David Scott Mitchell.

Sandhurst:

A Brief Summary of its Past History, its Present Position and Resources, and its Future Prospects.

TOWN HALL, SANDHURST.

Compiled for and Presented by the Mayor of Sandhurst

(Cr. J. COHN).

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Sandhurst:
J. B. YOUNG, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, &c.,
LYTTLETON TERRACE.

PREFACE.

AS a preface should partake very much of the character of "a talk with the stranger in the gate," this book's appearance may be briefly explained. On the election of Councillor J. Cohn as mayor of this city, on 13th August, 1888, he considered that, owing to the number of visitors to the colony on account of the holding of the Centennial Exhibition in Melbourne, the opportunity of bringing the resources of the district prominently forward should not be lost. As one of the most effective means of doing this, he gave instructions for the compilation and printing of this little volume, for the purpose of presenting to visitors an idea of what our past has been, and what the prospects of the district are.

The City of Sandhurst.

THE site now occupied by the thriving and prosperous City of Sandhurst was 37 years ago part of an almost unexplored bush ; the only persons who had previously invaded its precincts—save of course the aboriginal inhabitants—having been a few shepherds and sheep station hands. The magic change was brought about by the discovery of the golden treasures of the district by some of the station hands referred to. Of this important stage in our history particulars are given later on. In the beginning of the rush, Bendigo (as it was then called) was solely a "canvas town" ; that is, the whole of the thousands of inhabitants then resided in canvas tents.

Gradually, as the permanence of the field was more clearly demonstrated, a town was gradually built up, and the first humble structures have since been transformed into much more substantial and ornamental buildings.

Sandhurst is built upon the Bendigo creek, the banks of which are lined with numerous gentle hills, affording a splendid system of natural drainage. It was proclaimed a municipality on the 24th April, 1855 ; a borough on the 11th September, 1863 ; and a city on the 18th July, 1871. It is the largest city in Australia, as far as area is concerned,

the jurisdiction of the City Council extending over 7856½ acres, with a population of 26,000. The annual value of rateable property is £162,922, and the annual revenue from all sources is £23,742. There are 120 miles of made streets in the city. These figures of course only refer to the city proper, which is the centre of a district of fully 100,000 inhabitants. It is on the main line of railway connecting Melbourne with the Murray, the northern boundary of our colony, and extending thence into New South Wales. This line was opened as far as Sandhurst (100 miles from Melbourne) on 20th October, 1862, by the then Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, with most elaborate ceremonies. The contract for this line was signed in June, 1858, or less than seven years after the discovery of this gold field, and the work cost about £4,000,000, or about £40,000 a mile. No better evidence of the very rapid growth of the city could be given than the fact that such a large expenditure was authorised for railway communication to a place which a few years previously had been an uninhabited bush. Since then, Sandhurst, as becomes its importance as the leading town of the northern and north-western portion of the colony, has been made the centre of a system of railways extending in all directions, and to still be further increased in the immediate future. All these railways have had the effect of adding to and strengthening its importance as the commercial and mauufacturing centre of a very large district.

While the City Council has always had a steady call upon its revenue for the purpose of forming streets, roads, and bridges, the City Fathers have not lost sight of the necessity for beautifying the city, and special activity has been shown in this direction during the last few years. One of the

first features which strikes the visitor is the tree planting. After the operations of the diggers, who, in a few short years, in the fevered search for gold, turned over and washed away a large amount of surface soil, the place presented a generally barren appearance. But, by the wise foresight of our municipal governors, this undesirable state of affairs has long since been remedied, and a very large sum of money, spread over many years, has been expended in tree planting. All the streets of any importance are furnished on both sides with noble lines of trees, both English and Australian—our streets being sufficiently wide to afford plenty of space for the trees. The effect, especially on warm summer days, of these splendid lines of foliage is something beautiful, and the citizens are pardonably proud of it, as in this respect Sandhurst cannot be held to hold second position to any city of its size in the world. There are at present no less than 85 miles of street trees in Sandhurst, and they are gradually being extended. This tree planting has earned for Sandhurst the name of "The Forest City."

Another ornamentation of which Bendigonians are in no small degree proud is Rosalind Park. Sandhurst is in a most unique position in having such a beautiful recreation ground so close to the heart of the city. It is indeed the centre of the city, as it forms one side of each of the two principal streets. It occupies 66 acres, and is ornamentally cultivated and well laid out with broad walks. On the slopes of the hill which rises in its centre there is a handsome fountain the water from which passes down a series of cascades, terminating in a large fish-pond with another fountain in its centre. But the real beauty spot is the fernery, which has been constructed in the lower part of the park. All the finest and most

attractive ferns in the colony have been procured for this place; rockeries, grottoes, caves, and fish-ponds formed; and the whole so invested with the appearances of nature that many visitors almost openly express disbelief that it wholly owes its origin to the hands of man.

The recreation of the citizens has been further attended to by the construction of an artificial lake nearly half a mile long, known as Lake Weeroona, with a well laid out park surrounding it. There are two rowing clubs with boat-houses on this lake (which is only a mile from the centre of the city) and regattas are of frequent occurrence.

Beside these places, there are also in the city a large and convenient agricultural show ground, and about a mile out a large cricket ground, while three and a half miles from the city are well kept Botanical Gardens, covering an area of 36 acres. In the centre of the city, where Pall Mall and View Point meet, there is a large triangular area called Charing Cross, on which is erected an exceedingly handsome fountain, which cost about £1500, the money being provided partly from public sources and partly by the generosity of Mr. George Lansell, the wealthy quartz reefer. It is termed the Alexandra Fountain, and is principally composed of highly polished granite. It stands 30 feet above the road-way and rises out of a basin 50 feet in diameter and well stocked with gold fish. This handsome structure was opened on the 5th July, 1881, by His Royal Highness Prince Albert Victor, assisted by Prince George, and in the presence of 25,000 people.

