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THE GOLD DIGGER.

OR,

A Visit to the Gold Fields of Australia.

BY

THE REV. D. MACKENZIE, M.A.

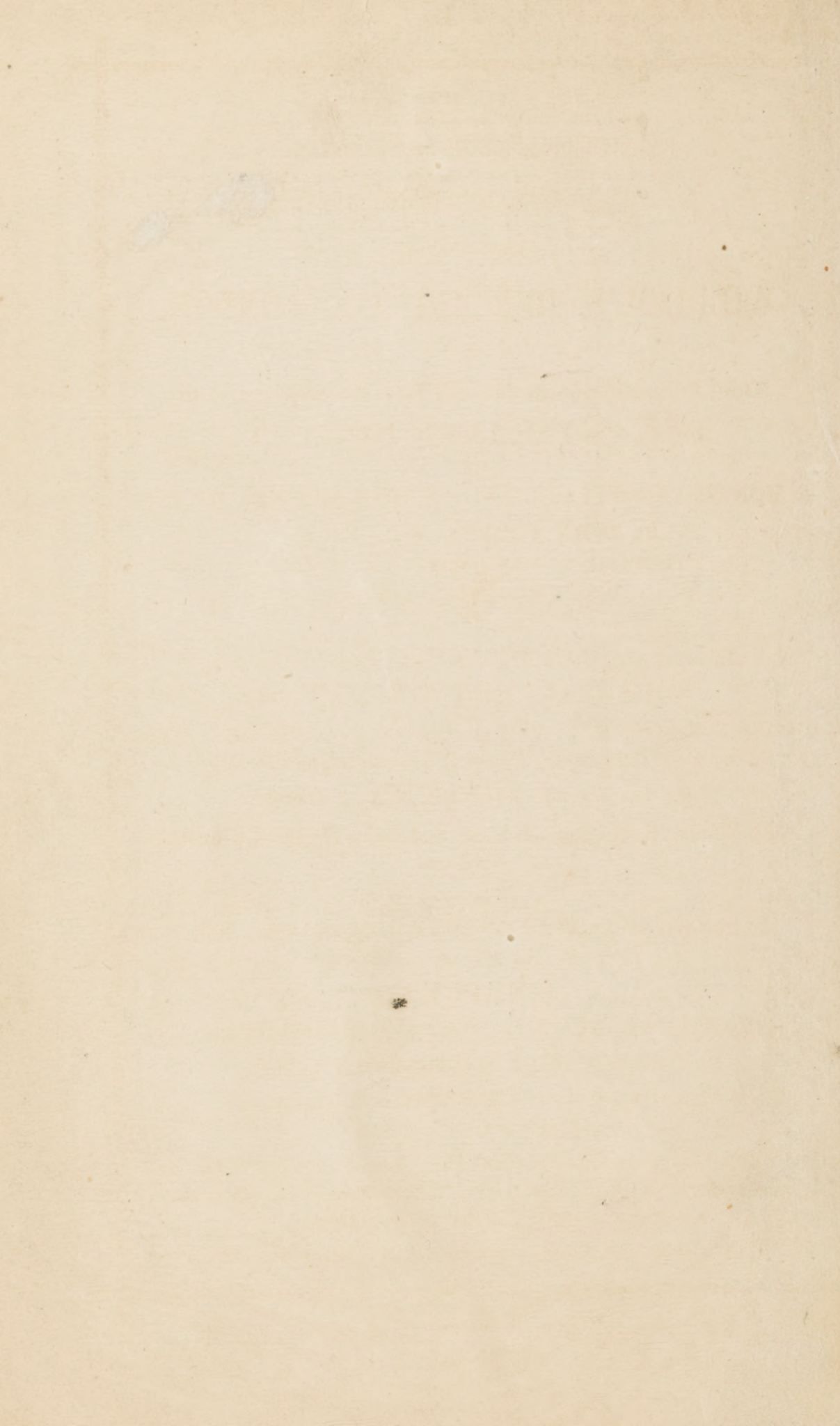
AUTHOR OF "TEN YEARS' PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN AUSTRALIA."

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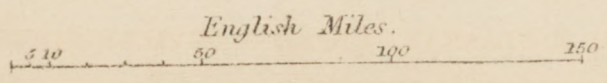
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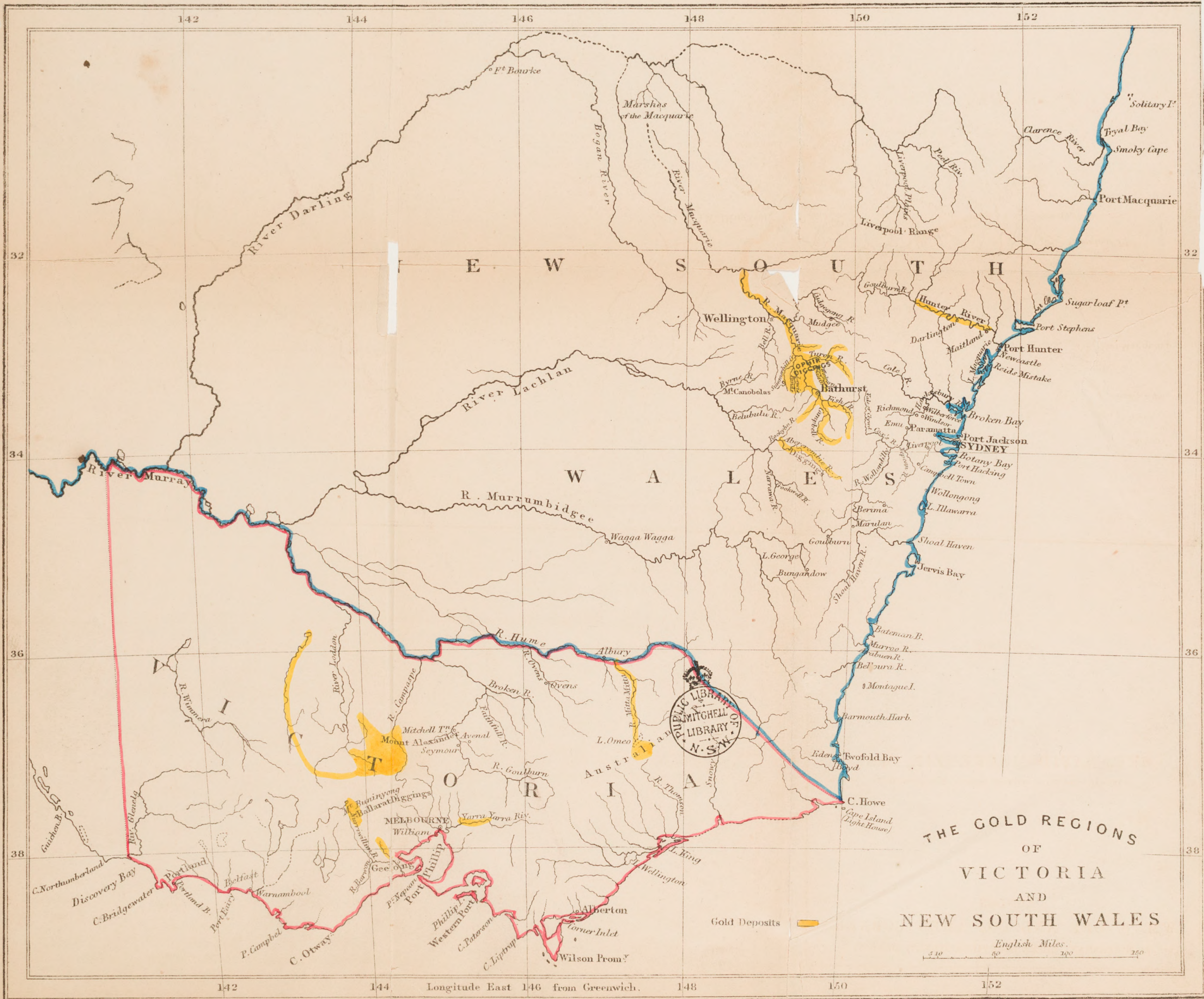


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152



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English Miles.
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142 144 146 148 150 152

32

34

36

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142 144 146 148 150 152 Longitude East from Greenwich.

THE GOLD DIGGER:

A Visit to

THE GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA

IN FEBRUARY, 1852;

TOGETHER WITH MUCH USEFUL INFORMATION FOR INTENDING
EMIGRANTS.

BY THE

REV. DAVID MACKENZIE, M.A.,

AUTHOR OF "TEN YEARS' PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN AUSTRALIA."

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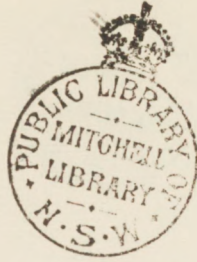
TO
THE LABOURING CLASSES

OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

This Volume

IS INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.



P R E F A C E.

My only object in the publication of the following pages being to supply such persons of the labouring classes of Great Britain and Ireland as may wish to try their luck at our Australian gold fields with a cheap and familiar guide, I have carefully avoided, as much as possible, the use of technical or scientific terms, which, however appropriate they might appear to learned geologists, would only serve to perplex men of plain understanding. And the same reason has also induced me to omit a description of the geology or mineralogy of the gold country.

On some points there may, I freely admit, be a deficiency in the amount of information I have supplied; but I can safely affirm, that I have stated nothing but what I myself have seen, or have learned from the most undoubted authority.



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THE GOLD-DIGGER

IN AUSTRALIA.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

AUSTRALIA is the largest island in the world. It is nearly the size of Europe, and is situated between lat. 10° and 39° S., and long. 113° and 153° E.; measuring from north to south about 2,000, and from east to west 2,500 geographical miles.

Four separate and flourishing colonies are now on the eastern and southern coast of this great island, but two only of these colonies form the subject of the following remarks; namely, New South Wales and Victoria (formerly known as "Port Phillip District,") which is situated on the southern coast, and adjoins the old colony of New South Wales, which is situated on the eastern coast.

Until last year Port Phillip District, now called Victoria, formed part of the colony of New South Wales. It now enjoys its own separate government. Its capital town, or city, is Melbourne, situated on a river, called the Yarra-Yarra, and contains a population of nearly 25,000.

The capital of New South Wales is Sydney, situated on a beautiful bay, called Port Jackson, and containing, according to the census taken in March, 1851, a population of 58,993.

These two colonies, while united, included a line of coast of

1,300 miles, and extended inland to a distance of from 200 to 300 miles; thus embracing an extent of territory equal to three times that of England and Scotland put together.

The climate of these colonies is remarkably healthy, and well suited to European constitutions. Thousands of our population are in the habit of sleeping out, both summer and winter, under drays, tents, or, more frequently, under the open air, with perfect impunity. Except in places of considerable elevation, our winter cold is never severe, and it may be generally said that our summer heat is seldom oppressive. Unlike Canada and the northern parts of the United States of America, where, during a large part of the winter, you would be locked up in frost and snow, and thus prevented from pursuing your outdoor labour, you can here work every day in the year under the open air, unless you are frightened at an occasional shower of rain.

Our soil produces wheat, maize, barley, oats, potatoes, tobacco, fruits and vegetables of all sorts, and grapes, under the open air.

Provisions of every description are very cheap in these colonies. The average price of wheat throughout the country for the last few years has been from 4s. to 5s. per bushel, or from 32s. to 40s. per quarter; beef or mutton, from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb.; tea, 1s. 6*d.* per lb.; sugar, 2*d.* to 3*d.* per lb.; best tobacco, 3s. to 4s. per lb.; wine, 5s. per gallon; rum, 12s. per gallon; and all other necessaries and comforts of life are nearly in the same proportion. Clothing is only very little dearer in these colonies than it is in England, and, from the extreme mildness of the climate, very little clothing is required.

If you consider her population, and then look at the quantity of live stock we possess, Australia is superior to any other country in the world for the necessaries of life. I find, from a return in the Colonial Secretary's office, Sydney, of the

live stock in New South Wales and Victoria, on the 1st of January, 1851, that there were then, in round numbers,

IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.
7,000,000	1,360,000	111,500	52,000
and	IN VICTORIA.		
Sheep.	Cattle.	Horses.	Pigs.
6,000,000	389,000	21,000	9,000

Or, between the two colonies there were 13,000,000 of sheep, 1,749,000 head of cattle, 132,500 head of horses, and 61,000 pigs. These numbers have, since then, greatly increased. Now the total amount of the population for whose support or benefit all these sheep, cattle, and pigs are reared, amounted, according to the census taken by Government in the following month of March, namely, March, 1851, for the colony of New South Wales, to 187,243; and for Victoria (Port Phillip District) to 77,345; or, added together, to 264,588.

