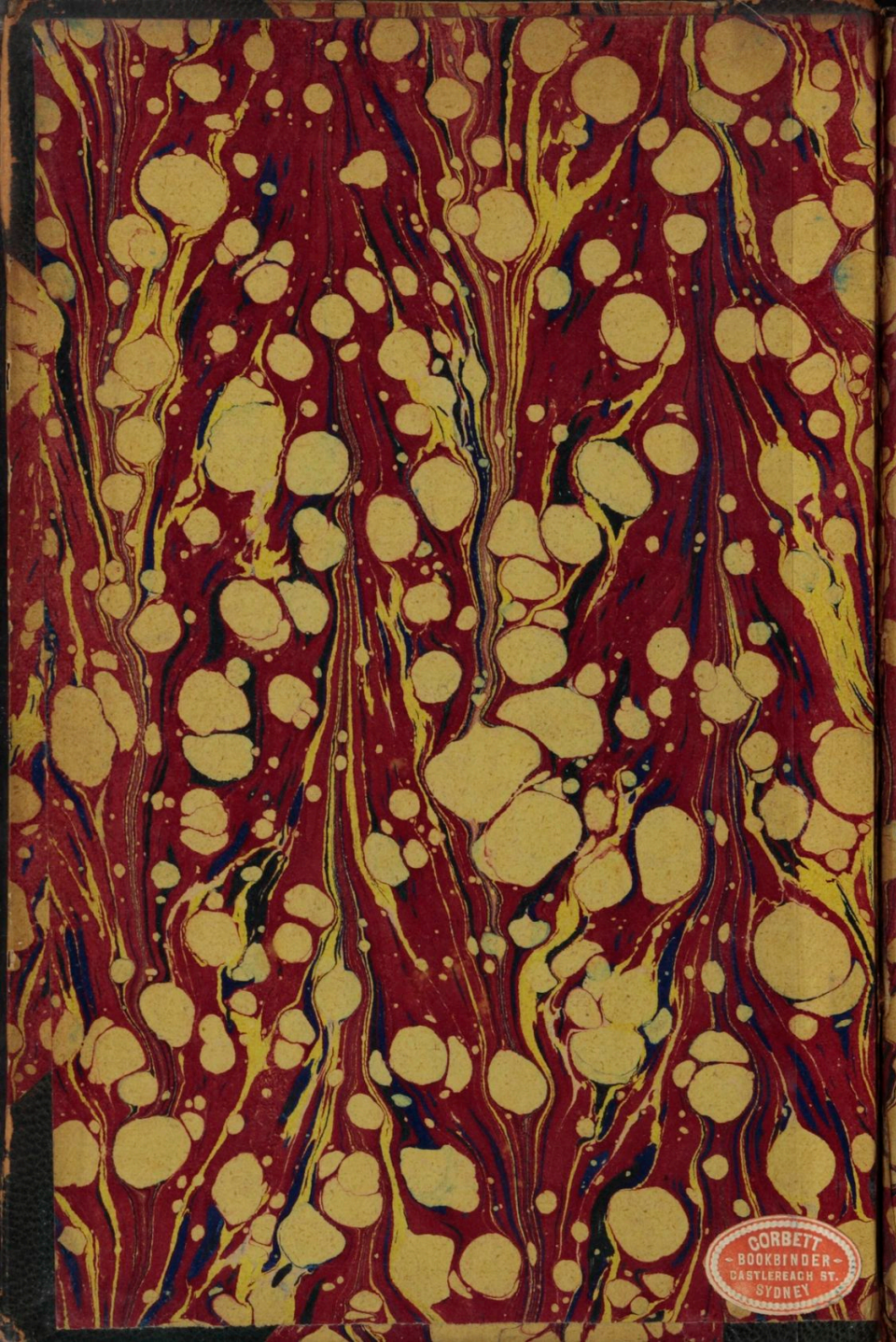
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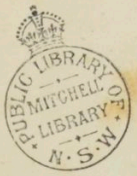

W. Rimes.

EMIGRATION TO TASMANIA.

EMIGRATION TO TASMANIA.

BY A RECENT SETTLER.

DEDICATED TO THE SOBER AND INDUSTRIOUS TOILERS OF THE MOTHER-LAND, WHETHER IN TOWN OR COUNTRY, STRUGGLING FOR A LIVELIHOOD, WITHOUT HOPE OF RISING IN THE SOCIAL SCALE.

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EMIGRATION TO TASMANIA.

I.

INTRODUCTORY.