The leading streets of Sandhurst are ornamented by hand-some and commodious business and other establishments, and in Pall Mall and View Point there are about a dozen

handsome and imposing buildings occupied by the different banking corporations, whose business, in a centre like this, where so much new wealth is daily produced, must necessarily be large.

In Sandhurst there are about 1000 gold mining leases in occupation, covering about 18,750 acres.

Up to the present the remarks have been mainly devoted to the city proper. Three and a half miles from the centre of Sandhurst is the prosperous borough of Eaglehawk, practically a suburb of our city. It has a population of 7500, and, like Sandhurst, it has planted street trees extensively and, in emulation of the city, it also has its artificial lake and fernery. Surrounding Sandhurst are the large shires of Marong, Huntly, Strathfieldsaye, Echuca, East Loddon, Gordon, Swan Hill, Waranga, McIvor, &c., &c., and the boroughs of Raywood and Inglewood. In these, with the exception of Eaglehawk, Inglewood, and Raywood, the population, though partly interested in mining, is chiefly engaged in pursuits of an agricultural or pastoral nature.

Sandhurst, by the way, is the centre of a very large cattle trade, the local market being largely availed of by the large stock raisers of New South Wales and Queensland; consequently the business done is second only to that of Melbourne. About 500,000 head of stock pass through this market annually.

Sandhurst is well supplied with gas for lighting purposes. The city will be the first in Australia to adopt electric tramways, an agreement for the construction of lines from Sandhurst to Eaglehawk, White Hills, and Kangaroo Flat, having been signed, and the surveys made.

The necessity for bathing in the summer months has

induced the council to erect commodious swimming baths in various parts of the city, and these are much appreciated.

Sandhurst has been erected into a Roman Catholic diocese, and is presided over by a bishop and coadjutor-bishop. It will probably be shortly made the headquarters of an Anglican bishopric.

The climate of Sandhurst, though sometimes warm in summer, is most salubrious and genial, the winter, spring, and autumn, being delightful. It is a great place of resort for people suffering from any chest or lung complaint, the clear dry atmosphere being most beneficial.

OUR WATER SUPPLY.

"Sandhurst would be nothing without its water" is an expression frequently heard, and in which there is much truth, for our natural supply is so small as to be scarcely appreciable. This made necessary the carrying out of a most extensive scheme. A magnificent reservoir was constructed at Malmsbury by the building of an immense dam across the bed of the Coliban river, joining two hills, and giving a capacity for the storage of 2,841,000,000 gallons (capable by a moderate expenditure of being trebled) and a drainage area of 64,000 acres. This water is conducted to Sandhurst by an aqueduct 52 miles in length, with three tunnels—one half a mile long—cut in solid granite and blue stone, with several miles of fluming and syphons. The principal reservoir for the city supply is at Crusoe, with a capacity of 320,000,000 gallons. There are four other reservoirs of from 69,000,000 to 27,000,000 gallons, besides

other smaller reservoirs. The streets are laid with mains 115 miles in length. Besides the city supply, branch channels supply the surrounding districts for miles in radius. The city consumption in summer is over two millions gallons daily. These works, which have been productive of a vast amount of good, have cost a great deal of money, the construction involving an expenditure of over £1,000,000.

OUR PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

THE PUBLIC OFFICES.—Sandhurst can lay claim to many handsome edifices, but pride of place in this direction must be given to the handsome public offices recently erected by the Government in Pall Mall. This noble pile accommodates the postal, telegraphic, lands, police, water supply, and treasury departments. It has a frontage of 155 feet and a depth of 100 feet, and the tower rises 142 feet from the pavement. The building is one of the handsomest of its kind in the colony. The tower is furnished with a clock, with a set of Winchester chimes, of local manufacture. This building cost £50,000, and it is intended to, at once, spend £30,000 more in building law courts alongside.

THE TOWN HALL.—The large and commodious building erected for the purposes of the municipal government stands upon a large square which divides the two portions of Bull street, and it presents a very effective picture from the Mall. Portion of the building has been erected for many years, but it is a comparatively short time since it was fully completed. The general design is in the style of the Italian Renaissance,

with towers at each of three corners; and the elaborate ornamentation of the exterior in stucco, with fluted pillars and polished granite columns, renders the building a very handsome one. The building contains council and committee rooms, offices for the mayor, and clerical and engineering staffs, and a large court room. Besides these there is a very large ball room with music gallery, decorated beautifully and most tastefully. The building cost £28,000.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Another of our most handsome public buildings is that of the Sandhurst Mechanics' Institute, a large building also of the Italian Renaissance style and with ample accommodation for the free reading room, members' reading room, a splendid library, and chess, smoking, and other rooms. The benefits of this institution, containing, as it does, no less than 14,000 volumes of works upon all kinds of literary and scientific subjects, and newspapers and periodicals from all countries and colonies, are widespread. The institution had its inception in the very early days of the goldfield. In 1853 a large number of exhibits were collected for the Paris Exhibition of 1854, and these were shown here for some time prior to being sent away, in a building specially erected. This was afterwards used as a Mechanics' Institute, and from this small beginning the present splendid institution has developed. The library is free to all, but books can only be taken away by subscribers of £1 per annum.