Now, if you compare this population with our quantity of eatable live stock, you will find that for each individual we have fifty sheep, and seven head of cattle.

Another proof of the prosperity of these colonies is to be found in the excess of our exports over our imports.

I find, from returns made by the Collectors of Customs to the Government, that for the year 1850 the declared value of our

	£
Exports was	2,399,580
And of our Imports	2,078,338
	<hr/>
The value of our wool alone for that year	
(1850) was	1,614,241
And of our exported tallow	300,721
	<hr/>
	1,914,962
	<hr/>

If you consider the general prosperity of these colonies, the abundance and cheapness of provisions, the high rate of wages, and the excellence of the climate, you will admit that Australia is an eligible country for emigration. It is a country capable of producing all the necessaries of life, possessing a climate which cannot be surpassed, and where you receive high wages, and enjoy cheap living, freedom from nearly all taxation, with civil and religious liberty to the utmost extent; where neither diversity of creed nor peculiarity of politics excludes the individual from Government employment; and where you have all the excellence of the British constitution and laws, freed from all those blemishes which justly annoy you at home, such as game-laws, church-rates, &c. And if our gold fields, which I shall describe to you in a subsequent chapter, do not reward your industry, you can turn your attention to sheep-farming or agriculture, or readily find employment on our railroads now in progress.

CHAPTER II.

GOLD DISCOVERY.

THAT gold was to be found in the matrix or natural place of deposit in the colony of New South Wales was well known here some years ago. An old shepherd, named Macgregor, was in the habit, for some years, of coming from the Bathurst or Wellington District, with pieces of gold, to Sydney, where he sold them, and then returned; but no person could ever learn from him where he found his treasure. It is only very lately that he was induced, by parties who released him from imprisonment, to reveal the locality where, for years, he continued to work the native gold out of the quartz. This place is called Mitchell's Creek, and is situated beyond Wellington Valley, about 200 miles west from Sydney.

Sir Charles Fitzroy (the present Governor-General of Australia), in his dispatch, dated 1st March, 1849, addressed to Earl Grey, says, "A specimen of gold, weighing about 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 in the western side of the great dividing range in the Sydney or Middle District."

There is no doubt, I think, that the pepita, or specimen of gold here mentioned by Sir Charles Fitzroy, was one of those pieces sold in Sydney by the old shepherd, Macgregor.

Some years ago, an eminent geologist in England, Sir Roderick Murchison, after having read a description of the geological structure of our mountains, called the attention of the Government of New South Wales to the fact that the geological formation of their Cordillera, or main range, was precisely similar to the Ural Mountains, in Russia, where gold is found in great abundance, and recommended that a search should be made for gold. And the Rev. W. B. Clarke, of the parish of St. Leonard, near Sydney, (who appears to bestow more attention on the study of geology than on the study of divinity,) asserts in a small pamphlet, now before me, that "in the year 1841, he brought gold from the very basin of the river (Macquarie) now supplying it; that this gold was then exhibited by him to members of the Government and of the Legislature, &c., but that no one seemed then willing to profit by the disclosure which he made cautiously, considering that the country was still a penal settlement."

This statement may be substantially correct. It may be true, as he says, that the gold he brought to Sydney from the Macquarie "was spoken of openly; that it was discussed in public journals, and that the very region was pointed out in which it was to be found;" and yet, after all, it is very probable that the existence of our gold mines would still remain unknown to the Australian public, had it not been for the return from California into this colony, in January, 1851, of a penniless adventurer, named Hargraves, who, unable to pick up any gold in the valley of the Sacramento, picked up a good deal of useful information there; and, though not a man of science, was acute enough to notice the great similarity between the geological structure of the gold fields in California and several parts of the Bathurst district, over which, sixteen years previously, he had frequently travelled. Having this idea in his head, he borrowed money from some of his friends

residing in Sydney, to enable him to prosecute his search after the golden treasure. During the months of February and March, 1851, he rode over some hundreds of miles in the districts of Bathurst and Wellington, and the first well-authenticated account I can find of him after the commencement of his search is contained in the following letter, addressed by him to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Sydney :

“Sydney, 3rd April, 1851.

“SIR,

“With reference to my interviews with you regarding the discoveries recently made by me of the existence of gold on crown lands in the interior of this colony, and to your suggestion that I should communicate to you in writing my views in the matter, I beg leave to state that I embarked in the discovery at my own expense, as a speculation, and as a means of bettering my fortune, in the event of my search proving successful. I have succeeded beyond my expectations; and, so far, the great hardships, expenses, and exercise of my skill, have been rewarded. And further, that within the period of my explorations (the last two months), I made very satisfactory discoveries of the existence of the precious metal in several localities on the crown lands above referred to, and that my first discovery was made on the 12th of February last.

“I have the honour to submit, for the early consideration of the Government, the following propositions; viz., that if it should please the Government to award to me, in the first instance, the sum of 500*l.* as a compensation, I would point out the localities to any officer or officers they may appoint, and would undertake to realise to the Government my representations, and would leave it to the generosity of the Government, after the importance of my discoveries and disclosures has been ascertained, to make me an additional

reward, commensurate with the benefit likely to accrue to the Government and the country.

“Requesting the honour of an early answer, addressed to me, East Gosford, Brisbane Water.

“ I have, &c.,

(Signed) “ EDWARD H. HARGRAVES.”

To the foregoing letter, the Colonial Secretary returned the following answer :

“ Colonial Secretary’s-office,

“ Sydney, 15th April, 1851.

“ SIR,

“ In reply to your letter of the 3rd inst., I am directed by the Governor to inform you that his Excellency cannot say more at present than that the remuneration for the discovery of gold on crown land, referred to by you, must entirely depend on its nature and value when made known, and be left to the liberal consideration which the Government would be disposed to give it.

“ I have, &c.,

(Signed) “ E. DEAS THOMSON.”

“ To Mr. E. H. Hargraves,

“ East Gosford, Brisbane Water.”

A fortnight afterwards, Mr. Hargraves came to town, and addressed the following letter to the Colonial Secretary :

“ Sydney, 30th April, 1851.

“ SIR,

“ I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., and, in reply, beg to say that I am quite satisfied to leave the remuneration for my discovery of gold on crown land 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 districts of Bathurst and Wellington. I am now awaiting his Excellency's pleasure as to the mode of testing the value of my discovery. Please address, 'Care of Samuel Peek and Co., George-street.'

"I have, &c.,

(Signed) "EDWARD HAMMOND HARGRAVES."

"The Honourable

"The Colonial Secretary."

Immediately after having written the above letter, Mr. Hargraves started for the gold fields at Bathurst; and I find that on Tuesday, the 6th of May, he arrived in the town of Bathurst, and, having invited a number of gentlemen to meet him at an inn there, he stated that he had discovered a gold field in their neighbourhood that would, in his opinion, prove as rich as the diggings in California; and to prevent the possibility of doubt as to the truth of his statements, he produced four ounces of gold, the produce of three days' labour. On the following Friday (the 9th of May), several men, equipped for the work, left Bathurst for a place, since named "Ophir," about thirty miles distant. Mr. Hargraves, having already received the promise of the Government reward for his valuable discovery, made no further secret of it, but freely and readily communicated to all who applied to him every information he possessed on the subject.

For the purpose of testing the value and importance of the alleged gold discovery, as well as for making a more complete and scientific geological search for the precious metal, the Government sent to Bathurst our professed geologist, a very stupid and indolent man, named Stutchbury, who has been recently saddled on this colony at a yearly salary of 600*l.*, at

the recommendation of Sir Henry T. De la Beche, who is at the head of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Stutchbury fully, and in the most satisfactory terms, confirmed the truth of Mr. Hargraves' representation to the Government, and also forwarded his own report of the gold country, the substance of which report was that the precious metal "originated in the ranges, and was washed down by the rains." For this, his so-called report, poor Stutchbury received from Sir Charles Fitzroy, through the hands of the Colonial Secretary, such cuffing and kicking as no man of spirit—certainly no sensitive man of science—would stand for the best appointment that was ever in the power of the Government to confer. The Hon. E. Deas Thomson, in a letter, dated Sydney, 26th May, 1851, writes to "Samuel Stutchbury, Esq., Geological Surveyor," as follows:

"SIR,

"I am desired 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."

At the same time that poor Stutchbury forwarded his "unscientific" report, Mr. Hargraves, then at the diggings, wrote to the Colonial Secretary as follows:

"Diggings, 18th May, 1851.

"SIR,

"I have the honour to inform you that I have placed myself at the disposal of Mr. Stutchbury, and pointed out the gold country. He has expressed himself perfectly satisfied of the correctness of my statements to the Government. The effect of my appearance in the district has caused a little

excitement amongst the people ; and at this time, at the lowest estimate, I should say 500 men are actively engaged in mining, with success ; some have made very large amounts. Anticipating the Government would take immediate measures to regulate the mines, I have remained here at the suggestion of Mr. Stutchbury ; and should the Government require my services in carrying out their measures, I trust I shall be found (from my great experience in gold mining in California) fully equal to the task. Inferring such might be the case, I have not, either directly or indirectly, speculated in any way during the excitement, and now await his Excellency's pleasure as to the amount of compensation for my discovery ; and further, if I shall be honoured with an appointment.

(Signed) " EDWARD HAMMOND HARGRAVES."

The gold discovery was by this time publicly and extensively known ; and if you read the next chapter, you will see the extraordinary excitement which the publication produced throughout the colony.

CHAPTER III.

EFFECTS OF THE GOLD DISCOVERY.

THE excitement produced throughout the colonies, but especially in Sydney and Melbourne, by the publication of the gold discovery, may be inferred from the following facts:—In one week, upwards of 2,000 persons were counted on the road to the Bathurst diggings, and only eleven coming down. Hundreds of men, of all classes and conditions, threw up their situations, and leaving their wives and families behind them, started for the diggings. Whole crews ran away from their ships, which were left to rot in our harbours, the men having willingly forfeited all their wages, clothes, &c. Within one week, the prices of the following goods rose 25 per cent in Sydney:—flour, tea, sugar, rice, tobacco, warm clothing, and boots. Throughout all the towns, nothing was saleable but provisions, and diggers' tools and clothing. Every man who could handle a pick or spade was off, or preparing to be off, for the gold-fields. The roads were crowded with travellers, carriages, gigs, drays, carts, and wheelbarrows: mixed up in one confused assemblage might be seen magistrates, lawyers, physicians, clerks, tradesmen, and labourers.

Warehouses were shut, wages rose almost simultaneously throughout the country; and in order to retain the services of persons in the public employment, Government found it neces-

sary to raise their pay. To the salaries of all junior clerks, an increase of 25 per cent. was made; the pay of the police throughout the colony was also increased.

The building of houses, bridges, &c., was suspended for want of tradesmen, nearly all of them having gone to the diggings. Many houses might be seen half-finished for want of men to proceed with the work, though the owners or contractors were offering enormously high wages to any that would complete the works. The fields were left unsown—flocks of sheep were deserted by their shepherds. With one stockholder, who has 20,000 sheep, there remained only two men. Masters were seen driving their own drays; and ladies of respectability and ample means were obliged to cook the family dinner. Servants and apprentices were off in a body; and even the very “devils” bolted from the newspaper offices: in short, the yellow fever seized on all classes of society. In twenty-four hours, prices of provisions doubled at Bathurst and the neighbouring places. In all our steamers and trading vessels the rate of passage was raised, in consequence of the necessary increase in the wages of seamen. All the trades held their meetings, at which a new tariff of charges was agreed upon; and even the publicans raised, at least 25 per cent., the prices of their wines, beer, and spirits.

Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand poured upon our shores shiploads of adventurers, attracted by the golden news; and South Australia is now almost drained of its labouring population, one of the consequences of which is, that the shares in the famous Burra Burra copper-mines there have fallen from 230*l.* to 45*l.*,—a fall which has entailed ruin on hundreds.

In walking along the streets of Sydney or Melbourne, you hear nothing talked of but gold; you see nothing exhibited in shop-windows but specimens of gold, or some article of equipment for the gold-digger. In every society, gold is the inter-

minable topic of conversation ; and, throughout the colonies, the only newspapers now read are those which contain intelligence from our golden fields.

Soon after the discovery, the Government of New South Wales, seeing that it could not prevent the community from digging for gold on Crown lands, quietly made virtue of necessity, and merely sought to legalise and regulate the diggings by the following announcement, published in the *Official Gazette* :—

“ THE GOLD MINES.