MY object in publishing an account of my personal experiences as a settler in Tasmania is to meet a want, which, I believe, is very generally felt by those who contemplate emigration; viz., to be enabled to realise in some measure, what every-day life is like in a Colony, and, more especially, in the Bush.

Considering the wonderful advances made by the Colonies during the last quarter of a century, it is astonishing how dim and hazy the information is about them possessed by the general public in England; especially by the classes that would be most benefitted by emigration. It is, of course, pretty generally known, for instance, that there is such a country as Australia, but how few are aware that it is subdivided into several provinces, with their respective capitals

and separate governments, each greater in extent than the mother country, and with annual revenues larger than many European States. Still fewer know anything of Tasmania beyond the fact that it is an island lying to the south of Australia, formerly known as Van Diemen's Land, a penal settlement. Australia will be only casually referred to, the object of this pamphlet being to give information about Tasmania, my adopted home, in which I have resided for over five years. I shall write more especially for the information of the labouring classes, and of those who, although not coming under that head, command but a very limited amount of capital; and in order that it may be understood that I am to some extent qualified for the task, I will begin by stating the conditions under which I came to the Colony.

Before leaving England I had had no experience in agricultural pursuits. For five and twenty years my life had been passed at the desk and, enjoying a good income, I had lived the comfortable life of a Londoner. A reverse of fortune determined me to emigrate. I was a married man with several young children. My health had been considerably impaired by desk work and worry, and the amount of capital at

my command was so small, that, after paying passage money and other travelling expenses, I landed with scarcely a hundred pounds in hand. I have since received about as much more from England.

I think it necessary to mention these particulars to show that if, under such adverse conditions, I have been enabled, with God's help, to maintain myself and family; and, after paying for inexperience in various ways, am now prospering in this new life, surely a younger man with unimpaired health and strength, and a capital, say, of from two to five hundred pounds, if only sober, energetic, and self-reliant, need not fear the experiment, even though unaccustomed to agricultural pursuits; nor need a wife and family be deemed obstacles in the way of success; on the contrary, I am strongly of opinion that a married man enjoys bush-life better, and is more likely to succeed in it, than a bachelor, provided only that his wife takes kindly to it. If he have the least fear on this point, he had better stay at home, for discontent on either side will prove fatal to happiness and success.

How many young men are there who, simply through ignorance of such facts as these, fear to emigrate, and prefer miserable situations as

clerks and shopmen, at a few shillings a week, who, did they but emigrate, would, after a few years of invigorating toil, achieve independence, instead of passing their lives in indigence and virtual slavery?

The labouring man, if only sober and industrious, need have no fear. Of course, he ought not to land, especially if married, without a few pounds in his pocket, and he should at once seek employment, which he will find no difficulty in procuring at good wages.

Many of the labourers in the Colony are what are called "old hands," that is, ex-convicts; there has, however, during the last two years, been a large influx of working men from the neighbouring colonies, attracted by the high wages given at the tin mines, which have recently been discovered in different parts of the country.

The practice of these "old hands" is to work for a spell, and when they have realised a cheque, to proceed to a neighbouring town to "knock it down." They hand it over to the landlord of some low public-house, at which they take up their quarters, and remain there drinking till the amount is, or is said to be, expended. Those who deem themselves prudent and have a large cheque, go in on arrival in town for a "rig out,"

though they seldom bring home their new clothing, but when the remainder of their cash is spent, either sell or pawn it at a third of its cost, for the means of continuing their carouse, and generally return home with only the old shirt and pants they started in. As a rule, they spend three-fourths of their earnings in this way, and waste half their time. Until lately, there has been so little immigration, that new-comers, being in the minority, have more frequently lapsed into the ways of these "old hands"; but as it is now setting in more rapidly, and the "old hands" are gradually dying off (for the colony has ceased to be a penal settlement for many years past), it may be anticipated that this state of things will not last much longer. If these men are able to waste money and time after this fashion, and yet live well, for they eat meat three times a day, what doubt need there be as to a sober, hard-working man getting on in the Colony?

In the bush there is no house-rent to pay. A weather-board cottage can be erected in a fortnight, sufficiently warm and comfortable in so genial a climate. In another fortnight a piece of ground, sufficient for potatoes and other vegetables, may be cleared. Firing costs nothing beyond the trouble of collecting the fallen timber,

and half-a-crown will cover the yearly rates on such a holding. The other necessaries of life are cheap: Meat 4*d.*, tea 2*s.*, sugar 3*d.* a pound, and flour 25*s.* a sack. Thus a labouring man in the bush may live well and save the greater part of his wages, which may be reckoned at 5*s.* a day. If hired by the month, he may earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in addition to board and lodging.