SCHOOL OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES.—This excellent and popular educational institution was founded on 21st April, 1873, for the purpose of imparting instruction in the various branches of science connected with mining; instruction in the theory and practice of mining, mine

surveying, engineering, geology, mineralogy, metallurgy, chemistry, assaying, mathematics, drawing, engraving, telegraphy, telephony, and numerous other kindred subjects. There are ten lecturers and teachers, and 550 regular pupils. Connected with the school is an excellent and well-stocked museum of mineral and other curiosities, also workshops, laboratories, &c.

FINE ART GALLERY.—This institution has been very recently established, but it has already met with a success far beyond the expectation of the promoters. It has secured a large collection of excellent works of art both by British and Colonial artists, and its stock of pictures is rapidly extending. At present the gallery is located in the School of Mines lecture room, but they will shortly be in possession of a large gallery of their own. The Government has shown its appreciation of the value of the committee's work by placing a special grant of £10,000 on the estimates.

THE HOSPITAL.—This noble institution for the relief of the sick and wounded was founded in 1853, on a comparatively modest scale, but now it is a very large and handsome institution, with large grounds and garden—ten acres altogether. The building is in the modern style of architecture, with a tower, containing a four-dial clock, in the centre. The main building, and the "Bowen" wing adjoining, contain altogether twenty-one spacious wards; and there are also detached wards for the treatment of erysipelas and lunatic patients. The benefits of the Hospital are availed of by residents for scores of miles around, and, consequently, there are ever increasing demands on its resources, and further additions are in contemplation. There are two resident surgeons and several honorary physicians.

In connection with the Hospital, there is a training school for nurses.

BENDIGO BENEVOLENT ASYLUM.—In a prosperous community like ours, there is no need for a workhouse on the pattern of those in the old country, for the relief of persons unable to obtain work ; but, nevertheless, the fact remains that "the poor we have always with us." Our poor comprise mainly the aged and infirm, who have neglected or have been unable to provide for the evenings of their lives. The Benevolent Asylum is adjacent to the Hospital, and the style of architecture is the Ionic. The buildings, which stand in a reserve of eleven acres, cost £20,000. There are beds for nearly two hundred inmates ; and, besides those in the institution, out-door relief is administered to many old people.

MASONIC HALL.—The ancient craft of Masons is very strongly represented in Sandhurst, and, in keeping with their numbers and importance, they have one of the handsomest buildings of its kind in the southern hemisphere. The building which is of the Corinthian order—appropriately, as one of the lodges is named the Golden and Corinthian—has a frontage of 100 feet, with six pillars 38 feet high supporting the entablature and pediment, the whole producing a noble effect. The interior accommodation is ample and convenient, and the decorations are exceedingly handsome. The building cost £12,000.

AMUSEMENTS.—Sandhurst can boast of an exceptionally handsome and well-arranged theatre, with comfortable seating for 2000 people, with all requisite accessories, the cost being £12,000. It is called the Princess Theatre. There is also St. James' Hall, which cost £5000, and

which accommodates 1900 people, and several smaller Halls.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.—All the leading Friendly Societies of the world are represented here, and have large memberships. These, again, are united in a committee, which has a large freehold building, keeps its own doctors, and dispenses its own medicines. The cost of administration, being spread over thousands, is thus minimised. The most important of the trades organisations is the Bendigo Miners' Association, which number about 2400 members. This Association, which possesses much influence, is especially designed to watch the miners' interests, carefully scrutinise all mining legislation, and to assist members in cases of accident. The relatives of any member killed in a mine receive from £100 to £120.

THE CHURCHES.—The various denominations of the Christian religion are well provided for in the matter of church accommodation, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Baptist, and other branches having commodious edifices. St. Paul's (Anglican) is provided with a bell tower and a set of musical chimes. The Hebrew congregation has also a synagogue of striking appearance, the building being in the Byzantine style.

EDUCATIONAL.—The State Schools in the district are numerous and commodious, and several of them are very handsome specimens of architecture. All these schools are free, the whole cost being borne by the State. There are also several h'gher educational establishments, including the Corporate High School, a Grammar School, Girton College for ladies, and a Roman Catholic Convent High School.

FIRE BRIGADES.—The city is well provided for in the case of fire, there being six fire brigades, all on the volunteer system.

MINING INVESTMENT.—The large business doing in mining shares daily is transacted by the Bendigo Stock Exchange, with 50 members, who meet three times a day. The entrance fee to this body is £25.

OUR INDUSTRIES AND OUR RESOURCES.

The main industry of the Sandhurst district is of course that of gold mining and to this a special portion of this small volume is devoted, and below is given a brief outline of our other industries and resources.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.—Surrounding Sandhurst there is a vast agricultural area, devoted chiefly to the cultivation of wheat, oats, and barley. Wheat growing is mainly pursued, and by far the greater proportion of the wheat raised in the colony has been grown in the area lying north, north-east, and north-westward of Sandhurst. The more northern areas have in the past shown much fluctuation in the results, due to the seasons of drought, caused by irregular and insufficient rainfall. But now all this fluctuation and uncertainty is being removed by the great irrigation schemes which have been inaugurated and are being rapidly carried out, partly by the State and partly by local effort under State supervision. The expenditure has been vast, but the results attending will far over-reach the outlay. The farmer on the arid northern plains is rendered almost entirely independent of climatic influences, which, if adverse,

would in former years mean ruin. It is now possible to flood the land just at the time when the growing crop requires the moisture, and what were once dry plains are now being converted into areas smiling with verdure. This great work will materially add to the prosperity of Sandhurst, which is the great commercial centre of all these areas. Not that irrigation is perfect yet. It is but a few years since it was adopted as a general and State policy, and these matters take time, but still the good results are already plainly apparent. "Intense culture" will follow irrigation, and then the resources of the district will be much more fully availed of. Dairying is also an important industry in portions of the district, and large quantities of butter and cheese are exported.