“ Colonial Secretary’s office,
“ Sydney, 23rd May, 1851.

“ LICENSES TO DIG AND SEARCH FOR GOLD.

“ With reference to the Proclamation issued on 22nd May instant, declaring the rights of the Crown in respect to Gold found in its natural place of deposit within the territory of New South Wales, his Excellency, the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to establish the following Provisional Regulations, under which Licenses may be obtained, to search for, and remove the same :

“ 1. From and after the first day of June next, no person will be permitted to dig, search for, or remove Gold on or from any land, whether public or private, without first taking out and paying for a License in the form annexed.

“ 2. For the present, and pending further proof of the extent of the Gold-field, the License Fee has been fixed at 1*l.* 10*s.* per month, to be paid in advance ; but it is to be understood that the rate is subject to future adjustment, as circumstances may render expedient.

“ 3. The Licenses can be obtained on the spot, from the Commissioner who has been appointed by his Excellency, the

Governor, to carry these regulations into effect, and who is authorised to receive the fee payable thereon.

“4. No person will be eligible to obtain a License, or the renewal of a License, unless he shall produce a certificate of discharge from his last service, or prove to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that he is not a person improperly absent from hired service.

“5. Rules, adjusting the extent and position of land to be covered by each License, and for the prevention of confusion, and the interference of one License with another, will be the subject of early regulation.

“6. With reference to lands alienated by the Crown, in fee simple, the Commissioner will not be authorised for the present to issue Licenses under the regulations to any person but the proprietors, or persons authorised by them in writing to apply for the same.

“By his Excellency’s command,

“E. DEAS THOMSON.”

“GOLD LICENSE.

“No.

1851.

“The bearer, _____, having paid to me the sum of One pound Ten Shillings, on account of the Territorial Revenue, I hereby License him to dig, search for, and remove Gold on or from any such Crown land within the County of Bathurst as I shall assign to him for that purpose, during the month of _____, 185 .

“This License must be produced whenever demanded by me or other person acting under the authority of the Government.

“(Signed)

A. B.,

“Commissioner.”

“Colonial Secretary’s office,

“Sydney, 23rd May, 1851.

“His Excellency, the Governor, has been pleased to appoint John Richard Hardy, Esq., J. P., to be a Commissioner of Crown Lands, and also to carry out the Regulations of this date for the issue of Licenses to dig and search for Gold.

“By his Excellency’s command,

“E. DEAS THOMSON.”

CHAPTER IV.

PLACES WHERE GOLD HAS BEEN FOUND.

THE following are the chief places at which gold fields have been discovered and are now worked in the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria :

1. Mount Alexander (*alias* Mount "Byng,") Victoria.
2. Ballarat, Victoria.
3. Ophir (County of Bathurst), New South Wales.
4. Turon River, Roxburgh, New South Wales.
5. Muckewa Creek, Wellington, New South Wales.
6. Louisa Creek, Wellington, New South Wales.
7. Meroo River, Wellington, New South Wales.
8. Winburndale Creek, and various tributaries to the above streams, Bathurst, New South Wales.
9. Frederick's Valley, Bathurst, New South Wales.
10. Abercrombie River, Georgiana, New South Wales.
11. Campbell's River, Bathurst, New South Wales.
12. Araluen River, and its various tributaries, St. Vincent, New South Wales.

Besides the above-named places, at each and all of which gold is now dug up in large quantities, there are several other localities where the precious metal has been discovered, but not in sufficient quantity to satisfy the diggers. In Gipps' Land, in the Australian Alps, near the head of the Murrumbidgee

River, and on the Mitta-mitta River (a tributary to the Hume River), gold has lately been found; and I have also seen some fine specimens of gold dug up within four miles of the town of Albury, and near a farm of my own there, on a creek called Bungambrewatah. In short, gold has already been discovered over a range of mountains extending 500 or 600 miles in length; and it has been found that for 140 miles along the banks of the Turon River, gold is abundant.

After a careful examination of the country, it is certified by one commissioner, namely, Mr. Hargraves, in his report to the Government, that for 140 miles along the banks of the Turon River, gold is found in abundance. Another commissioner (Mr. Hardy), in his official report, says, "In the whole course of the Turon River, the production of gold appears to be as regular as wheat in a sown field. In short, from the top of the bank, across the whole bed of the river (from 50 to 100 yards wide), and for the whole nine miles that I have examined of it, the result is as absolutely to be depended on as weekly wages, and 5,000 workers would be nothing in that space." Mr. Hardy also adds, "I do not think that there is a spot on any part of the Turon on which an industrious and careful man may not earn 10s. per day; while the great majority of such men may earn from 15s. to 1*l.* each, per day. I know a large number of men who earn 2*l.* each, per day; and there is equally profitable digging-ground on this river, now unoccupied, for several thousands. In fact, I can, at present, see no limit to the number of persons that may be employed; for I have ascertained, by personal observation, that the numerous creeks, many of them ten or fifteen miles long, that fall into the Turon, produce gold at the rate of about 10s. to each man per day. Three men in that locality have, in this and the three preceding days, obtained 10 lbs. weight of gold (about 400*l.*), in pieces not exceeding 1 oz. in weight. The average earnings of the 200 men who

took out licenses on these creeks are not less than 1*l.* a day each." The above report from Commissioner Hardy is fully confirmed by Mr. Stutchbury, the colonial geologist, who states that "there is scarcely a gully or creek which, upon careful examination, does not produce gold."

The abundance of gold at our various diggings may be inferred from the extraordinary cases of good luck which are detailed in the following chapter.

CHAPTER V.

EXTRAORDINARY CASES OF GOOD LUCK.

At a place called Louisa Creek, situated about fifty miles from Bathurst, thirty from Wellington, and twenty from Mudgee, a black fellow (one of the aborigines), while tending a flock of sheep for his employer, Dr. Kerr, observed a bright yellow speck in a lump of quartz, of which he broke off a portion with his tomahawk. He had no sooner done so than the splendid prize was uncovered. Leaving his flock of sheep there, he started off for home, and disclosed his discovery to his master, who, as may easily be supposed, lost no time in saddling his horse and galloping away for the spot. In a very short period the doctor carried away three blocks of quartz, containing 106 lbs. of pure gold. The largest of the blocks was about a foot in diameter, and weighed 75 lbs. gross: out of this block 60 lbs. of pure gold were taken, in lumps of 5 lbs. or 6 lbs. each. The whole of the masses were supposed to weigh about 2 cwt. The pure gold, when separated from the quartz, was weighed by Dr. Kerr at the Union Bank, Bathurst, and was found to contain 106 lbs., or 4,240*l.*-worth. It is but justice to Dr. Kerr to add, that he liberally rewarded his faithful black servant for his frank surrender of the treasure he had accidentally discovered.

In September last, at Ballarat, in the colony of Victoria, a

party of six men procured in one day 900*l.*-worth of pure gold. There, also, on the same day, a man dug up a tin dishful of slaty-coloured clay, when an individual on the adjoining claim offered 50*l.* for the dishful before it was washed. "No," said the other; "but you may have it for 75*l.*," which offer was refused. When the earth was washed, 32 oz. of pure gold, worth 100*l.* on the spot, was obtained from this single tin dishful of slaty clay.

Two brothers, named Cavanagh, obtained in four weeks 60 lbs. weight of gold, value 2,400*l.*

At Ballarat, one young man, named Stapleton, obtained 20 lbs. weight in one week in February last; and other parties from 15 oz. to 20 oz. per day.

A party of four men dug up 30 oz. in one day; among this gold was one lump weighing 1 lb.

Another parcel, weighing 14½ oz., consisting chiefly of small pieces and dust, was procured by a butcher, named Lanky, and other four men (his party), in two days.

A man, named Murray, and a party of four men, all of them teetotallers, who had been at work only ten days, received 165*l.* for the proceeds of their labour. Among the gold they found there was no piece which weighed more than 3 oz.

A party, headed by a man of the name of Fitzpatrick, had been a fortnight at work, and their earnings averaged 40*l.* for each man. The gold which they procured consisted of lumps, weighing from 8 oz. to 10 oz., there being very little dust among it.

One man, a labourer, procured about 300*l.*-worth of gold in one day, the largest piece in which weighed nearly 4 lbs. troy.

In February last, at Braidwood, one man found, in one day, 130 oz. of gold, value about 400*l.*

One individual, who trespassed on the digging-ground of Messrs. Howard and Clapham, at Bathurst, during their

absence, got in a few hours about 350*l.*-worth of gold from among the roots of a tree.

About the same time, a Bathurst blacksmith found, in one day, in a hole, 11 lbs. weight of gold, or to the value of 440*l.*

And, near the same place, a poor man, one of a party, or company, consisting of four persons, found in one day upwards of 9 lbs. of gold, 8 lbs. of which he found in one spot, and dug out in a few minutes. He described it as putting him in mind of digging up a plant of potatoes, there being about one hundred pieces together of the precious metal. For this one day's gathering he received 350*l.*

At Louisa Creek (Bathurst district), a man, named Brennan found a lump weighing 341 oz., which was bought at auction, in Sydney, by an acquaintance of my own (a Mr. Lloyd), for the sum of 1,155*l.*

Five men from Camden (near Sydney) worked for four weeks on the Turon river; at the end of which time they sold their gold to a Mr. Samuel Thompson, for 509*l.*,—being rather more than 25*l.* a week to each man.

A baker, named Smith, from Brickfield-hill, Sydney, left, with a party of seven men, early in August last, for the Turon, where they wrought for about six weeks. For several days their earnings averaged from 12 oz. to 24 oz. per day; and on one day they took out 93 oz., or worth 308*l.* In the last week they wrought they got 180 oz., or to the value of 585*l.*; and then they sold their claim to a Mr. Travers, for 700*l.*

A party of four men from Adelaide worked for a few weeks at Mount Alexander (colony of Victoria), soon after the discovery of gold there, and at the expiration of those few weeks returned to Adelaide with 290 lbs. weight of gold, or to the value of 11,600*l.* (eleven thousand and six hundred pounds sterling). I visited the spot where all this gold was dug up. An old servant of my own, whom I met there—and who is employed

with his dray and four bullocks in driving down to the river Lodden, to be washed, the auriferous earth dug up by the miners—informed me that he thus earned 3*l.* a day, while his board cost him less than 1*l.* per week. He also informed me that he had recently driven down to the river two cart-loads, which, when washed, produced upwards of 400*l.*-worth of gold.

But it may probably be objected by the reader, that these are extraordinary cases of good luck, and give no correct idea of the average earnings of the diggers. I admit it. These cases were not brought forward for that purpose. My object in citing them was merely to show the abundance of the precious metal at our various diggings. The following statement ought to satisfy every intending emigrant of the labouring class, that in coming to our Australian gold fields he is bringing his labour to a good market :

At Ballarat, situated about seventy miles from Melbourne, 560 men obtained, in less than one week, 12,000*l.*-worth of gold; that is, their joint earnings averaged upwards of twenty guineas a week for each man. Surely this is a fair way of estimating the profits of our gold-diggers?

CHAPTER VI.

WHERE YOU MAY LOOK FOR GOLD.

GEOLOGISTS are indebted to the celebrated traveller, Humboldt, for the observation, that "gold is a constant in meridian-directed mountains;" and recent facts have amply proved the correctness of this observation. Both in California and Australia, as well as the Ural, the general bearing of all those mountains in which gold is found is meridional, or north and south. But it must be borne in mind that, though it is generally true that the auriferous mountains, such as the Ural, the Californian, and Australian ranges, all lie in the line of the meridian, yet there are several slight deflections, or deviations, from this general rule,—since from all these leading ranges, especially from our Australian Cordillera, there proceed, in various directions, several spurs, on, or close to which, pepitas (vulgarly called *nuggets*) of gold have been found.

There is nothing peculiar in the appearance of the Gold country. Stunted vegetation, broken ridges, and continuous hills of quartz or clay slate, are the chief characteristics. The general aspect of our gold fields is barren. Indeed, the greater part of what I have seen of them would not be considered

worth sixpence per acre for agricultural, or even pastoral purposes. The prevailing rocks, as I have already said, are quartz and slate. Quartz* is said to be the *matrix* of gold,—that is, its original position, from which it has been removed by some violent concussion, when the fragmentary ruins were washed down by the rains, and scattered over the plains below. In Argyle, gold has lately been found encased in granite, and hence it has been said that there it has a *granitic matrix*.