The road contractors in this neighbourhood are now paying their men 7*s.* 6*d.* a-day, for eight hours' work; but it is to be hoped, even for the sake of the small farmer, who must at times employ labour, that the Government will take steps to put an end to this state of things, by combining a system of immigration with the carrying out of public works as suggested in Chapter IX.

As an immigrant he receives free grants of land for himself, wife, and each child he brings out (*see* Appendix). By working for wages half his time, he can spend the other half in clearing and cultivating his property, or if he does not like to clear the land himself, he can work for wages continuously, and have his clearing done on contract by men accustomed to that sort of work. In either case, if temperate and hard-working, he

may in half a dozen years be in possession of a well-stocked farm, and cease altogether working for hire. What chance has an agricultural labourer in England of ever reaching such a position?

The usual rate of wages at the tin mines is 8*s.* a-day for eight hours' work, and as the cost of living in those localities is not more than 15*s.* a-week, a saving man may soon realise a sufficient sum to clear and stock his land.

I lately met on the road from Launceston, a man proceeding to the tin mines for a spell of work. His home was near Hobart Town, where he cultivated some half dozen acres of small fruit, which he disposed of profitably, to the jam-preserving companies. Within three months, I happened to meet him returning home, and he told me that, after paying for his living, he had cleared rather over £20 by his trip.

I do not think that Tasmania offers any particular inducement to artisans so far as wages are concerned. Clerks and shopmen are certainly not needed, the Colonies generally being as much overstocked with them as is the mother country, and therefore unless a man of this class emigrates with the intention of taking to agricultural pursuits, he had better stay at home, and save the

passage money. But if he possesses a small amount of capital, and is fond of country life, I strongly advise him to come out, in preference to wasting his life at the desk or behind the counter; and even without capital, if he be equal to out-door work, and sufficiently self-denying, to save his earnings with the view of ultimately turning to farming.

II.

EMIGRATION.

WHEN a man contemplates emigrating, the first question that naturally arises in his mind, is which country to select for his future home. Probably he will first think of the United States of America, or the Dominion of Canada, as being nearest to England. He will like the thoughts of not going far away from his native land, besides which the cost of the passage, a most important consideration, will be less than to more distant parts of the world. He must, however, bear in mind, especially if he emigrates with the view of ultimately becoming a landed proprietor, that the termination of the voyage to either of these countries will not bring him to his final destination. He must still travel up country to find land to settle upon, which will entail large additional travelling expenses, and for all practical purposes seriously alter the relative distances from home. As regards the United States he must consider

the high cost of living there, resulting from excessive taxation levied on almost every necessary of life, and the present difficulty there is of obtaining employment at even the lowest rate of wages paid in England, both of which causes are leading numbers to leave the country. Many emigrants have arrived during the last two years in Australia from the United States. Moreover a man changes his nationality, which to most Englishmen, I doubt not, would prove an insurmountable objection. In respect to the Dominion he must consider the severity of the winter, preventing out-door work for five months in the year, necessitating during that long period the housing and feeding of cattle on fodder which has to be provided in the other months of the year. I do not think that the question of passage money simply should be allowed to outweigh these objections. It is an expense that once incurred is done with. The higher rate to Tasmania covers the cost of living during a three months' holiday, for the voyage in a well found ship is nothing else than a long holiday, which often proves the means of restoring an overworked man to health and strength, and so preparing him for a fresh start in life. Within a day's journey from the port of debarkation, the

intending settler may fix upon his future home in the bush, and he may therefore bring out with him considerable portable property without fear of heavy transport expenses after landing, and his passage money gives him a right to select a certain number of acres of land (*see* Appendix), free of all expense, excepting the survey fee. The great inducement to me, in fixing upon Tasmania, was its climate, which is generally admitted to be excellent, and in the case of a man with a young family, a healthy invigorating climate is of primary importance. However much he may prosper in a land with a bad climate he can neither enjoy life nor rear a healthy family, and he simply lives on in the hope of going elsewhere when he shall have realised independence; but how few survive to carry out their intentions, or if they do, it is only when health is gone, and with it all hope of ever enjoying their acquired wealth.

In Tasmania, out-door occupations may be followed all the year round, and cattle need not be housed or specially provided for, during the winter months. The settler has, therefore, far more time at his disposal for clearing, cultivating, and improving his land.