VINE-GROWING.—This is a highly important industry in this district, and Bendigo wines have long since made a name for themselves all over the world, and have taken leading prizes at all the great exhibitions of the world. The soil and climate of the district are eminently suited for the cultivation of the grape, and, though the industry is a large one at present, there is ample room for a very large extension. The present production might be very largely increased without getting ahead of the demand. Indeed, of late years, many orders from London could be only partially carried out. The colonial demand is, owing to climatic conditions, large, and many growers do not look beyond Australia for a market; but our wines being pure, and of excellent quality, there would be a never-failing market for an unlimited supply. The classes chiefly grown here are Muscat, Reisling, Verdeilho, Chablis, Hock, Hermitage, Carbinet, Chasselas, and Burgundy.

FRUIT-GROWING.—Sandhurst is a great fruit-growing district, and during the season the quantity exported is immense. Almost any sort of fruit will grow here in profusion, and oranges, lemons, citrons, grapes, cherries, plums, pears, quinces, almonds, gooseberries, currants, figs, and numerous other fruits are cultivated largely. The olive will thrive well here, but has not yet been largely planted for commercial purposes ; almonds also grow luxuriantly, and from each of these oil has been manufactured on a small scale with success. For the making of raisins and currants, there is a large field here, but the industry has not yet developed beyond the incipient stage.

MANUFACTURES.—The large demand for all classes of mining machinery at Sandhurst led to the establishment of several very large foundries here, employing a great many hands. They not only supply the whole of the machinery used locally, but are continually receiving large orders from other gold-fields and all the colonies. Orders from the South African gold-fields have also been executed. There is also a very large rolling stock works, which has all the latest improvements in machinery and labor-saving appliances. At this factory, carriages, trucks, and other rolling stock for the Victorian railways are manufactured. Another very important industry is the Bendigo Pottery, which has achieved a reputation all over the colonies, and which turns out weekly large quantities of crockeryware, earthenware, piping, and similar goods. There are also a large number of brick and tile works. There are several extensive flour mills, and quite a number of breweries. The Victoria Brewing Company possesses the only lager beer brewery in the colony, but their success has induced a Melbourne

Company to decide also on erecting a large lager brewery. A large stone-polishing works supplies granite columns and other high-class work for all the leading buildings in Melbourne and other places. The local tannery employs a large number of hands, and its products have obtained prizes at the London and other exhibitions. In addition, there are several powder manufactories, where all descriptions of mining and blasting powders are made; and several large pyrites works, for the extraction of gold from other minerals and refractory ores.

OUR GOLD-FIELD.

THE ALLUVIAL ERA

THE GOLD DISCOVERY.—The year 1851 would certainly have been memorable enough in the history of the colony of Victoria, owing to its having been the year in which effect was given to the separation from New South Wales; but the excitement consequent thereon was destined to be completely eclipsed by the discovery of rich gold-fields, which gave the progress of the infant colony a greater impetus than the wildest dreamer could have previously imagined. First came the discovery of the Ballarat field, then Forest Creek (Castlemaine), and then Bendigo (Sandhurst). The surface in each of these places was very rich, and the tremendous excitement which they caused resulted in a complete disruption of business in Melbourne and Geelong,

then the only centres of population, and in the other colonies. Then the news travelled like wild-fire all over the globe, and there was such an accession of immigrants that in three or four years the population of the colony was raised from 77,000 to 480,000.

In the beginning of November, 1851, the locality now occupied by the Sandhurst goldfield was an almost unoccupied bush, being well-timbered, chiefly with ironbark and eucalypti, and with no habitations, save, perhaps, a shepherd's hut. It then formed part of a squatter's "run," or sheep farm. Later in the month, however, gold was found, and, in a few months afterwards, the place was swarming with thousands of sturdy diggers. The exciting events of the time, when fortunes were to be had almost for the asking, tended to obscure in some degree the actual circumstances of the first discovery; but a recent minute investigation threw a good deal of light upon the subject. At the period referred to, a Mr. Frederick Fenton, manager of the Porcupine sheep station, had two large flocks of sheep grazing near where the then undreamt-of city of Sandhurst was to stand. These sheep not having been brought in by the shepherds at the time appointed for shearing to commence, Mr. Fenton rode out to find them. He found the sheep, but no shepherds. He rode along further until he reached the junction of two small watercourses, one then known as Bendigo creek and the other afterwards named Golden gully. Here, to his astonishment, he found the two shepherds busily engaged in turning over the soil and gathering up large quantities of gold. With some trouble he persuaded one of the men to take charge of the sheep, the other remaining to gather up the precious metal which was

