difficult to explain; but it implies in its idiomatic sense a great deal that is of a very questionable cast. It was defined to the writer as "learning to *do* by having been *done*." This is what is tacitly understood by the advertiser who wants a person with "colonial experience;" or as the Australian native or old hand tersely and expressively construes it, "being up to a move or two," or "knowing a thing or two." Supposing the intending emigrant digger to have taken his passage, the less he encumbers himself with luggage the better, as it will only be in his way on landing, and it is as impossible as unnecessary

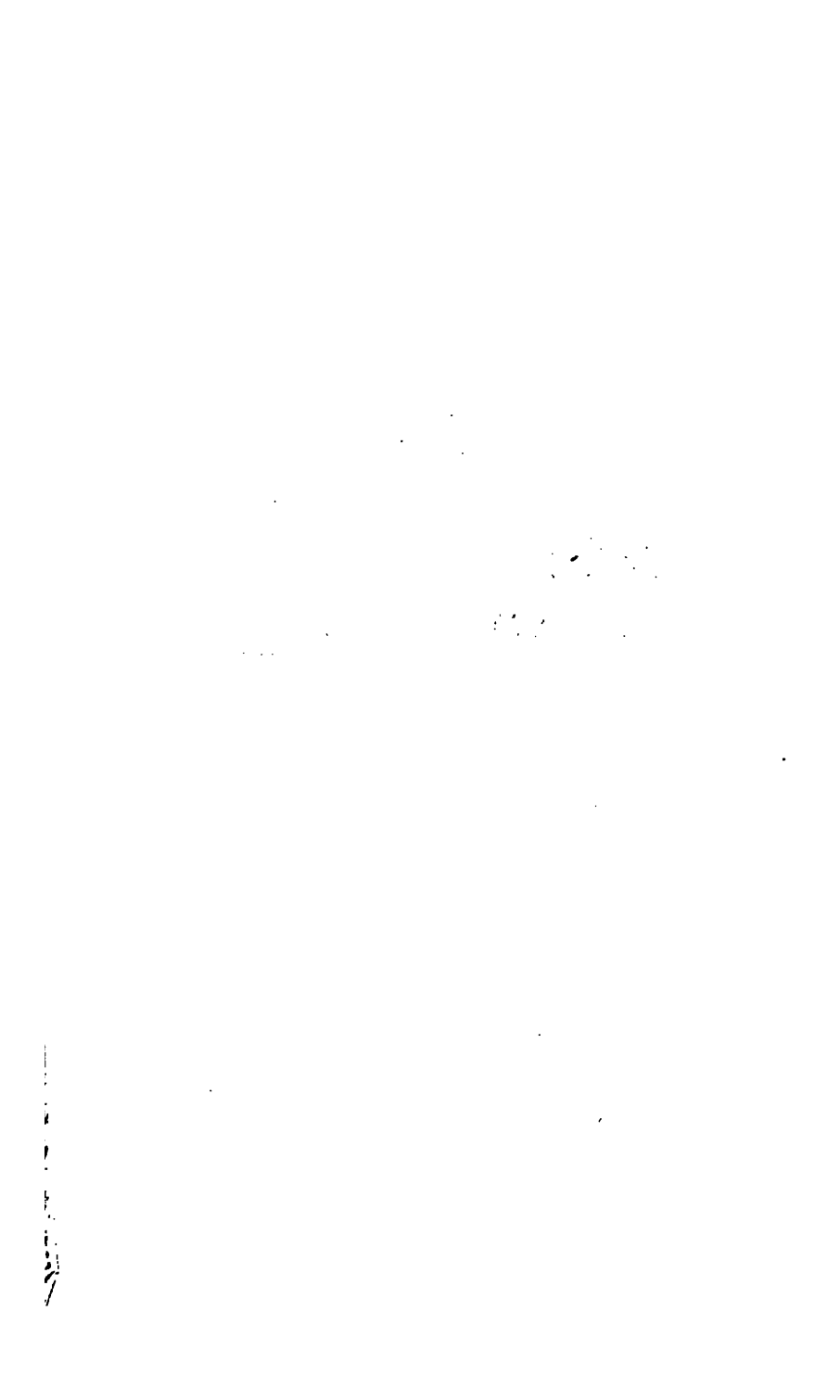
for him to carry a wardrobe to the mines. Even in this respect he would act wisely to provide himself with an outfit laid out for the information of the bounty Government emigrant, remembering that he has two climates to provide against—a warm and a cold temperature. In the tropics, which extend twenty-three degrees and a-half on each side of the equator, he will require light vestments; but when he is running East, in 52° south latitude, he will find warm clothing absolutely necessary to his health and comfort, and this he may lay aside again on his approach to Australia. The writer saw stated in a London newspaper when he was in Sydney, that a company had started from Liverpool armed to the teeth with guns, revolvers, and knives, together with pans, cradles, picks, and all the other paraphernalia requisite for mining. It is well, doubtless, for miners of a certain class to provide themselves at home with all the necessary implements, that is, if they are persons with some means; but unless

they are, these tools which they bring with them would only encumber them, since carriage to any of the diggings by public conveyance, is too expensive to be practicable.



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