The next matter to be thought of is the

outfit. Provided the distance to the port of embarkation is not excessive, and he is not likely to dispose of his household goods to advantage by sale, the emigrant had better bring out all such articles, if not of too bulky a nature, as he would take with him, were he simply removing from one part of England to another, and he need only dispose of such things as wooden bedsteads, tables and chairs. He would not do wrong in bringing out iron bedsteads and other articles, which, though heavy, could be packed in a small compass. Blankets and linen, old clothing and boots, knives, forks and spoons, should certainly not be left behind, nor crockery ware and books, but these must be very carefully packed. Even jars and jam-pots might be brought, as such things are both expensive and of inferior quality in the island, and most necessary in the bush. Before being packed up, they should be filled with other soft articles so as not to add materially to the bulk of the emigrant's baggage, which is far more objectionable in travelling than mere weight. A few pictures and table ornaments may also be packed up, and will prove pleasant memorials of old times to the settler in the bush. It must, however, be clearly understood that I do not

recommend the purchase of these articles as a part of the outfit. There are as large and good shops in Hobart Town and Launceston, as in any provincial town in England, at which all such things may be obtained, and there are frequent sales at which second-hand articles may be bought. New goods are liable to heavy duties, but as second-hand articles form part and parcel of an emigrant's baggage, and are clearly not brought out for sale, they pass in free of such charges ; and therefore it will answer his purpose better to bring them out, than to sell them off in England at a loss, and then have to replace them after arrival, at increased cost. Moreover a new comer will find his time fully occupied without attending distant sales.

Having made his selections, the emigrant's next step will be to pack up separately such articles as will not be required till he arrives at his destination, and forward those packages, carefully addressed and marked "to be kept till called for," by heavy goods train to the railway station at the port of embarkation. He should despatch them a week before he starts himself, taking care to get a detailed receipt for them. This will cost him far less than if he takes them as personal baggage, and will save trouble. He

will find it also a good plan to put a distinguishing mark in some glaring colour on each of his cases, &c., so that he may readily identify his property, when necessary, during his travels. He should also impress upon the station-master, where he books his luggage, not to omit to make the necessary communication to London or wherever it is forwarded, in order that he may have no difficulty in regaining possession of it on application. I mention this because I experienced such a difficulty at the depôt in London through some omission at the station where my luggage was booked, and there is no time for correspondence when the ship by which your passage has been taken is just leaving the docks. Having got possession of this portion of his luggage, he should see it conveyed on board and put down the hold where it will remain till the termination of the voyage.

As a second class or steerage passenger he will require some articles for use on the voyage, only the empty berth and uncooked rations being provided by the ship. These things, therefore, he should retain and take with him as personal baggage. The railway fare will probably cover the cost of their conveyance. On the voyage warm clothing will be principally required, but

a few light things will be acceptable when in the tropics, where the ship, if not a steamer, may be detained some time for want of a favourable wind. There is generally a strong objection on board ship to clothes being washed, and therefore the more linen and underclothing available the better. A good supply of flannel shirts is desirable, and they will be useful afterwards, as flannel is expensive and of inferior quality in the Colony. The same may be said of crockery ware, which should not, however, be provided for use on board, but tin plates, dishes, water cans, &c., and these will be found most useful in the bush, especially if there are children. These things, and matresses to fit the berths, may best be obtained at any outfittter's near the docks. A swinging lamp with oil and wicks, a triangular iron washstand, canvas bags to hold the weekly supplies of groceries, &c., a camp stool or two, and a few pegs should not be forgotten. A few pounds of tea or coffee and some oatmeal will be found agreeable additions to the ship's rations.

A good sized box of wax vestas should be brought in preference to ordinary matches. The latter are dangerous on board ship. One sultry night in the tropics, lying awake, I observed a stray match fall from an upper into a lower berth,

both of which contained stores, &c. ; in falling it ignited and very probably would have fired the cabin had I not happened to see it ignite.

If the emigrant's capital be small, the less of it he expends on outfit, except for actual necessaries, the better. He should bear constantly in mind that every pound so expended represents the price of an acre of land in the Colony. I was tempted, for instance, into buying a tent in London, as a useful thing in the bush, at a cost of about £15 ; I have often since regretted the purchase.

I would also advise the emigrant to make all his pecuniary arrangements himself before embarking, and to obtain and take with him letters of credit on some Colonial Bank (*see* Chapter VI.) for the main portion of his capital, not leaving it to another to forward such letters after him. Whatever amount he takes with him should be in gold and not in notes, for changing which, not excepting Bank of England notes, discount is charged in the Colonies. There is nothing more annoying than to learn, on inquiry at the Post office, that the letter you expected to find there on arrival, containing a remittance on which you relied, had through some remissness not yet been received.

III.

THE VOYAGE.