scattered about with so much profusion. The news of the discovery spread rapidly, and created great excitement at the Forest creek rush (then in full swing), and a large crowd soon made for the new Eldorado. The new-comers were unfortunate at first, and the Bendigo rush—which it was called, after the creek previously mentioned—was pronounced a "duffer," and the greater portion of the new-comers returned to Forest creek. Many, however, still remained, and a few week's work soon showed that the field would be a lasting one. The disappointed ones in returning to Forest creek met a great many diggers on the way to Bendigo, and gave such bad accounts of the new field that but few had the courage to keep on. Among the earlier visitors was a Sergeant of Police, on patrol, with some black (aboriginal) troopers under him. Their case is worth a line or two. The Sergeant knew that he had to be back to head-quarters in a few days, but on seeing wealth so easily obtainable he marked out a claim, and during the first night he and the blacks obtained two pounds weight o gold. During the next two days this was greatly augmented and then the claim was sold for a large sum to Mr. R. McKenzie Clarke and party. That three days work was the foundation of a fortune for the Sergeant. He would fain have stopped at the "rush," but not even resignation from the force would have admitted of his doing so, as he would have to give considerable notice before he could give up duty. The next conspicuous success was that of a party of new arrivals (four men) who got fifty ozs. gold for the first days work. When the rush was properly at work, the results were in many cases fabulous. The general yield would, after the larger pieces of gold were picked out, be

about an ounce per tub, containing four buckets of dirt, but there are many well recorded instances of more sensational yields. For instance fifty-two pounds weight of solid gold were obtained in a "pocket" or small hollow in one of the claims. At Eaglehawk two fifty lb. flour bags of dirt gave forty lbs. weight of gold. Two brothers at Pegleg gully sank a shallow hole and from the bottom picked up no less than one hundred lbs. weight of gold. Several large nuggets were found, including the "Victoria," bought by the colonial legislature, for presentation to the Queen, for £1650, and the "Dascombe," sold in London for £1500.

Before Christmas, there were a thousand diggers at work, and the New Chum gully had then been discovered. The diggers were then getting only £2 15s. per ounce for gold, though it was worth £4. After Christmas, the population on the diggings, through the discoveries, which soon followed, of numerous other gullies, some of them excessively rich, was greatly increased. The opening up of Spring gully, Tipperary gully, White Hills, Ironbark, Devonshire, Eaglehawk, Pegleg, California, Long, and numerous other gullies soon set the whole place aflame.

1852 saw the whole place alive, and the Ballarat and Forest creek diggings were deserted by large proportions of their inhabitants, and the population of Bendigo was for a time enhanced at the rate of a thousand or more per week. When Bendigo was at its full height there must have been 25,000 diggers on the field. At one mass meeting, held to consider diggers' grievances, almost in the centre of the city —where All Saints' church now stands—there were computed to be at least 20,000 diggers present, and the scene at this meeting, where, a couple of years previous, nature in all its

pristine robes had held full sway, would have furnished material for a philosopher to fill a volume upon the influence of the gold fever.

One of the notable events of the gold epoch will for ever form a prominent feature of the history of Australasia —the "diggers' license" agitation. Shortly after the outbreak of the goldfields, the authorities conceived the idea that the greatly increased cost of administration resulting upon the gold discoveries could be made up in part by the imposition of a license fee, and a mandate was issued to the effect that all persons on the diggings whether directly or indirectly engaged in the search for gold, should pay a tax of thirty shillings per month for a claim twelve feet square. This was paid by the great majority who were doing well, but there were numerous attempts to evade it, and if this were a purely historical sketch pages could be written on the exciting incidents of the period. The law was enforced with great strictness, and, indeed, harshness. "License hunting" soon became obnoxious, diggers being liable to arrest at any moment if they could not produce a license, and large numbers of mounted police being engaged in the daily hunt. A very determined opposition—known since as the Red Ribbon agitation—sprang up, and the matter became serious. The Bendigo diggers, led by clear headed men, kept within bounds ;. but at Ballarat affairs drifted into such a state that the authorities were opposed by an armed force of diggers, and the celebrated Eureka Stockade fight, in which the diggers were opposed to portions of the 12th and 40th regiments, took place. Numbers were killed on both sides. Though the diggers were for a time worsted, the result was that the authorities recognised their grievances, and not only

were attempts to increase the license fee abandoned, but the tax was abolished altogether, other methods of obtaining a revenue being substituted. Many of the leaders of the agitation now occupy high and honorable positions in the colony.

The time was a stirring one, and even a brief epitome like this would be incomplete without a glance at the crime of the period. The diggers as a rule were well-behaved and law abiding, but amongst the thousands who flocked to the gold-fields were numbers of discharged and escaped convicts from the penal settlements in Tasmania and New South Wales. Highway robberies by bushrangers were common, and the police escorts of coaches carrying gold from the diggings to Melbourne were frequently and successfully attacked. A notorious scoundrel named "Black Douglas" was a terror in the early days, and indeed the road was not safe for any one with gold in his possession. Still it must be said that the crime records pale into insignificance compared with those of the Californian rush a few years earlier. The scum of the world was attracted to California, while, leaving the convicts sent to Australia by the Imperial authorities out of the question, Australia may be truthfully said to have attracted population of a much higher standard—daring and adventurous it may be said, but withal possessed of the true and noble instincts of enterprising pioneers.

The exciting events of the time were responsible for many strange and extraordinary vagaries on the part of diggers. Wealth was so suddenly thrust upon many that it came to be despised. A digger would make a few hundred pounds, and would then go off to Melbourne on a "spree," and then

come back and earn more. It was quite a common thing to see money wasted in the most unmeaning and aimless manner. It is matter of well authenticated history that diggers in drunken bravado lighted their pipes with one and five pound notes; that sandwiches were made and eaten with notes where the ham should be, and that dozens of champagne were set up as skittles to be smashed into pieces by the reckless diggers.