It may here be asked, how comes it, since quartz, or granite, is the matrix of gold, that so small a proportion of it has been found in these rocks, compared to the quantities dug out of clay slate? In Victoria the richest yield of gold is obtained from a stratum of blue clay, situated at a depth varying from two to ten feet. At Mount Alexander, from which more gold has been dug than from all other places in Australia put together, the precious metal has been found in the greatest abundance between strata of clay slate, standing nearly perpendicularly to the plane of the horizon. It is among the cleavage fissures of those slaty rocks that the experienced digger looks for his rich nuggets. In such a position gold is found battered, abraded, and water-worn. That gold should be found thus situated, and in such quantities, is clearly explained in the following manner: “The clay slate laminae are perpendicular; and, striking upright as they do, they catch the gold that has been detached by the breaking up of the quartz veins, and that has, in the gradual wearing down of the hills, been carried over them.”

Though the largest specimen of gold hitherto discovered in Australia has been found imbedded in quartz, yet the greatest number of large pieces are found at a bar across our

* Silica, or *flint*, in its crystalline form, is called quartz.

creeks. The upper part of this bar is found to consist of what is called “ ‘*boulder*’-stones. Under these is a layer of mud, a few inches in thickness; and under this mud is a layer of slate, placed in a vertical position.” It is closely jammed among the interstices of these slates that lumps of the precious metal are frequently discovered; while the earth, or bank, on each side of the creek, contains only *scale* gold, that is, small and flattened fragments of it.

I have here stated that gold is found in quartz, or schists, or granite; but it has also been found in other rocks. In the Ural Mountains gold is found in limestones, as well as in quartz and schists. On Mr. Wentworth’s property, at Frederick’s Valley (near Bathurst), gold has been found in ironstone; and at Shoalhaven gold has been found, by the Rev. Mr. Clarke, in argillaceous iron clay; and I have now in my possession a specimen of gold encased in ironstone, which I myself brought from Mount Alexander.

|| Gold has also been found buried in alluvia, on both the banks and bars of creeks, whither it was washed down by the rains. In Fryer’s Creek, at Mount Alexander, there was lately found a lump which weighed 27 lbs. of pure gold, value upwards of 1,000*l*.

On Mr. Wentworth’s land, at Frederick’s Valley, gold has been picked up from the surface of the ground, chiefly in fragmentary quartz; and it is evident that the gold found there cannot have been removed far from the rock in which it originated, as it is not abraded or water-worn. I have seen lumps of rock which were taken at random in this valley, and sent to Sydney, where, on being carefully examined by Mr. Hale, the jeweller, they were found to contain 5 per cent. of pure gold; and yet this is the very metal with which, for years past, our roads and bridges in that neighbourhood have been paved! Truly we may well boast of our

geological learning, when we remained half a century ignorant of the boundless treasures which we were daily kicking away with our feet!

As in the Ural Mountains, gold is found in Australia at all elevations, from a few hundred feet to the height of at least two thousand feet above the level of the sea.

CHAPTER VII.

PREPARATION FOR THE DIGGINGS.

NEARLY all the emigrants from England for New South Wales, or Port Phillip, (now called *Victoria*) are landed either at Sydney or Melbourne. If you are landed at Sydney, you are there within 150 miles of the richest gold fields in the old colony. And if you are landed at Melbourne, you are only about 80 miles from Mount Alexander, the richest, and most celebrated, gold field as yet known in all Australia. The other famous gold field in the colony of Victoria is about the same distance, namely, 80 miles from the capital, Melbourne. But, whether you happen to land at Sydney or at Melbourne, the preparation necessary to be made for the diggings is nearly the same.

The tools which are chiefly in use at our mines are the following :— pick-axe, spade, falling-axe, shovel, crow-bar, bucket, tub, large shallow tin dish, tin dipper, files to sharpen tools, gardener's trowel, and a *cradle* ; to which some diggers add a cross-cut saw, with maul and wedges. It is also necessary to be well provided with bedclothes, and at least one change of coarse wearing-apparel, tent, provisions, and cooking utensils. Provisions, however, may be purchased at the stores, which are now established at all the mines, at an advance of from 20 to 100 per cent., on the Sydney or Melbourne prices.

The usual practice is for parties before starting to form them-

selves into companies, of from four to six persons, and purchase a horse and cart. On this cart the company put their provisions, clothing and tools, and travel short stages, camping on the road-side, wherever they find grass and water, and sleeping under their tent or tarpaulin. The deeds of partnership are carefully drawn up, each man getting his share of the profits. There is generally one trustworthy person appointed by the rest, to take charge of the gold. One of the party is left in charge of the tent, and to cook: one or two men dig, which is the hardest part of the work; one washes (that is, rocks the cradle) while another is employed in pouring water on the earth, or slaty rubbish, in the cradle; and sometimes two men are engaged in carrying bucketsful of the auriferous soil from the digging to the washing-place.

Great caution should be exercised by the intending miner in the selection of his partners. Cases have occurred, in which the partner intrusted with the keeping of the gold *bolted*, that is, walked off with the earnings of the whole party. I must also caution you against the tricks practised on the unexperienced and new-comers by parties selling their claims, or digging-places. Claims, that is, small plots of ground dug to a certain depth, are often sold to new comers by parties who are either leaving the gold fields, or shifting from one place to another; or who have either realised, or pretend to have realised a competence. Claims have been sold so high as 600*l.* or 700*l.*, and in some instances these claims have turned out to be perfectly worthless. While the new-comer, or intending purchaser, is looking at the diggers employed in shovelling up the earth from the claim advertised for sale, one of them, unperceived, dexterously scatters among the soil a few ounces of gold in small pieces. The bucket of earth containing these small pieces is then immediately washed, in presence of the "new chum," who, thinking he has stumbled upon a very

rich mine of gold, loses no time in purchasing a claim, which probably never will pay for the working. In order that you may clearly understand what is meant by a *claim* at our gold fields, it is necessary to state, that each digger pays monthly to the Government Commissioner a license fee of 30s. (thirty shillings), which entitles the holder of every such license to

“ 1. Fifteen feet frontage, to either side of a river, or main creek ; or,

“ 2. Twenty feet of the bed of a tributary to a river, or main creek ; or,

“ 3. Sixty feet of the bed of a ravine, or water course ; or,

“ 4. Twenty feet square of table-land, or river flats.”

These then constitute the digger's claim, which after paying the 30s. license may be sold, or transferred to another party.

Private, that is, purchased land, may be worked on payment of one half of the license fee, or 15s. to Government, who, in order to accommodate the diggers have agreed to receive as payment gold at 60s. per oz.

I have already stated that the usual way is for intending diggers to form themselves into small parties, or companies of about half-a-dozen, and to purchase a cart, horse and harness, to carry their provisions, tools, clothing, cooking apparatus, &c. to the gold fields. But there are many persons who have not the means of making such purchases. In this case the diggers engage with a carrier, in Sydney or Melbourne, to carry at so much per cwt. all their tools, clothing, and provisions, consisting of flour, tea, and sugar. All which they put under his charge on his dray or waggon, which themselves accompany on foot. By adopting this economical plan, an outlay of 5*l.* or 6*l.*, by each of the party of half-a-dozen, will enable you to proceed as pilgrims fully equipped to the golden shrine. Hundreds of men, however, proceed thither without either a blanket or any change of linen, and without tool or a single ounce of

provisions, or one shilling in pocket to buy them. But such reckless conduct is little short of insanity. At the diggings there are no bowels of compassion; there, every man thinks only of himself, and that hospitality so prevalent throughout all the rest of these colonies has not yet been admitted within the precincts of our gold fields.

If you are in a condition to buy a horse and cart, you and your party, while on the journey, must each of you in his turn watch the horse after you have turned him out to feed during the night. In February last I counted in one Melbourne newspaper (*the Argus*) no fewer than 108 advertisements for stolen or strayed horses. At the diggings horses are considered exactly in the same light as umbrellas are in England; namely, as common property, which any person may take wherever he can find them. I have known of a case where the traveller, having tethered his horse on good feed near Mount Alexander, slept on the grass with the other end of the tether rope under his own body, so that he could scarcely fail to awake, if anything should disturb his nag during the night. By daylight next morning, however, he found that though his own end of the tether rope was left undisturbed, the other end and the horse were gone,—the rope having evidently been cut clean through with a sharp knife.

I may mention that I travelled to and from the diggings with two horses in a tilted spring cart, in which I carried blankets and provisions for myself, together with corn for my horses, which, towards evening on reaching an eligible camping-place, commanding plenty of grass and water, I turned out hobbled to feed till dusk, when I led them up to the camp, fed them on corn, and then tied a horse to each wheel and my watchful dog on a long chain to the axle of the vehicle. No intruder could approach without my receiving due warning from my faithful Cerberus; and few intruders would like to

venture near a place where the first salutation they received might be the contents of a gun or pistol. Having now hastily given you a few hints respecting the preparations for the journey, and the usual style of travelling, I will point out to you in the next chapter, how, I think, you ought to proceed on your arrival at the scene of operations.

CHAPTER VIII.

LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS.

ON reaching the gold fields, your first consideration is to select a "good digging place," sufficiently near water, where you may wash your gold. Having selected a place, apply to the Commissioner for a license, which is the only security you have for the undisturbed possession of your claim.

The tent containing your bedding, provisions, &c., is erected either close to the digging-ground, or to the nearest water. I have seen on one angle of the river Loddon, upwards of 300 tents, each occupied, on an average, by four or five men. It is like a fair, or what you might suppose to be a gipsy encampment on a large scale. Viewed from an elevated distance, it presents a most picturesque appearance. Perfect stillness pervades this extensive bivouac during the day; but towards evening, when the diggers begin to move homewards from their work at all points of the compass, the scene is much enlivened; and then at dusk, the barking of dogs, the shouting of men, and the incessant firing of guns, are a great annoyance to people of weak nerves. Some scores of youngsters amuse themselves by firing guns and pistols without having any rational object to serve; but in most cases some hundreds of charges are fired off by sensible men whose object is merely to satisfy themselves that their fowling-pieces are in good working order, and fit for

action in case of any attack being made on the tent during the night.

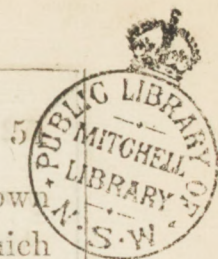
In the morning, by daylight, the smoke of the fire by which the breakfast is cooked, is seen to ascend from opposite to the door of many of the tents; then the butcher drives about in his cart, shouting, "Beef or mutton? beef or mutton?" The mutton is not weighed, but is sold at 2s. 6d. or 3s. per quarter: beef is only a shade higher. It is reckoned that for the diggers at Mount Alexander, amounting in number when I left there in February last, to about 40,000 men, upwards of 1,000 wethers are killed every morning.

At the stores on the diggings tea is sold at 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per lb., sugar 6d. per lb., flour 3l. per bag of two cwt. At these stores where tea, sugar, flour, tobacco, clothing, &c., may at any time be bought, gold in dust, or pepitas, is taken in payment at about 2l. 15s. per ounce, but no credit is given, and no man's cheque is taken.

The store-keeper, the butcher, the blacksmith, the medical practitioner, the postmaster (for we have post-offices at nearly all the diggings), the Commissioner, the ginger-beer and lemonade-seller, the travelling pedlar, and the carrier, have each and all of them scales and weights for weighing the gold-dust or *nuggets*, generally tendered as payment.

Among some of these dealers in gold, several cases of roguery have recently been detected: one set of scales and weights being kept for *buying*, and another for *selling* the precious metal. I need not tell you how easily you may detect a false balance. If you have any suspicion of foul play, you have only to tell the man who is weighing your gold, to change the weight from one scale to the other; that is, to reverse the weights and your gold. If his balance is true, the result will be the same as formerly; but if otherwise, the fraud immediately appears.

LIFE AT THE DIGGINGS.



Every company of diggers ought to purchase for their own use and satisfaction, a set of small scales and weights, which may be got at almost any ironmonger's shop in Sydney or Melbourne, for a few shillings. And you must bear in mind that it is with Troy weight* only you have to do in either buying or selling gold; and that

24 grains make 1 pennyweight = 24 grains.

20 penny dwts. 1 ounce, or = 480 „

12 ounces 1 pound, or = 5,760 „

You may probably say, that you all knew this already, and that such information is just what every schoolboy can repeat. I can only reply, that if you all knew it already, it is more than could have been said last year by a certain Commissioner, appointed at a high salary, to one of the Victoria gold fields. The ignorance of this Government functionary on the subject now mentioned, produced no small degree of confusion at the Colonial Treasury, Melbourne.