TASMANIA being comparatively a small Colony, the ships arriving direct from England are few; probably not a dozen in the course of the year. Though not of large tonnage, they have comfortable accommodation for a limited number of passengers and are good sea boats. Some of them sail direct to Hobart Town, the capital, situated in the south of the island, and others to Launceston in the north, the main line of railway connecting the two places. Old Colonists usually prefer making the voyage to and from England by these vessels. The accommodation is mostly for saloon passengers. The dates of sailing will be found advertised in the London newspapers.

Emigrants to Tasmania generally proceed *via* Melbourne, the capital of the Colony of Victoria. Besides the large steam and sailing packets despatched, often twice a month, by Messrs. Money, Wigram and Sons, from London to that

port, and occasional steamers like the St. Osyth, or the Chimborazo, which accomplished the run *via* the Cape in about six weeks, and excel in accommodation for all classes of passengers, trading vessels, conveying a limited number of saloon and second class passengers, are constantly advertised for the voyage; and for a family man, these being less crowded are more suitable, and arrangements can generally be made with the owners for the accommodation of the family on very reasonable terms.

By a ship of this sort, registered at over 2,000 tons, I took passages for myself and family to Melbourne. We numbered three adults and four children, and the passage money agreed upon was only £90. For this sum we were allotted a deck cabin to ourselves, containing ten berths, and large enough to be divided by a curtain into two sleeping compartments. In the berths not required for beds we stored away our provisions and boxes containing such things as we were likely to require before reaching our final destination. The former, supplied weekly from the ship's stores, were ample and excellent in quality, being in accordance with a government scale of dietary, and by a little arrangement made with the steward and cook we avoided all difficulty

about the preparation of our meals. Other cabins adjoined ours, one with a family, two with married couples, and two for single men. These cabins being situated nearly amidships, the motion of the vessel was felt in them far less than in the saloon. The sailors' berths were under the forecastle. I may here observe that for the voyage out the berths on the starboard, or right side of the ship, are preferable to those on the larboard, or left side, being drier in stormy weather, and it is a great advantage to be able to keep one's door or port-hole open, especially in warm latitudes, without risking a wetting from the spray of some extra-sized roller dashing in. Unfortunately our cabin was on the larboard side, and on two occasions during stormy weather a heavy sea burst the door open during the night and left a foot or so of water washing to and fro with the motion of the ship across the flooring, by no means pleasant for paterfamilias to grope about in the following morning after stray shoes, &c., not to mention the necessity of his boldly turning out in the darkness to shut the door. We were also next to the engine room, in which the fresh water supply was evaporated once a week, on which occasions the cabin became oppressively hot.

It is as well to avoid forming intimacies with your fellow-passengers until you have had time and opportunity to learn something of their real characters. You must bear in mind that you have to endure their companionship for the next three months, and that it is not as easy as it is ashore to break off an intimacy which has turned out objectionable, without giving offence. You will have during the voyage plenty of time for making desirable friendships; and it is wonderful how soon people show their true characters on board ship.

We were not altogether fortunate in this respect. One young fellow commenced by making himself very agreeable to the passengers generally, but soon became a perfect nuisance, backbiting and talebearing, and ended by setting almost everybody by the ears. Another, evidently sent out by his friends for the good of his health, was of a most self-asserting and overbearing disposition; and gave the captain, who threatened on more than one occasion to put him in irons, much trouble. Then we had a newly married couple who could not agree. The husband had evidently received an excellent education, and we unanimously elected him to the editorship of our weekly newspaper.

On the second Sunday after leaving England he delivered a most impressive extempore discourse in the forecastle, to the sailors and those passengers who chose to attend a service we held there; but next day it got about that he was addicted to drink, and thrashed his wife. I think our talebearing friend started the latter idea, but, at any rate, the report, certainly to some extent true, did not tend to improve Jack's notions of religion; and the attendance at subsequent services fell off considerably. Before we had been out three weeks several close intimacies had terminated; and, by the judicious assistance of our talebearer, were converted into bitter animosity for the rest of the voyage.

I may here give an instance or two that came under my own observation, of the ignorance already referred to, that exists, especially among the lower classes, about matters relating to emigration.