The alluvial diggings proved so extensive that for eight or nine years they continued to yield handsomely, and thousands of acres of ground were turned over in the search. The most prosperous year of all was 1853, when the diggers obtained, according to the official returns, 661,749 ozs. gold, valued at no less than £2,646,800. When the richer portions of the alluvial fields were worked out, attention was turned to quartz mining, and since then Bendigo has achieved the position of the foremost quartz mining district, not only in Australia, but in the world; of this, more anon.

THE QUARTZ ERA.

When the alluvial rushes fell off somewhat, many of the diggers turned their attention to quartz. In the height of the alluvial diggings, when the sinking of a hole a few feet was all that was necessary, perhaps, to expose a hoard of the precious metal, the quartz resources were neglected—known but not realized. One of the most readable and entertaining of late writers on the early days of the gold-field—Mr. R. M'Kenzie Clarke, who recently published his reminiscences

in the *Bendigo Advertiser*—relates how the very earliest of the diggers used to amuse themselves on Sundays by taking a hammer and knocking specimens off the great boulders of quartz which rose above the surface on several of the many eminences in the district—beacons, as it were, to guide the miner to the wealth which lay hidden below. This was in most cases merely an amusement, and many of the diggers sought the lumps of white quartz, studded as they were with shining specks of gold, merely as curious specimens to send to far away friends.

But the day came when this quartz began to be worked, and though the appliances were of the rudest and most primitive character, the results were sufficiently sensational to establish quartz mining as a profitable industry long before the brilliancy of the alluvial fields had become dim. The surface formations were soon actively operated upon, and with results of a truly sensational character. Crushings of from fifty to a hundred ounces per ton were comparatively common; while there were many places which ranged higher, some going as high as 500 ozs. per ton, and in a few notable instances 1500 ozs. and 2000 ozs. per ton.

Even in those halcyon days there was a strong pessimist feeling abroad. Few amongst those working the quartz expected it to last much longer than the alluvial, and, as the surface reefs or lodes were worked out, thought the golden resources of the district were exhausted. They were backed up by scientific opinion, and the memorable remarks of Sir Roderick Murchison, the then famous geologist, to the effect that when the surface formations were exhausted there would be nothing more left for the miner, will never be forgotten. There were, however, many clear-headed practical

men on the field, who from the conformation of the strata near the surface thought that by sinking deeper other similar formations of quartz would be found, and long before this idea gained general acceptance, it was vigorously and strongly urged upon the miners in the *Bendigo Advertiser* by its present editor Mr. R. R. Haverfield, and by several others. The first shafts sunk to test this idea where looked upon by a great many as crack-brained projects. And years after, when payable reefs had been found down to 600 or 700 feet, or even 1000 feet, still a good proportion were simply waiting for the end to come. How well the predictions of the few, and how greatly have been upset the profound scientific promulgations of 33 or 34 years ago needs no further comment now that gold has been found in our quartz mines down to 2100 feet. Since the discovery five or six years ago of a highly payable reef on the New Chum line at 1760 feet, and following discoveries of payable quartz at equal or greater depths, there has been no person bold enough to give public voice to any assertion of the limit in depth of our golden treasures.

The quartz era did not prove such a fleeting one as the alluvial. For all the 34 or 35 years since reefs were first worked, progress has been the order of the day, and the old primitive appliances have given way to machinery of the most powerful and approved type. The industry is established on a very sound basis, and the discoveries made in the deep ground show conclusively that there is a permanent future before the field, and that for many, very many years to come, it will occupy the leading position in the district's industries. Although many mines are getting very deep on the main lines of reef, and the greater portion

of the work is upon those lines, they do not represent more than a very small proportion of the auriferous area available for working. Mining operations cannot be extended beyond the limit of the capital available, and the great bulk of local capital is taken up in working on the lines mentioned. There are however, miles upon miles of proved reefs—the surface formations of many of which were very rich—which are not at all or very slightly worked, and these are lying dormant as a reserve for the future.

The area, of the "Sandhurst mining district" is 5870 square miles, with several mining centres in various portions of it. The figures given below however relate strictly to the Sandhurst district proper, that is the portion in and immediately surrounding the city. In this district the area actually worked upon is about seven square miles, and 4000 miners are employed. There are no less than 276 reefs, or rather lines of reef, many of which are awaiting capital to work them. The lines of reef run north and south through the country for miles. The present leading reef in the district is being worked for about eight miles in length. The reefs are known as saddle formations, having a cap and two legs going down diagonally east and west much like an inverted V (thus Λ). The reefs are of various thicknesses, and run down for from 50 to 200 feet in depth generally. As soon as one formation is worked out, the shaft is sunk, and another similar formation is found below the previous one. Up to the present, despite all the predictions of scientist and geologists, gold-bearing reefs have been traced to 2100 feet in depth, and there are indications of reefs lower still, so that no one can say to what depths they will be traced. It is intended by Mr. G. Lansell—the "Quartz