In weighing the diggers' gold he employed the avoirdupois ounces, and gave receipts accordingly. When the gold on reaching Melbourne, was again weighed at the Treasury, there was found to be a large deficiency, as compared to the quantity stated by the Commissioner to have been received by him, and for which he granted receipts to the owners; and it was not till after some delay and great trouble that this blunder was detected.

You will find it your interest to sell no more of your gold to the store-keepers or tradespeople whom you may have occasion to employ at the diggings, than is necessary to pay for what

* This weight is called "Troy," from Troyes, a market town in France, whence it was introduced into England by William the Conqueror. The English objected to this weight, because the pound did not weigh so much as the pound in use at that time in England. Hence arose the term, "*Avoir du poids*," (avoirdupoise), literally signifying, to have weight, or the weight which was a medium between the French and the old English weights.

you may be obliged to buy there. I bought pure gold at Mount Alexander at 2*l.* 15*s.* per ounce, which is the highest price given for it there; and I was offered it at 2*l.* 12*s.* per ounce, but the diggers had no means of weighing it: and we were then too far from the nearest place where we could see it weighed. Now the usual price in Melbourne or Sydney is from 3*l.* 3*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* per ounce, and the expense of sending it to town is only 1 per cent. An armed escort runs once a week from the various diggings to Sydney or Melbourne, with the gold which is delivered by the diggers to the Commissioner, who weighs it in their presence, and gives to each man a receipt for the quantity so delivered.

The gold is then sent in sealed bags, addressed to the Colonial Treasurer, in Sydney or Melbourne, and the digger, or his agent, by producing at the Treasury the Commissioner's receipt, will receive his gold, less 1 per cent. which is charged by the Government to defray the expense of the transmission.

I would recommend to the digger, while the Government continues to afford such a safe, cheap, and speedy conveyance for his earnings, never to keep any large quantity of gold either about his person or in his tent. Innumerable cases of theft and robbery have occurred; and some of these cases have led to the commission of murder. I will here mention a case in point, which happened when I was at the diggings: one of a party of five or six having been detected in some act of dishonesty, was expelled from their little company. A few days afterwards, when all except the tent-keeper were out at their daily work, the thief returned well armed, and threatened to shoot the tent-keeper unless he delivered up all the gold under his charge. At this critical moment some people approached, which made the robber run away. The direction he took was noticed by the tent-keeper, who observing him enter a tent at some distance, took his loaded gun, walked up to the tent, and standing

at the door, sent in a message that an old friend wished to see him; but no sooner had the man reached the outside of the door, than he was shot dead on the spot. The murderer then walked away to the Commissioner, to whom he related the whole case.

When the man finished his story, the Commissioner replied, that "considering all the circumstances of the case, he did not know but the tent-keeper had served him right;" but, added he, with a calculating coolness characteristic of men who value gold more than human life, "Remember, Sir, you must bury the body, as I have no men at present at my disposal to attend to matters of that sort."

If for the purpose of conveying your luggage, &c., to the diggings, you have bought a horse and cart, you may find them serviceable in carrying the auriferous soil to the washing-place—in case your digging-ground, as frequently happens, is at a considerable distance from the nearest water.

At almost all the diggings there are boys, whose sole employment is, to take charge, from evening till next morning, of the miners' horses. One of these boys will come to your tent in the evening, lead away your horse, put him on good grass during the night, and next morning lead him back to you; for which services you pay him one shilling. There are boys whose earnings in this way amount to about 2*l.* or 3*l.* a week, each. If you wish to give your horse more food than he is able to pick up during the night, you can buy oats or maize at any of the stores at about 1*l.* sterling per bushel.

It is possible, however, that your claim, or digging-ground, may be on a running creek, or on the bank of a river. In this case you will not require a horse and cart. The work then is merely digging, filling the cradle with the earth or rubbish that is dug up, pouring water upon this rubbish, and rocking the cradle.

I ought to have described to you this wonderful machine, called a cradle, now so much in demand, and admired even by bachelors, who never before thought of such an article. There is something homely, if not fatherly, in the idea of seeing, in the course of an afternoon's ride, five hundred cradles, rocked by as many bachelors, who while rocking sing a sweet lullaby, and now and then cast an anxious and affectionate look at the contents of their cradles. The cradle, in its simplest form, is like a child's cradle. Into the head of it there is fitted a square box, the bottom of which is a sieve of sheet iron, with holes large enough to admit the little finger. Across the bottom of the cradle, three bars, about an inch and a half in thickness, are nailed, the last of which is at the lower end of the cradle, and the other two divide its whole length into three equal parts. The handle by which it is worked is an upright bar of wood, fastened to the side of the cradle about the middle. By means of this bar, one man violently rocks it with his left hand; while the right hand is employed in stirring, or beating with a stick, the soil which has been put into the iron sieve: another man is employed in dashing water on the sieve from a dipper with a long handle. The cradle having been placed in a slanting position (with the sieve end higher than the other), the particles of gold, if any, fall by their superior gravity into the bottom, where they are arrested by the bars, or ledges, already named, and the muddy water runs out at the foot of the cradle. The gold, being generally mixed with grit, small fragments of iron-stone, and other heavy substances, is now put into a large tin shallow dish, and carefully washed.

There are at all the diggings several men who can earn about 2*l.* a day, each man, by carting for others the earth in bags to the washing-place. The usual charge is 1*l.* for carrying twelve three-bushel bags nearly full of earth from four to five miles. For a strong and well-fed horse two trips of this extent, and

with such a load as I have now named, would be an easy day's work. A man, with a good horse and cart, may thus earn in a year what would be deemed a little fortune to a poor man in England. It is proper, however, that I should here remind you that in case you break any part of your cart or harness, the charge for repairing it on the gold fields is enormous. To mend and set an axle is 4*l.* To cut and close a pair of tires is 5*l.* To shoe a horse is 2*l.*, or 10*s.* for each shoe. Everything in the shape of labour bears there a high price. The laundress charges 12*s.* per dozen for washing your shirts; and the doctor will not walk from his own tent to the next tent, to look at some unfortunate digger who met with an accident, without a fee of 5*l.* sterling being paid to him in gold. Considering the liability of the diggers to various accidents, arising partly from the closeness to each other, and the great depth of the holes that are dug,—many of which are upwards of thirty feet deep,—and partly from the constant exposure to heat or cold, or wet, and severe toil, and sleeping on the damp ground with only the bare necessaries, without any other comforts, it is truly surprising that the doctor's aid should be so seldom required.

Diseases of the eyes and of the bowels prevail at the diggings. Last summer four out of every five persons at the Victoria diggings suffered, more or less, from one or the other of those two distempers. The diseases of the eye are supposed to be occasioned by the myriads of flies attracted to the various camping-places by the immense number of pieces of animal food in a state of putrefaction, which are scattered in every direction. These flies are very numerous, and stick to your eyes, enter your nose, and frequently go down your throat whenever you venture to open your mouth. The only protection against these tormenting insects, which the diggers have been able to interpose, is a green veil. Accordingly, every man you meet, whether

walking, riding, or working, wears this green veil. Diseases of the bowels are supposed to be here produced by the impure water, which the digger is obliged to drink. Were I to describe the only water, with its disgusting admixtures, which is accessible to several of the encampments I have seen, the description would be totally unfit for publication.

Before concluding this chapter, I think it my duty faithfully to warn you against being led away with the delusive idea, that in order to secure your fortune you have only to come to our gold fields. Within the last few months, hundreds have returned from them, disappointed, shoeless, shirtless, and penniless. I have known respectable men who gave up their Government appointments of 200*l.* a year to become diggers; but who, after a trial there, returned home in poverty and rags, with broken hearts and broken constitutions, and without any hope of being again admitted into those comfortable situations which they recklessly resigned. It is only labouring men—men who are able and willing to undergo severe bodily toil, and endure many privations—that have the best chance of succeeding at our gold fields. And even these men are not always successful. I have known of hard-working parties, who dug seven or eight holes to the depth of from ten to twenty feet, without obtaining a single ounce of gold; and I have known of other industrious men who acknowledged that their joint earnings equalled no more than fair wages. You must also remember, that though you should ultimately succeed, you have to live, while there, a life little short of that of a savage. You are exposed to the contamination of the most immoral society where the *auri sacra fames*—the cursed love of gold—has seared and deadened all the fine feelings of our nature; and where there is no accommodation and very little compassion for the sick and the dying; and that, as in all other countries, such as Peru, Mexico, &c., where the precious metals have been discovered, our gold fields cannot

fail to give our digging population a disrelish for the steady industry required in ordinary and less exciting pursuits, and thus disqualify them in after life for other and more social employments.

It is true that the cases of murders and robberies have yet been comparatively few in number at our diggings. Doubtless, this is owing partly to the salutary influence exercised over the great body of miners by the large sprinkling of respectable men who have engaged in the same employment; but I fear that the proportion of respectable and influential men there is daily becoming smaller; and that when the novelty of such a scene has worn away, those old convicts, bushrangers, and other desperadoes whom we know to be there, and who yield to no force except that which is physical, will only laugh at the slight restraints imposed on them by our commissioner and his half-dozen policemen. Organized gangs of plunderers have already committed depredations at some of the mines; and it is to be feared, that unless Government devise some more efficient means of protection for life and property, *might* will usurp the place of *right* at the gold fields of Australia.

After what I have now said, it may probably appear paradoxical when I add that the quiet and orderly aspect of our diggings on Sabbath-days has been remarked by every visitor. With very few exceptions, all work is then suspended, and most of the men appear in their best attire.

Both in New South Wales, and in the colony of Victoria, the diggings have been frequently visited by clergymen of various denominations, who have all expressed their agreeable surprise on witnessing large and attentive audiences listening to a preached gospel.

Some time ago, the New South Wales Government intimated to each of the three leading denominations—namely, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and Presbyterians, that, with a view

to provide for the spiritual wants of the diggers, a yearly salary, with a liberal allowance for house-rent and the keep of a horse, would be granted out of the colonial revenue to clergymen who would reside regularly, and perform Divine service, at the various diggings. But I fear, from the great scarcity of clergymen in these colonies, that there is but very little chance of finding men willing to accept of such appointments. There are still here so many important towns and districts totally unprovided with the means of grace, that every clergyman, whether Episcopalian, Presbyterian, or Roman Catholic, who arrives here, is immediately engaged, and placed in one or other of those old and settled localities where the spiritual destitution is considered to be greatest.

CHAPTER IX.

GOLD STATISTICS.

I FIND, both from the entries at the Custom-house, and from "Lloyd's Circular," that the total value of all the gold shipped at Sydney for England up to the 4th of March last, was 819,953*l.*; and I have also ascertained that the quantity of gold shipped at Melbourne (capital of Victoria) was, up to end of January last, 303,082 oz., which, at the then Sydney price (3*l.* 5*s.* per oz.), amount to 985,016*l.*, or nearly a million sterling, dug out of the earth in about three months' time. This is a large accession to the wealth of such a limited population.

From the first time the gold escort ran, the weekly yield of Mount Alexander diggings was never less than 10,000 oz., or value 32,500*l.* On one occasion it reached 22,000 oz; and in two weeks—one trip per week—in the month of December last, the Government escorts brought to Melbourne, from Mount Alexander and Ballarat, 46,000 oz., or to the value of 149,500*l.* After this, owing entirely to the want of water, the quantity fell off to about 12,000 oz. per week; but on the 25th of February last, two cart-loads of gold arrived in Melbourne from Mount Alexander alone.

Owing partly to the want of an assay office in these colonies, and partly to the Banks having declined to advance on gold,

the gold-digger does not receive a fair price for his commodity.

In California, in an authorised assay office, gold is melted into ingots, with the value stamped on them, and thus rendered at once available for all the purposes of commerce. Again, at Adelaide (capital of South Australia), the Government passed a law, compelling the banks to pay 71s. (3*l.* 11s.) per oz. for all gold previously assayed, converted into ingots, and stamped with the Government stamp. The said banks are allowed to issue notes in payment, which notes are a legal tender by all but the bank that issues them. These ingots are again a legal tender by the banks in payment of notes, bills, and cheques, at the same rate at which the bank bought these ingots, namely, 71s. per oz.

It may naturally be supposed that advantage would be taken of this law by parties sending gold to Adelaide from Sydney or Melbourne, where it can now be bought at from 3*l.* 3s. to 3*l.* 5s. But it must be recollected that the Adelaide notes, in which the gold is there paid for, would not pass current in Sydney; and the difference in the exchange, added to the freight for the gold, commission, &c., would swallow up all the profits; and, besides, it would be optional with the Adelaide Bank to pay its notes in ingots.