There were two or three countrymen on board. They spent most of the day lying about the deck half asleep. I happened to ask one of them one day, when we had been at sea about six weeks, what he thought of the voyage. He replied that he only wished he was ashore again, and that before embarking he had no idea that we

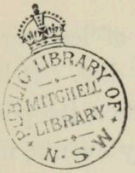
should be out of sight of land so long, but thought the ship would be coasting most of the way. No doubt these poor fellows found it tedious, having nothing to occupy their time. An emigrant should provide himself with a few books, and might even go in for some special subject. If not fond of reading he might occupy himself in making nets or even in knitting, or anything which does not require many appliances. One of our passengers was an Irishman, standing about six feet six in his stockings, or rather without them, as he seldom wore either shoes or stockings during the voyage, but a most diffident unobtrusive fellow. He possessed two books, and was never without one or the other. One was a Roman Catholic book of devotion, for he was a devout papist, the other a work on elocution. Why he should have pitched upon elocution as a study was a puzzle, being far too modest to open his mouth before an audience of more than one ; but he studied hard at it, and, though otherwise parsimonious to a degree, engaged our newspaper editor to give him lessons in the art. He was a man verging on fifty, and had been settled in Victoria over twenty years, but had not prospered much. His mistake had been that at first start he had

expended nearly all his capital in the purchase of land, instead of retaining a sufficient sum to clear and stock a farm. He told me confidentially that his main object in revisiting Ireland was to get a wife, but he had not been able to muster up courage to put the question.

His reverence for any show of learning was immense, and a Latin quotation was his delight: so we accordingly often amused ourselves by incidentally bringing in a bit of Latin when conversing within his hearing; and he never failed to inquire afterwards what it was Mr. So and So had said in Latin. But his great characteristic was his never-failing cheerfulness; whatever happened, causing others to grumble, he ever showed a cheering thankful spirit.

I will close this chapter with an illustration of ignorance on the subject of emigration, shown by persons who might have been expected to be better informed. A young couple, who had not been married three months, were among the saloon passengers. The husband was a sickly little fellow of about twenty-two years of age, and the wife equally frail, and perhaps two years younger; neither of them in the least fitted for a rough life. They brought on board, in addition to the usual outfit, new furniture for four rooms,

including a piano. They evidently thought there would be no difficulty in his procuring employment as a clerk or some other light in-door occupation, and they were to receive from their friends a small weekly allowance till so provided for. In the Colonies the market is in this respect, if anything, more overstocked than at home, and the last I heard of the unfortunate pair was that, failing to obtain suitable employment, they had decided on returning home by the same vessel that brought them out—very pleasant for their friends in England !



IV.

THE VOYAGE CONTINUED.

DURING the first week the saloon passengers appeared disposed to keep to themslves, but gradually this feeling of exclusiveness wore away, and the first and second classes fraternised. In fact, it soon became apparent that, barring their temporary inferior position on board, the latter were not only, as a rule, the equals of the former, but, in some respects, their superiors. Thus the newspaper was started, and mainly supported by the second-class passengers, though an occasional contribution came from the saloon. The second-class talent in the way of theatricals, recitations, and music, quite eclipsed the saloon, and so on. Except for Sunday morning service, the second-class passengers were forbidden the entrée of the saloon, but saloon passengers, finding themselves dull, by degrees ventured forward and, except during meals, appeared to find the forecastle not less attractive than the quarter-deck.

The weekly newspaper usually contained a

couple of leading articles on the social questions of the day. It had its home and foreign correspondence, its parliamentry reports, and a record of daily events, memories, poetry, and criticisms. Some of the poetry, no doubt, very superior. I took a special note of one choice contribution from the pen of the assistant steward. It was written in all seriousness.

"Adieu, dear Isles of London,
My kind good friend, farewell,
From thee I now am torn asunder
On the wide wave to dwell—
To leave thee and thy joys behind me,
No more to climb thy hills,
No more to walk through groves and valleys
Or by thy gurgling rills;
But I fondly hope once more to see thee,
Again to press thy shores,
To tread the hills, the plains, and vales too
That I have trodden before.

C. A. W."

When crossing the line, Father Neptune came on board, and those of the crew and the male passengers who had not crossed before were liable to a rough shave and a sousing in a sailful of sea water; but a fine of a bottle of rum freed any one who objected to the treatment, provided he had not made himself obnoxious to the crew. The opportunity was taken by the sailors to give

our self-asserting friend a good drenching. One passenger who refused either to pay the fine or undergo the treatment was, after an exciting chase, captured by Father Neptune's satellites, but he appealed to the captain for protection, which was, of course, not refused. I think it was foolish on his part to run counter to a custom which is thought much of by the sailors, who make considerable preparations for the effective representation of Mr. and Mrs. Neptune and their suite, and deserve some slight remuneration. They look forward to the event as a break in the monotony of their sea-life, and the captain takes care that the rum paid for in fines is only gradually served out. If a man objects on principle to pay for liquor, he might doubtless arrange to pay the fine in some other way.