King of Australia"—to sink the shaft of the "No. 180" mine—now the deepest in the district—to 3000 feet, so that, in the immediate future, the ground will be tested at far greater depths than anywhere in Australia, or, in fact, than in any gold-mining country in the world. There is, of course, as much likelihood of the reefs continuing to 4000 or 5000 feet as 2100 feet, and nothing that science can teach, or geology can tell, can be urged against this assumption. Nothing but real actual work can tell where the limit exists. There is one point in this connection which should be brought under the notice of capitalists desiring means of investment. The State Government has for many years had a watchful eye on the gold-fields, and all facts likely, after strict scrutiny, to be of value hereafter are carefully recorded and published. The Governmental scrutiny shows that in a very small area around Sandhurst there are no less than 276 quartz reefs, that is, there are so many "distinct reefs," traversing perhaps miles of country north and south, in this immediate district (see Government mining reports for quarter ending March 31, 1888). Now, we know that nearly all these reefs were payable, and a large proportion very rich, at the surface. And we know, also, that five or six lines, near the centre of the district, have—by chance, to a very large extent—been selected for extensive operations, and that the three of them most fully occupied by claims and in regular work have been regarded for years as the "main lines," simply so-called from popular predilection and the "chances" before mentioned. Now, these three lines have been in steady continuous work ever since quartz mining was inaugurated here, and have returned vast sums in profits to the shareholders. Now, had any

other lines been brought forward by the "chance" referred to, they might have had an equally good, or, perhaps, infinitely better, record to show. It may be asked—If this is true, why were they not worked? In the first place, the limited capital previously referred to is the main obstacle. Human beings are notoriously gregarious, and they are none the less so when associated in mining companies. In mining, it is distinctly an advantage to have numerous "neighbours," as not only is the water difficulty, serious when only one or two companies are working on one line, reduced to a minimum, but the prospecting of several companies in one locality gives the benefit of a fortunate discovery in one to all the others. This explains why mining investors like to stick to a line of reef which is being worked by numerous other companies, and why certain lines have come to be termed "main lines" for no other reason. This brings us back to the leading argument. A number of reefs equally rich in the surface formations with those now in full work are nearly or entirely neglected. It seems reasonable to think that these would as well have paid for opening up as those which have been continuously worked, and the only reason why they have not been so worked is the want of capital; all the available supply being, for reasons above stated, diverted into certain localities. There are thousands upon thousands of acres upon such reefs now available. The only charge for mining upon these lands is the nominal fee of five shillings per acre per annum. As an instance, it may be mentioned that two or three years ago a claim was taken up in one of these neglected localities, and, after the shareholders spent £3000 or £4000, they were rewarded by finding a reef, from which the *first month's*

work gave a clear profit of £1800, with every probability of similar profits for a long time to come. It must be understood that, though the reef formations continue regularly, they do not all carry payable gold, and it sometimes costs £10,000 or £20,000, or more, and perhaps some little time, before a profitable reef can be found, but when the return does come it comes quickly and abundantly.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORLD'S WEALTH.

After saying so much about our quartz and alluvia mines, it may not be out of place to give some particulars as to the returns of gold won from the earth during the thirty-seven years which have elapsed since gold was first found. The figures are all well-authenticated, being issued (under Governmental auspices) from sworn returns by the various banks.

From November, 1851 (when gold was first discovered at Bendigo) to August, 1888, the total amount of gold obtained was 14,851,121 ozs, valued at £59,400,000, which amount this small area of a few square miles has since added to the world's wealth; for, be it remembered, money made in gold-mining is not like that made in any other business, simply a transference from one pocket to another, but actually new wealth, which never before existed, won from Mother Earth. As about four-fifths of this gold found its way to London, it may be imagined that our fifty-nine millions had no little share in promoting England's prosperity.

The Bendigo gold-field, besides being the most productive in the aggregate, has also returned by far the larger earning per man of any gold-field in Australia.

A FEW SUCCESSFUL QUARTZ MINES.

A reader who has followed us thus far should be interested in a very brief glance at the history of a few of our more successful mines, and in doing so they should note specially the small proportion of the called-up capital to the profits divided; the comparatively small area from which this result has been obtained; and the merely nominal amount which has to be paid for the occupation of such area. More successful companies have been in existence than many of those named below; but, owing to changes in ownership, amalgamation with other claims, loss of records, and other reasons, it is impossible to secure the reliable data necessary in such cases.

GARDEN GULLY UNITED COMPANY.

This is the premier mining company in this district, its success having been the most remarkable of any venture during the thirty-five years' history of quartz mining in this district. The company holds forty-two acres of ground, with a length upon the line of reef of 620 yards, and from this area—for the occupation of which they pay the Government the nominal rent of £10 10s. (5s. per acre) per annum—there has been derived, in twenty-nine

years, the handsome profit of over a million sterling. In the early days of quartz reefing, the ground now held by the company was passed over by the prospectors as being unworthy of notice, and it was not till several years after quartz reefing had been established that an effort at prospecting was made. The ground was then taken up in a number of small claims held by working miners. Some of these obtained good yields at shallow levels. One party of five men derived a profit of £9000 in eighteen months from a reef ninety feet below the surface. Later on, when shafts had to be sunk below water level, these claims were all taken over by the present company, which was formed in 1865. At first, the company's career was the reverse of brilliant, and, after a few years' non-success, many shareholders grew disheartened and thousands of shares were forfeited for the non-payment of threepenny calls, the holders not realising the fortunes they were throwing away. In 1868, the inauguration of a brighter period took place. In order to avert total collapse, the ground was let in several tribute blocks, the tributors paying the original company 17½ per cent. of all gold won. The history of these tributes was of a sensational character. The whole of these tributes spent only £12,666, and, in addition to the percentage they had to pay, distributed no less than £220,875 in dividends. The No. 1 Tribute crushed 9033 tons for 17,144 ozs. gold, and paid 27s. 6d. per share in dividends. The No. 2 Tribute in about a year crushed 3573 tons for the splendid yield of 24,474 ozs. gold, and paid 59s. 6d. per share, or £70,656 5s., in dividends. The No. 3 Tribute crushed 2898 tons for 17,709 ozs., and paid 43s. per share, or £51,062 10s., in

dividends. The No. 4 Tribute paid £6531 5s.; and the Rainbow Tribute, £9500 in dividends. In 1874, the original company resumed possession, and has been paying dividends ever since. The company only expended of their capital £21,646, and has since paid £700,000, so that it is unnecessary to invite attention to the enormous return on the outlay. The company and tributes obtained altogether considerably over 300,000 ozs. gold, and have paid in dividends £920,000. The company possesses a plant valued at £10,000. Adding to the dividends paid by the company, those of private owners, and other profits, it will be seen that this one claim alone has yielded a profit of over a million.