Before my departure from Sydney in March last,* there was only one bank in that colony that continued to purchase gold, and that at the reduced and settled price of 3*l.* per oz. That 3*l.* per oz. is very far below the real value of gold, even at the distance of the antipodes from the London Mint, may be clearly seen from the following statement: "Gold of the standard purity, brought to the Mint in London, may be coined into sovereigns or half-sovereigns, free of expense, at the request of

* The remaining pages of this little Work were written by the Author immediately on his landing in England.

any individual." Now 1 oz. troy of *pure* gold is worth 4*l.* 5*s.* The oz. troy contains 480 grains; the oz. avoirdupois contains 437½ such grains, or as 72 is to 79. But gold perfectly pure is never coined into sovereigns or half-sovereigns. The standard for gold coin is a mixture of eleven parts of fine or pure, and one part of alloy, which alloy is generally copper. One pound troy of this mixture is coined into 46 sovereigns, and rather more than two-thirds of a sovereign, or equal to 14*s.* 6*d.*, being at the rate of 3*l.* 17*s.* 10½*d.* per oz.

Some financiers have expressed their fears that the large quantities of gold from California, the Ural Mountains, and Australia, will produce derangement in our circulating medium, or, in other words, that gold will become so very abundant as to cease being a fit and proper representative of wealth: and as a proof that this is likely to be the result, we are reminded of the fact that both Holland and Belgium have recently repealed the law making gold a legal tender, and have adopted a single standard of silver.

As to Belgium, there is not much more than 1,000,000*l.*'s-worth of gold in circulation throughout the whole state; and the sum total of gold offered for sale by the Bank of Holland was her reserve of four and a quarter millions sterling, of which nearly 2,000,000 have already been exchanged for silver.

The apprehension caused by these two continental powers adopting a single standard of silver is, no doubt, increased by the consideration that the notes of the great Bank of St. Petersburg are payable only in silver. In the year 1847 the Russian Government sold in London and Paris 5,000,000*l.* sterling in *gold*, and purchased public stocks.

The confusion, if any, is not likely to result from the large quantities of gold now added to our circulation, but from the comparatively small proportion of silver produced. For, as will be seen from the following statement, while our gold is

rapidly increasing, the annual production of silver is nearly stationary :

In 1840 the increase to our precious metals	
was, in round numbers	8,000,000
In 1848 it was	11,000,000
In 1850 it was	22,000,000
Of which California alone contributed	10,000,000

Now, in the above-named years, namely, in 1840, 1848, and 1850, the increase to our silver alone was respectively 7,000,000*l.*, 7,000,000*l.*, and 7,500,000*l.*; while the increase to our gold at the same time was respectively 1,000,000*l.*, 4,000,000*l.*, and 14,000,000*l.*

The effect of this disproportion in the increase of the precious metals is very evident in the recent operations of the Bank of England. Though that bank is bound to pay all its liabilities in gold, yet it is authorised by the Act of 1844 (Peel's Act) to hold silver in the issue department in the proportion of one-fourth of the gold bullion and coin held at any time. Two years after the passing of that act, viz., in 1846, this bank held nearly 3,000,000*l.* sterling in silver, and only 13,000,000*l.* in gold. But four years afterwards, namely, in 1850, the Bank held in the issue department nearly 16,000,000*l.* in gold, and only about one quarter of a million in silver.

What is required is, not a diminution in the quantity of gold, but an increase in the quantity of silver produced. And in order to enable us to obtain this desirable increase to our silver, Providence has lately brought to light several quicksilver mines. The quicksilver mine of New Almaden alone, in California, produces daily, according to Governor Burnett's despatch to Washington, 8,000 lbs., which has already led to the re-opening of silver mines in South America, where these mines have long been closed on account of the scarcity and very high price of quicksilver.

CHAPTER X.

HOW YOU MAY GET OUT TO AUSTRALIA.

A LARGE portion of all the money received in payment of the land sold by Government in New South Wales and Victoria, is spent in bringing emigrants from England to those Colonies. In three years, that is, from the beginning of 1848 up to the close of 1850, no fewer than 121 ships, with emigrants from England, arrived at Sydney and Melbourne, at an expense to the colonists of 375,000*l*.

Besides this sum contributed by the colonists, a small contribution, amounting to about 50,000*l*. was received from the emigrants themselves who came out in those ships.

The amount of contribution required from each emigrant varies according to his eligibility, or fitness for the colonies.

There is in London, what is called a "Colonial Land and Emigration Board," to the Commissioners of which is entrusted the selection of the emigrants, as well as the management of the money sent home to pay the passages of the emigrants selected. The Commissioners, knowing well the sort of people most wanted in Australia, have, in June 1851, published the following scale of contributions, from which you will see who are the emigrants for whose services there is the greatest demand in the colonies. The amount of contribution required from

each of the four classes being in the inverse ratio of their eligibility :

CLASSES.	AGE.		
	Under 40.	40 and under 50.	50 and under 60.
"1. Married agricultural labourers, shepherds, herdsmen, and their wives, also female domestic and farm servants, per head .	£ 1	£ 5	£ 11
2. Single men, between eighteen and thirty-six, of any of the above callings, and whether part of a family or not, each .	2	—	—
3. Country mechanics, such as blacksmiths, bricklayers, carpenters, masons, sawyers, wheelwrights, and gardeners, and their wives; also, females of the working class, not being domestic or farm servants, per head	5	8	15
4. Children under eighteen, per head . . .	1	—	—
But if there be more than two children under twelve in any family at the time of embarkation, for each additional child there must be paid, instead of 1 <i>l.</i>	4	—	—

According to the Regulations published by the Emigration Commissioners, it is required that all candidates for these reduced rates of passage to Australia shall be sober, industrious, and of general good moral character; on all which points decisive certificates will be required. They must also be in good health, free from all bodily or mental defects; and the adults must, in all respects, be capable of labour, and going out to work for wages.

The candidates most acceptable are young married couples without children, and female domestic and farm servants, between the ages of twenty and thirty.

Persons who wish to inquire whether they are likely to be accepted, should communicate their ages and callings; and, if married, the number and ages of their children, to the Commissioners, or to any of their agents, appointed in various localities to supply, gratuitously, information and forms to suitable applicants. These agents, however, have no power to promise passages, nor to receive money.

When candidates are accepted by the Board, they will receive a printed "Approval Circular," pointing out how the required contribution is to be paid, before which time no preparation for departure should be made. When the money is paid, an "Embarkation Order," which is not transferable, will be issued, naming a particular ship, and the time and place of embarkation.

The emigrants must provide a proper outfit. The smallest quantity that can be admitted for each person is as follows:—

For Males.—Two complete suits of exterior clothing, six shirts, six pairs of stockings, and two pairs of shoes.

For Females.—Six shifts, two flannel petticoats, six pairs of stockings, two pairs of shoes, and two gowns, with three sheets for each berth, and three towels and two pounds of soap for each person.

But the larger the stock of clothing, the better for health and comfort during the voyage, which usually lasts four months; and as the emigrants have always to pass through very hot and very cold weather, they should be prepared for both. Two or three serge shirts for men, and flannel for women and children, are strongly recommended.

Emigrants should take out with them the necessary tools of their trades; but bulky agricultural implements and furniture, especially mattresses and feather-beds, cannot be admitted. The

whole quantity of baggage for each adult emigrant must not measure more than twenty cubic or solid feet, nor exceed half a ton weight. It must be closely packed in one or more boxes, but no box must exceed in size ten cubic feet.

The Commissioners engage none but first-class vessels, which will proceed, in the course of each month, to Sydney and Port Phillip. The ships will be despatched from London and Plymouth, where the Commissioners have depôts fitted expressly for the reception of the emigrants, who are assembled there previous to embarkation, and are lodged and fed, free of charge, from the day named in their Embarkation Order.

In fitting up the ships, the preservation of good order, as well as the comfort of the people, is held in view. The married couples and their young children occupy separate berths in the middle of the vessel, families being kept together; while the single men and the single women are placed in distinct compartments set apart for them at opposite ends of the ship.

Besides passages, including provisions and an ample supply of medical comforts, such as arrowroot, sago, preserved meats, stout, wine, preserved milk, &c., to be issued, not as a matter of right, but at the discretion of the surgeon, the Commissioners provide bedding, mess utensils, new mattresses, bolsters, blankets and counterpanes, canvas-cloth bags, knives and forks, spoons, and some other necessary articles, which, if the emigrants conduct themselves properly during the voyage, are given to them at its termination.

The Commissioners also provide a surgeon-superintendent, for the protection and medical charge of the emigrants. The single women are placed under the care of a matron; and, when practicable, a schoolmaster is appointed for the benefit of adults as well as of children.

At the termination of the voyage the emigrants may remain on board, and receive rations, free of expense, for fourteen days,

in order to afford them time to make arrangements for settling themselves in the country.

On reaching the colony, the emigrants are received by a Government officer, who will give every assistance in his power, by way of information and advice, as to the rate of wages, the place where employment may most readily be obtained, &c. They are at perfect liberty to engage themselves to any one willing to employ them, and to make their own bargain for wages; *but if they quit the colony within four years after landing, they must repay to the Colonial Government a proportionate part of their passage money, at the rate of 3*l.* per adult, for each year wanting to complete four years' residence.*

The provisions—consisting of flour, beef, pork, preserved meat, oatmeal, biscuits, raisins, suet, peas, rice, potatoes, tea, sugar, treacle, butter, and water—are all of the best description, and given in abundance.

All applications should be addressed, post-paid, to “Stephen Walcott, Esq., Secretary to the Emigration Board, No. 9, Park-street, Westminster.”

The above is a condensed statement of the regulations now in force on the subject of Emigration to Australia. The British Government has a direct interest in the prosperity of her colonies, and especially of Australia,—the value and importance of which to England may be estimated by the magnitude of our exports, and the quantity of British manufacture taken by us in exchange. From the Board of Trade returns, I find that in 1849 the declared value of our consumption of British goods was 2,080,364*l.*, being considerably more than was taken by all our West Indian possessions put together. On an average, every man, woman, and child, in New South Wales and Victoria, consumes annually of British manufacture to the value of nearly 8*l.* sterling.

While this fact—among many others, equally conclusive, that might be mentioned—proves the general prosperity of the colonies, it also proves that in emigrating to Australia you not only improve your own condition, but confer a benefit on the land that you left; not certainly in the sense in which it has often been said of our old convicts, that “they left their country for their country’s good,” but by your leaving it you will, in all probability, do good to yourselves and your families, by transferring your labour to a profitable market—do good to Australia, which now stands so much in need of your labour—and do good to England, by becoming her best customers.

I am aware that one of the objections brought by some of you against emigrating to Australia is the great length of the voyage, or the immense distance these colonies are removed from England. Once you are on board ship, it makes very little difference whether you are one month or four months in reaching your destination. Your life on shipboard may be passed most agreeably, perfectly free from care, where everything necessary is provided for you, and where you may amuse yourselves by reading, and enjoy the safest and most delightful voyage between any two distant places on the face of the whole globe. This is a subject on which, after having myself sailed between England and Australia four different times, I may be allowed to express an opinion.

Once settled in Australia, the only inconvenience which your great distance from home can entail on you will be the length of time your letters may take in the transit. I am happy, however, to say that this inconvenience has now been partly removed by the establishment of steam communication. Some time ago England conferred this boon upon several of her colonies which are less deserving than Australia.

To the Royal Mail Packet Company, the British Government

gives yearly a quarter of a million sterling for carrying the mails to the West Indies.

Canada also, which only a few years ago rose in arms against Great Britain, receives annually 145,000*l.* for her mail packet service. And the colony at the Cape of Good Hope, which has made itself notorious for its recent disaffection, and for setting at defiance the orders of Earl Grey, as manifested in the successful resistance of the colonists to the landing of British convicts from the ship *Neptune*, yet now receives from the English Government 30,000*l.* yearly, to facilitate steam communication.

If, then, the above-named colonies receive such liberal support from England towards steam communication, there is no doubt whatever that, in compliance with our urgent memorials, we shall continue to receive every reasonable aid for securing the speedy transmission of our mails; so that you may now reckon on receiving your letters in about half the time formerly occupied in the voyage from London to Australia.

The first of these regular steamers direct for Australia sailed from Southampton on the 15th May last, with passengers for Melbourne and Sydney.