Once a week we had either a concert or a theatrical representation, and those who took part in the latter found employment for many an hour, which otherwise might have hung heavy on hand, in getting up and rehearsing their parts. Besides the regular concerts with programmes in due form, on most fine evenings impromptu musical réunions were held, and several of the crew sung capital songs; one man in particular, who could accompany himself and most of the

singers on the accordion. This man and his mate, an ex-Royal navy sailor, were the life and soul of the ship, and were always foremost for work or frolic. They had been messmates for years, always shipping together. If in rough weather there was any extra dangerous work to be done aloft, these men always led the way, and to a landsman it certainly appeared no easy matter to lie out on a yard-arm, a hundred feet above deck, furling a heavy sail in the stiff breeze. There were two or three black fellows, one a very powerful man, amongst the crew, who thought at first to have it all their own way in the forecastle, but they very soon found out their mistake, and had to give way to these men.

Many an hour was passed in such games as "puss in the corner," and it was amusing to on-lookers to see elderly men scuttling about the deck like a lot of school-boys, especially when the ship was rolling to the enormous waves always met with off the Cape. In cold weather a friendly bout with the gloves soon warmed one's blood, and even the most scientific hands found a slippery deck and a rolling sea somewhat difficult to contend with, the blow intended for the adversary's pate not unfrequently landing on some part of the ship. Then it was curious to

watch various sea-birds, such as the Albatross and Mollyhawk, circling with the greatest ease round the vessel, even when she was sailing a dozen knots an hour, also the porpoises gliding alongside and under the bows of the ship without apparent effort, occasionally taking a run seaward and returning to their former positions, as if the ship were stationary instead of rushing onwards as fast as a horse could gallop. When making less way, some amused themselves catching these birds by means of baits attached to long lines trailing astern, and it often required the united efforts of two or three hands to pull in an Albatross; others tried to harpoon or shoot the porpoises, but with little success.

What, with such pastimes and our books and much eating and sleeping, induced by the glorious sea air, three months passed quickly away, and when it was announced that, if all went well, we should in less than a week reach Melbourne, although naturally looking forward with pleasure to setting foot once more on terrâ firmâ, we felt that these had not been the least pleasant months of our lives.

V.

ARRIVAL AT MELBOURNE.

OFF Cape Otway a pilot took charge of the ship, and as we passed through the heads of Port Phillip Bay, the custom-house officers came on board and sealed up the holds, containing the heavy baggage, to prevent its removal before inspection. A couple of our fellow-passengers took advantage of this opportunity to go ashore. At the time we attributed this to a rather foolish impatience on their part to land, the distance to Melbourne round the bay being considerable; but we heard afterwards that, for reasons best known to themselves, they feared that instructions might have been telegraphed from England, which would have rendered their landing at the end of the voyage unpleasant, and probably there was some truth in the report, as the same individuals, although they secured their passages in London, somehow managed to miss the ship at Gravesend and only joined her off Plymouth, having engaged a fishing boat

there for £10 to take them aboard as she passed down channel. From the Heads we were towed by a steam tug up the bay, and, there being no berth available for the ship alongside either the Williamstown or Sandridge piers, we had to anchor at a distance of about half a mile off the latter. As it seemed quite uncertain when the ship would get alongside, some said not for a week or more, it may be imagined how disappointed we felt after being cooped up so long, and after indulging in the hope, whilst being towed up the bay, that we should at least set foot ashore the same day, and perhaps even exchange our cramped berths that very night for comfortable beds; whereas there lay Melbourne within sight, though under the circumstances we might as well have been a hundred miles away. What made it worse was that a washing of decks, and a general cleaning up and unsettlement commenced, confining us to our cabins, which, since entering the bay, had become oppressively close. There was, however, one slight alleviation to our distress. Fresh meat and vegetables were brought on board, which we were heartily glad to partake of, after so much salt and tinned meat. Most of our fellow-passengers decided the following morning on

landing by boat, those who were not encumbered with much baggage taking final leave of the ship, and the rest, with the intention of returning to sleep on board for that night at least. Leaving my family on board, I likewise started on an exploring expedition with a couple of friends. On landing we found that a train was just leaving the station, which was close at hand, for Melbourne, and a very short ride brought us there.

I shall not attempt to give any description of this fine city, which, considering that it has only come into existence within the last thirty years, may well strike a new arrival with astonishment. We wandered through streets of shops, which did not compare unfavourably with the best in London. Well-dressed people crowded the pavements, and carriages, cabs, and omnibuses rolled in all directions. I found the heat and dust very unpleasant, more so than I should have expected so early in the spring, for October, the month in which we arrived, takes the place of April in England. No doubt after a long sea-voyage, I felt the heat more than I should otherwise have done, but allowing for this, Melbourne must be very hot and dusty in the summer and autumn months, especially when the hot winds prevail.