GREAT EXTENDED HUSTLER'S COMPANY.

This is another of our leading companies; and, were the whole of the results from the ground available, the profits derived would probably be found to exceed in amount those of the claim previously mentioned. However, in the early days the ground was held by a number of small companies and private owners, and the only official records obtainable are those of the present company. Gold was first found here in 1853 by one of a numerous party of African blacks, who had found their way to the diggings, having deserted from some ship in port. Later on a number of small companies sprang up, and these claims were all very rich. From one of them, fully half a million pounds worth of gold was obtained. In 1865, all these claims were absorbed by the present company, which has since produced an enormous quan-

tity of gold. In the early seventies, the immense yields of gold obtained from here made the name of the Hustler's line world-famous. The ground held was partly worked by the company itself and partly by a tribute company. Each of these was very successful, and from the reef between 300 and 600 feet they obtained highly sensational yields, as much as 4000 ozs. of gold being obtained in a fortnight, and dividends of from £1500 to £14,000 being paid each fortnight. From this reef alone, the Company, on a called-up capital of only £17,200, paid £363,000; and the tribute company, on a paid-up capital of only £28,700, paid £194,600 in dividends. Since then, the company has sunk its shaft to 2020 feet, and is now paying regular dividends from a reef at 1800 and 1900 feet; and the Tribute shaft to 1770 feet, and they are also working payable stone. The total dividends paid by the two companies to date amount to £570,000. They pay altogether only £24 a year lease rent.

When His Royal Highness Prince Alfred was in Australia, he was entertained in a most novel manner in one portion of this claim. In a large cavern, formed by taking out the reef, 400 feet below the surface, a floor was laid and the visitors entertained at a magnificent banquet.

THE UNITED DEVONSHIRE COMPANY.

This company has had quite a latter day reputation, as it is only a comparatively few years since it was extensively worked, but its history was of a truly sensational character. After working about nine or ten years, the

company found a very rich reef between 400 and 600 feet, which yielded for a long time as high as from 2000 ozs. to 3000 ozs. a fortnight. In one fortnight, they paid back in dividends more than twice as much as the whole of their previously called-up capital. They paid altogether £219,800 in dividends, while the whole of their called-up capital only amounts to £22,000. For this rich claim they only pay the Government an annual rent of £1 17s. 6d.

THE JOHNSON'S REEF COMPANY.

This claim has also a great record, the surface having been very rich. Like most of the larger of the present companies, their ground in the early times was in a large number of claims, so that exact records are not now obtainable; but it is estimated that the former owners derived a profit of £120,000, and the present company has paid £155,000 in dividends, besides the erection of very extensive machinery

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THE FREDERICK THE GREAT COMPANY.

This claim is situated some distance from the "main lines," and had it not been for the accidental discovery of rich golden quartz on the surface by some woodsplitters in 1862 it might still be portion of the extensive auriferous areas lying unworked, waiting for the necessary supply of capital. Since then, however, the ground has been energetically worked, and has yielded, partly to private owners and partly to the present company of profit of

about £250,000. It is a remarkable fact that the company, which itself paid over £100,000 in dividends, only called up £2600 of its capital.

THE VICTORY AND PANDORA COMPANY.

This company, whose main shaft is down 2300 feet—the second deepest in the district,—intends to sink to 3000 feet. Owing to the heavy outlay in sinking, their called-up capital, about £50,000, is much heavier than usual with our companies. The upper formation was, however, very rich, and they paid £170,000 in dividends. The lease rent for the 17 acres held by this company is £4 8s. per annum.

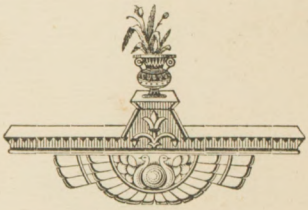
THE PEARL COMPANY.

This is one of the "modern" successes of the field. The ground was allowed to remain idle for years; but, about eight years since, the present company went pluckily to work, and sank the shaft to 1000 feet without getting any payable stone. Their whole capital was £24,000, and of this they spent £23,200 before meeting with success. They now have a large payable reef, which will take years to work out, and have already paid £12,500 in dividends.

OTHER SUCCESSFUL COMPANIES.

This list could be prolonged indefinitely, as there are scores upon scores of other companies who have as good

or better records than many of those mentioned. For instance, the North Johnsons, with dividends £103,000, and capital called up £15,000; New Chum and Victoria, dividends £112,112, capital called up £17,000; South St. Mungo, dividends £59,000, capital called up £10,000; Hercules and Energetic, dividends, £59,000, capital called up £8000; Ellesmere, dividends £89,950, capital called up £20,000; New Chum Consolidated, dividends £115,000, capital called up £11,000; Belmont, dividends £105,000, capital called up £4000; and scores of others with equally good records.



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GENERAL PRINTER,
SANDHURST.