And the immense steamer, named the "GREAT BRITAIN," is now announced to sail from LIVERPOOL for AUSTRALIA on the 21st August. Several intending emigrants, who are able to pay the passage-money, will no doubt embrace the opportunity afforded by this large vessel for visiting the gold fields. Though it is not to be expected that many of the class of persons for whom this little work is chiefly intended, can raise sufficient money to pay the fares by this steamer, I will here transcribe the advertisement as published in the *Times* newspaper:

"Steam from Liverpool to Australia, forming part of the

Eagle line of packets. The *Great Britain*, screw steamer, 3,500 tons, and 500 horse-power, B. R. Mathews, Commander, will be despatched for Melbourne, Port Phillip, on Saturday, August 21, at 1 p.m. This magnificent ship, fitted up with every possible convenience, has just performed her trial voyage to New York in the most satisfactory manner, and with remarkable rapidity. Fully equipped for sailing, she combines all the advantages of a clipper ship with those of a powerful steamer, adapting her in a peculiar manner for a long voyage, and securing its being made in the shortest possible time.

“Fares—After saloon, seventy guineas and upwards; fore ditto, forty; second cabin, twenty-five; including stewards’ fees, the attendance of an experienced surgeon, and all provisions of the best quality, excepting wines, spirits, and malt liquors, which will be supplied at very moderate prices.

“In the saloon state rooms, every requisite will be provided. In the second cabin the passengers will have to supply themselves with bed, bedding, and linen.

“Freight—A limited quantity will be taken at 6*l.* per ton. Parcels under one cubic foot, 10*s.* 6*d.* each.

“Parties anxious to secure berths should make immediate application. This vessel will return from Melbourne in November or December.

“For further particulars apply, in Bristol, to Gibbs, Bright, and Co.; in London, to George Seymour, Sun-court, Cornhill; in Glasgow, to Samuel Irvin and Co.; in Dublin, to H. L. Allen, North Wall; in Belfast, to George Pim and Co.; in Cork, to T. E. Hodder; in Plymouth, to J. C. Matthews; in Manchester, to Yates and Corkling; in Birmingham, to R. W. Winfield; in Leeds, to Davy and Co.; or to Gibbs, Bright, and Co., 1, North John-street, Liverpool.”

The establishment of a new line of steamers from Liverpool by way of Panama is also announced by the Cunard Company.

They are to employ a first class line of steam ships in conjunction with their mail steamers to New York. Their vessels are nearly ready to commence running, though the railroad between Panama and Chagres is not yet completed. Undoubtedly this route is much shorter *in distance*, and avoids the cold latitudes; but I fear the voyage will not be made in a shorter time, and the overland carriage of the luggage from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the reshipping of it on the other side of the isthmus, would entail considerable expense and trouble on the passengers.

In sailing vessels, the fares, as now advertised, are, £	
for steerage to Port Phillip or Sydney	15
Intermediate	21
Cabin	50

And for children half the above-named rates.

CHAPTER XI.

HOW TO SUCCEED AFTER ARRIVAL IN THE COLONY.

HAVING in the preceding chapter pointed out to you the way of obtaining almost a free passage to Australia, it now only remains that I explain how easily you may all secure profitable employment after your arrival in the colonies.

I think it here proper to state, that in recommending you to emigrate to Australia, I have no selfish interest to serve. Having sold all the property I had in those colonies, I have just returned to England, and never intend again to cross the equator.

I take it for granted that the labour of your hands is the only available property you possess, and that though some of you may wish to become diggers at our Gold fields, yet there are many of you who will prefer to engage in the more certain and less exciting occupation of farming, or in pastoral pursuits, or in working at our railroads, or as general servants.

It is perhaps scarcely necessary for me to remind you that in Australia the laws, language, coins (moneys), weights and measures, are the same as in England. Clothing may be purchased in Sydney or Melbourne, nearly as cheap as you can buy it at home. And the prices of provisions are not one half what you pay in England. The average price of wheat throughout these colonies, for the last ten years, was under 5s. per bushel, or 40s. per quarter. The retail price of tea is 1s. 3d. ;

sugar, $2\frac{1}{2}d.$; fresh beef, or mutton, $1\frac{1}{2}d.$; cheese, $8d.$; soap, $3d.$; rice, $2d.$; butter, $1s.$; and best tobacco, $3s.$ to $4s.$ per lb. Wine about $5s.$ per gallon, and fruit is cheap and abundant. Grapes grow everywhere in the open air, and I have seen ripe peaches given as food to pigs.

When employed as house-servants, your rations or provisions are never weighed to you; but, when living at a grazing establishment, or on large farms, your weekly rations consisting of 10lbs. flour, from 10lbs. to 14lbs. butchers' meat (I used to give the latter quantity to all my servants), 2lbs. sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, for each adult, are weighed and given to you every Saturday evening.

All labourers and tradesmen employed as hired servants in the country are provided with dwelling-houses, cooking utensils, &c., and they may cut as much fire-wood as they require for their own use. The climate being so mild, very little of either fire-wood or clothing is needed. In England, if you are employed either as day or weekly labourers, your outdoor labour is interrupted, and you are thrown out of employment during a great part of the year by the severity of winter. But in Australia we have no winter to cause any suspension of your out-door work, and consequently you may earn and save money every week in the year. And let me add what has often been remarked by many of our oldest, and most experienced colonists, that if a man does not succeed in Australia it is his own fault. You should also bear in mind, that in Australia you have nothing to fear, either from quadrupeds or from the black native bipeds; the aboriginal inhabitants being now perfectly harmless, and with the exception of a few venomous snakes, which are generally more afraid of you than you can be of them, there are here none of the irrational animals formidable to man.

Your pay or wages for every description of labour is about

twice as much as you obtain in England, while your usual food, which is as good and abundant as some English farmers can have at their own table, will cost you less than one half the English prices. 'The pay for two days' work is generally more than equal to the cost of a week's board; so that you can have about two-thirds of all your yearly pay available for other uses.

But it is not the high wages, nor the cheap and abundant provisions and the delicious climate, that I would particularly point out as the great and chief inducement for you to emigrate. In England a few, and it is only a very few of you, by denying yourselves all the comforts of life, may after many years succeed in saving a little money. But to what use can you apply this small sum of money, so as to benefit your children after your decease? Three per cent. now is, and has been for some years past, the current value of money safely invested in England. Not so in Australia. Here you may get from 8 to 10 per cent. per annum with security on land or city property, for the use of your savings. Here also with a small amount you can make a permanent provision for yourselves and families; for you may in a few years save out of your ordinary wages sufficient to buy a farm, capable of producing all the necessaries of life. From the high rate of wages paid to labourers in these colonies you may soon, if so inclined, become landed proprietors; for every facility is afforded by our Government for enabling the poor man to purchase a farm. By a recent regulation, "lands suited for cultivation, or likely to be purchased for small farms, will be sold in portions of from 2 acres to 640 acres."

The price at which these small farms are commonly sold varies from 30s. to 4*l.* or 5*l.* per acre. By the savings of a few years you may thus raise yourselves from the humble rank of labourers to the dignified position of landed proprietors;

and if, instead of wasting time in conforming to the tedious land regulations prescribed by our Government, you prefer to buy at once from private individuals, you may purchase farms, of any size you require, from private individuals; and also, as I believe, from a highly respectable body of men, called "The Australian Agricultural Company," who have lately been offering for sale, in small lots, 500,000, or half a million of acres, situated at Port Stephens, about 100 miles north from Sydney. This Company was formed in 1824, by a number of London merchants and bankers, who then obtained from Government 1,000,000 (one million) acres, on certain conditions,—one of which was, that they should expend half a million of pounds sterling in the purchase of live stock, such as sheep, cattle, and horses; and that they should employ a certain number of convicts in improving the land thus granted. The conditions were duly fulfilled, to the satisfaction of the Government, who gave up to the Company the title-deeds for half a million of acres on the sea-coast (at Port Stephens), and the other half on the Peel River, in the interior.

The half million acres at Port Stephens were lately offered for sale on terms the most advantageous to men like you. The following extract from the Company's Prospectus, recently published, will give you a sufficiently clear idea of what you can do for yourselves and your families, with a little money, in Australia :

"The Australian Agricultural Company, after having, for the last twenty years, confined its operations to cultivating and grazing estates (comprising 1,000,000 acres), which were selected with great care, in New South Wales, has determined on offering for sale, or lease, all that portion, containing 500,000 acres, situated near the excellent harbour of Port Stephens (100 miles from Sydney). The estate is bounded by the river Manning, intersected by other streams, and provided

with roads and bridges, which have been constructed by the Company, at a cost of many thousand pounds; also, churches and schools. A resident clergyman, schoolmaster, and surgeon, are paid by the Company, for the benefit of their servants. Farms and vineyards, which have been long in cultivation, with excellent homesteads attached, will be offered for sale, at twenty years' purchase, on the estimated annual value. The uncultivated land will be sold in lots of 50 acres and upwards, at *1*l.** per acre; each 50*l.* paid in England entitling the purchaser to a choice, and a free passage in one of the Company's ships to Port Stephens. Each lot will include a right of pasturage for stock on an adjoining land, at a low poll-tax. The Company are willing to lease land for ten years, at 2*s.* per acre per annum, with a right of purchase, at *1*l.** per acre, during that term. They are also able to offer cattle, horses, and fine-woolled sheep, of the purest breeds, on advantageous terms. Cuttings, plants, and seeds, may be obtained from the Company's gardens, orchards, and vineyards. Purchasers, immediately on landing at Port Stephens, will be received by the agents of the Company, forwarded to the agricultural districts, about twenty miles, and allowed to occupy buildings belonging to the Company, at a trifling rent, for a reasonable period."

In order to satisfy you that in Australia you may, without any inconvenience to yourselves, save out of your ordinary wages sufficient money to purchase one or more of the farms now offered for sale, both by the Government and by private individuals, I will now state the general rate of wages given here to men and women of the labouring classes:

To men working in stores or on wharfs, either in Sydney or Melbourne, the current pay now is from 30*s.* to 35*s.* per week. Storekeepers get as high as 100*l.* a year. At our railroads, near Sydney, men get from 5*s.* to 7*s.* per day. At

our printing-offices, the men whose business it is merely to feed the machine, and distribute the paper, receive 33s. a week, and are paid extra for every hour over ten hours they may work; and let me add, that this is a work which any labouring man may perform.

The following is the current rate of wages per annum, *with board*:

Coachmen	40 <i>l.</i> , and one suit of clothing.
Grooms	30 <i>l.</i>
Shepherds	26 <i>l.</i> to 30 <i>l.</i>
Ploughmen	28 <i>l.</i> to 36 <i>l.</i>
Blacksmiths	45 <i>l.</i> to 60 <i>l.</i>

(I know a blacksmith who was offered 2*l.* per week, with board, which offer he refused).

Wheelwrights receive 50*l.*

Milkmen 30*l.* Here the women never milk,—that employment being considered beneath their dignity.

Servants who engage to make themselves generally useful receive from 30*l.* to 35*l.*; sailors, 7*l.* per month.

Married couples (without family)	40 <i>l.</i>
Female house-servants	18 <i>l.</i> to 20 <i>l.</i>
Laundresses	18 <i>l.</i> to 22 <i>l.</i>
Cooks	20 <i>l.</i>
Nurse-maids	12 <i>l.</i> to 15 <i>l.</i>

But as there are everywhere some croaking people whose imaginations always see a lion in the way, and who are ready to start objections to every plan that can be suggested, I doubt not you will be told that the very high rate of wages now given in these colonies is only temporary,—is occasioned by the feverish excitement produced by the Gold discovery, and that this discovery itself will eventually prove injurious, instead of beneficial, to New South Wales and Victoria.

Having lived nearly eighteen years in these colonies, I can confidently state that, excepting at some short intervals, wages for all kinds of servants have been steadily rising during all that period. Eighteen years ago I was paying only from 10*l.* to 12*l.* a year to domestic female servants. The rate now, as you have just seen, is nearly double. Even before the discovery of gold here, the average wages of shepherds was from 22*l.* to 26*l.* a year. Bullock-drivers were getting 30*l.* Stockmen, that is mounted herdsmen, 30*l.* Hut-keepers, 20*l.* to 24*l.* Men employed in ploughing, driving horses, cutting timber, gardening, milking, or performing any other ordinary work about a farm, from 24*l.* to 30*l.* a year; and this rate of wages is, in every instance, given with board. For reaping, 12*s.* to 14*s.* per acre is usually paid. Thrashing, 6*d.* per bushel. Sheep-shearing, 16*s.* 8*d.* per hundred sheep; or 2*d.* per sheep; and I have had in my service men who could shear one hundred sheep per day, each.

These, as already stated, were the wages usually given, previous to the Gold discovery. Since that discovery the rate of wages has been rapidly advancing. But supposing, what is not very probable, that after a few years they should again fall to what they were lately, even then any industrious man can soon make himself independent. And I ask, How long do you think you must labour in England before you can reasonably expect to be able to buy a farm; or make some other adequate provision for your wives and children? How long must you work in England before you can expect to become respectable farmers, living comfortably on your own property? If you remain in England, there are many of you who will have nothing to look forward to in old age but the miserable and degrading refuge of a poor-house: and to any man of spirit nothing can be more humiliating than the reflection, that in his declining years all he has to depend upon is eleemosynary aid,—that he and his wife must then, as paupers, be thrown on his parish, from which he

will receive 2s. 10d. per week, or 7l. 7s. 6d. per annum; for that is the average cost per head of paupers throughout England, where one million and a half of persons receive parochial relief, or nearly one out of every ten of the whole population! In England and Wales about 7,000,000*l.* are annually levied as poor-rates. In Ireland the condition of the people is still more hopeless. There three millions of persons, or about one-third of all the inhabitants subsist on charity! Why do not these emigrate before they are driven to this last refuge of the destitute? Very few poor men can say that in all their lifetime they have not spent so much as 20s. on strong drink, tobacco, or some other commodity equally unnecessary: and yet with these 20s. any able labourer under forty years of age may now secure a passage to one of the most flourishing colonies in the world.

Whether the gold discovery will or will not eventually prove injurious to Australia is a question which falls not within my province to discuss. I will only remark, that among other advantages, we may reasonably anticipate the following; viz., the discontinuance of transportation of convicts to these colonies. The British Government can never think of sending as a punishment convicts to a country where gold is found scattered over it in such abundance, and merely for the digging of it. To send convicts *now* to Australia would be to offer a very high premium on the commission of crime. In such a case all that would be necessary, in order to secure the chance of obtaining a free passage to our Gold mines, and of realizing a fortune there, would be merely to commit some transportable offence. For the convicts once here, it would be impossible to prevent desertion, and equally impossible to detect deserters among the thousands of labourers employed in our deep mining pits.

Since the discovery of gold has become generally known in England, the Australian colonies have engrossed a large share of public attention. Formerly, whenever any motion affecting

these colonies happened to be brought forward in the British House of Commons, the Members, with very few exceptions, simultaneously began either to yawn or to join in a general concert of coughing, or, what was still more disheartening, they walked away in a body, so that, before the votes could be taken, the House was counted out. But now the case is very much altered. Australia receives considerably more than her due share of public notice; for since the colonists have succeeded in setting up for worship a golden calf on almost every mountain from Bathurst to Ballarat, the right ear of Majesty is open to hear them, and the ruling powers are ready, not only to grant their requests, but even to anticipate their wishes; as is evidently proved by the preparation now made for sending out a regiment of infantry, with camp equipage, &c., for the protection of the diggers. This is no doubt a pleasing proof of attention, but I cannot here refrain from expressing my fears that at least one half of all those soldiers will, on their arrival in the colony, doff the red coats, and run away to the mines.

Numbers of men possessing capital will be induced to come to Australia, where there is now so much room for the profitable employment of money. I know one man, who made 10,000*l.* clear profit, within six months, in buying gold. With a little capital a man could make a fortune here, by employing a quartz crushing-machine, which has been found more profitable than digging in California.

Our Gold mines will gradually produce the effect of putting a stop to a waste of human food throughout these colonies. Hitherto many thousands of fat bullocks and wethers have been annually boiled down for their tallow; the meat, after the extraction of the tallow, being either thrown away in heaps for manure, or given to feed pigs. But now, from the large numbers of people we may expect to be drawn by the gold discovery to Australia, the meat which has hitherto been wasted

at our boiling-down establishments will be required as human food. This has been the effect produced by the gold discovery in California. There, the rancheros, who up to that period were in the habit of killing their live stock for the skins, with the exception of a few animals killed for the ships which annually visited San Francisco, are now receiving fair prices for their beef, and also for their horses.

The gold discovery has also partly broken down the barriers of exclusiveness which have hitherto kept the different classes of our society apart. Where the poor man and the rich man have an equal chance of finding gold, the distinctions of rank are readily forgotten. Here, industry and perseverance constitute real merit, and give to their possessor a fair prospect of becoming independent.

As the high state of the exchange now in our favour will show, the gold discovery has made money more plentiful throughout the colonies. It is not the man who is actually employed in digging up the gold that will be the largest gainer: the farmer who supplies the staff of life; the grazier who provides the beef and mutton; the grocer who exchanges the tea and sugar for gold-dust; the ship-owner who sends the manufactured goods; the shoemaker who makes the boots; the tailor who furnishes the clothing; the blacksmith who makes or sharpens the pick; the baker who bakes the bread for those who remain at home, and the drayman who drives the fuel—all, all these men largely share in the profits of the gold-digger. In the increase of their wages they all receive their due proportion of his earnings, though they may never visit the gold mines. An instance of this came under my own observation when lately in Melbourne; and as it may serve to give you some idea of the scarcity of tradesmen there, I will here mention it. Happening to break part of the harness of one of the horses I was driving, I desired my servant to carry the broken

part to a saddler's shop in order to get it mended. I accompanied the man. We travelled from shop to shop, till we had visited three or four of them, before we found a *man* in any of them; all the men having gone to the diggings, the shops were left under the charge of their wives or daughters. At last we reached a saddler's shop, in which I saw a little boy of nine or ten years of age, who said he thought he could mend the broken harness; and he did so in a few minutes. I stood looking at him while at work, and when he had finished I asked him what was to pay, expecting that he would say, "One shilling." His reply, however, was, "Half-a-crown, sir, if you please." I said, "That is a very high charge, my little boy, for the few stitches it only cost you." "But, sir," said this pocket edition of human nature, "you must consider that all the men have gone to the diggings, and that *we* who stay at home to do the work of the public must charge accordingly." The logic was conclusive; my mouth was stopped, and my purse was opened. I paid the 2*s.* 6*d.*, and went away convinced that those who stay at home and stick to their trades will largely participate in the profits of the gold-digger. In January last I was paying 30*s.* a week, or at the rate of 78*l.* a year, with board, to a bullock-driver, whom I could have hired last year at about 30*l.* a year. When this man's time with me expired, he was offered 3*l.* a week, or at the rate of 156*l.* a year, with board, for driving bullocks between Melbourne and Mount Alexander. I know a journeyman carpenter who was at the same time offered 4*l.* a week, with board and constant employment, which he refused—then went to the diggings.

It is necessary you should remember that besides the gold diggings, there are many other employments ready for you in Australia, as you may readily anticipate from the following list of our exports:—Wool, tallow, beef, hides, horses, and wine, besides a number of articles as yet of minor importance; such

as mimosa bark, gum, timber, bones, cases of preserved meat, &c. Australia alone now furnishes half of the entire quantity of the wools imported into Great Britain; and there is good ground for believing that ere long these colonies will supply not only the largest quantity of gold, but also the best iron and copper. An iron mine has lately been opened near the town of Berrima, situated about eighty miles from Sydney. At this mine abundant supply of ore is found near the surface, yielding 70 per cent. of metal of the finest quality, which possesses the peculiar and highly valuable property of running into pure steel when smelted.

Copper mines have recently been opened in the neighbourhood of Carcoar, near Bathurst; at Molong, near Wellington Valley; and also in the neighbourhood of Yass. Both lead and tin have likewise been discovered. All these mines will employ a large number of labourers. The Burra Burra Copper-mine, near Adelaide, capital town of South Australia, a neighbouring colony, of which I have no doubt you have heard, employed last year upwards of 1,000 labourers, of whom 400 work underground. The average wages of these 1,000 working men is 30s. a week, or 78*l.* a year; and yet large numbers of these well-paid labourers have lately left their employment at the Burra mine, and come to Victoria and New South Wales.

Among the advantages which men with families enjoy in Australia, may be mentioned the facility with which they can find employment for their sons, and also get all their daughters well married. If there is any girl over sixteen years of age unmarried in Australia, it is her own fault, for she must have had several offers. The more numerous your families are, the better is your chance of success, unless there be a large proportion of them under ten years of age. Boys above ten or eleven will get about 20*l.* a year, with board, for shepherding a flock of sheep; while a girl of the same age will get from 10*l.*

to 12*l.* a year for looking after a child, or performing some other equally easy work.

The limits within which I have confined myself will not admit of my extending these observations. I trust, however, that I have already said enough to convince you of the eligibility of Australia as a field for emigration. But I cannot close these hurried remarks without saying a few words on a subject to which I have not yet alluded. All that I have hitherto stated refers only to your temporal interest. I trust you will not deem it impertinent if I here tender you my sincere advice on what concerns your moral and religious welfare. And be assured that the greater your worldly success is in Australia, the greater will be your danger of living a life of practical ungodliness. So true it is that "the prosperity of fools destroyeth them."

The great besetting sin of the labouring classes in Australia is drunkenness. This habit is, in many instances, acquired on ship-board, where, during the long voyage, the emigrant, if not supplied with ardent spirits as part of his regular rations, manages to buy some from the steward. The habit, once formed, is seldom conquered; and here, owing to the high wages, and the low duty on spirits, great facilities are afforded for indulging in intemperance, and hence three-fourths of all the crimes which stain our calendar are directly traceable to intoxication. Rum is Satan's powerful instrument by which he secures subjects for his kingdom. Rum is the ruin of both soul and body. If, therefore, you value your own welfare, or that of those who are near and dear to you, you will carefully guard against the vice which fills our jails with criminals, has made many widows and orphans, and sends thousands of our population to a premature grave.

I must also caution you against another sin equally prevalent throughout these colonies; namely, gross violation of the fourth command in the decalogue. The desecration of the Lord's

day, so common in the vicinity of public-houses, is the natural result of the vice to which I have already referred. But I am sorry to say that this desecration is not confined to the neighbourhood of public-houses. At some large farms and grazing establishments, both servants and masters instead of remembering the Sabbath-day, to keep it holy, make it a day for indulging either in sinful amusement, or in idleness and feasting. Against the transgressors of this Divine law God has threatened, and will assuredly execute his terrible judgments. And remember that it will not avail you to urge by way of excuse, that you were many miles removed from the nearest place for public worship, and that not only your fellow-servants, but also your employers, set you the example. They are not the rule which God has given for the regulation of your conduct. It is not by them that you must one day be judged. And if you cannot enter the house of God, or join his people in the public services of the sanctuary, you have at least your Bible to read and to meditate upon; and with the assurance of being heard, you can offer your petitions to Him who has revealed himself as the hearer and answerer of prayer, and who is not confined to temples made with men's hands.

In the days of health and prosperity, men are very apt to forget the uncertainty of human life; and they forget that the termination of this short and uncertain life ushers them at once into an eternity of happiness or woe. Have you ever seriously thought on this subject? And have you been led to embrace, as your Saviour and as your Deliverer from the power and punishment of sin, Him who is declared to be God manifested in the flesh? If you have not, then, whatever may be your worldly prosperity, you have no real enjoyment. The main business of your life is altogether neglected, and you are recklessly rushing into the presence of your Judge, unprepared and unforgiven. What can your perishable acquisitions avail

you when stretched on the bed of death? Unless Christ is your friend, what can your earthly friends do for you when you are about to pass through the dark valley and the shadow of death? The staff of mere wordly friendship will then utterly fail you. The friendship of the world is hollow and treacherous; its very highest enjoyments are unsatisfying. You will never find rest or solid consolation except in the friendship and favour of God. Great may be the hopes and promises held out to you by the world; but every man that ever trusted it has been deceived. Trust then in him who never deceives you; serve him whose service is perfect freedom. He alone can sweeten all your enjoyments, lighten the sorrows of life, and remove the sting of death. It was the pathetic language of an ambitious and disappointed man (Cardinal Wolsey) when driven from Court to obscurity, and standing on the verge of the grave,—“O had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my king, he would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies.”

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
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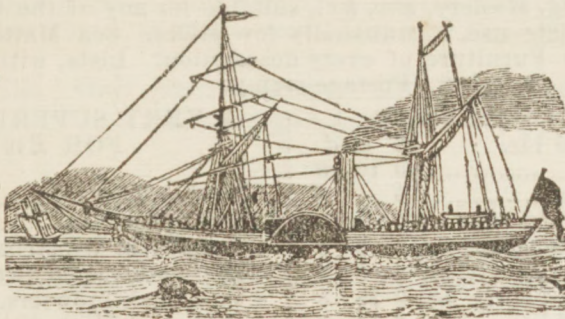
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