There being next day no signs of our getting alongside the pier, and as it was now necessary to keep the children confined to the cabin, which had become oppressively close, we determined to get ashore as soon as possible by boat. I accordingly again started off in quest of lodgings, and instead of taking the train to Melbourne, I walked through Sandridge, a long straggling sort of suburb. Most of the houses in this locality, and in fact, generally, in the outlying parts of Melbourne, are of wood, and each has a verandah as a protection from the heat. I found that furnished lodgings were rare and expensive, but that unfurnished houses of all sorts and sizes could be taken by the week at a moderate rent, payable in advance, which dispensed with the necessity of giving notice on leaving. Although our stay in Melbourne was likely to be short, I considered that as we had our cabin furniture and bedding, and some tent bedsteads which we had brought out with us, it would be better to rent a small house and buy such additional articles as were absolutely necessary, and would afterwards be required for bush life. Accordingly after a rather prolonged search, I fixed upon a small four-roomed cottage in the vicinity of Emerald Hill, which, compared with our cabin,

seemed quite a palatial residence, and having paid the agent a week's rent of a few shillings, I took possession. I may here observe, that, besides the saving of expense, there is this great advantage in roughing it on the voyage out, that you do not find it any hardship to start in a small way on arrival, whereas if you come out as a saloon passenger, unless possessed of considerable capital, you feel the change greatly. Several of our saloon passengers, having no better prospects than we had, were much disheartened at the necessary change in their style of living after arrival. One case I have already referred to, that of the young married couple, who were so disappointed, that they returned home by the same vessel.

Having taken possession, I next visited a furniture broker, and expended about £5, in the purchase of a table and a few chairs, &c.; and, returning to the landing place, I arranged with the owner of a large boat, to land us and our personal effects the following day.

Next morning we packed up such things as it was necessary to take with us, and locked the rest in the cabin. It began to blow fresh, and we were advised to delay our departure, but we preferred the risk, to remaining any longer cooped up in the cabin, besides which, the boat

was engaged, and the house rented, and if we remained another night it would be necessary to unpack. We had some difficulty, on account of the heavy swell, in getting away in the boat, which was deeply laden, and as we passed under the stern of the ship, it was as much as we could do to keep clear of her; and certainly, without the assistance of two of the crew the captain kindly sent with us, we should scarcely have escaped being swamped. I confess I felt considerable relief when at length we got clear. On landing, I found the baggage had to be passed through the custom-house, and I therefore sent my family on in a cab, and remained until this formality was gone through. Then having paid certain pier dues, &c., I with some difficulty procured a sort of dray and had the things conveyed to our new abode. I was considerably imposed upon by both boatmen and drivers, who evidently considered new arrivals as lawful prey; but there was no help for it. No agreement could be made beforehand, as until the boat came alongside, I could not show the owner what amount of luggage had to be conveyed, and cabs, &c., are not allowed to stand within the pier gates. However, at any cost almost, we were heartily glad to be once more ashore and housed.

VI.

TRIP TO TASMANIA.

BEFORE leaving England we had pretty well made up our minds to settle in Tasmania, and the information obtained during the voyage from fellow passengers who had settled in Victora had not tended to alter this resolve. We had, therefore, intended to make a very short stay in Melbourne, but on inquiry at the Post-office, I found that the letters of credit which were to have been forwarded from England by the next mail after our departure, and which consequently ought to have reached Melbourne a month before our arrival, had not been received, and therefore we could only await the next mail, due in about three weeks time. These disappointments, often resulting simply from thoughtlessness, entail great anxiety and expense, and therefore it is I advise every emigrant to trust no one but himself in such matters. My principal object in not delaying my departure from England until I had personally arranged this

affair, was that I might reach Tasmania in time to select land and have some of it scrubbed before Christmas, being aware that after that time of year it would be useless to scrub till the following season, and thus a whole year would be lost; but it now appeared probable that this object would be frustrated. To avoid this if possible, I decided to leave my family temporarily in Melbourne, cross over to Tasmania alone, and spend a fortnight in looking round there. But before starting, I thought it advisable to make some further inquiries about land in Victoria. I therefore paid a visit to the Lands Office. I obtained no information there beyond the fact that there were still lands open for selection in outlying districts, which were vaguely pointed out on a map of Victoria. To learn anything further it would be necessary to visit those districts, and if, after so doing, I felt disposed to settle in one of them, I might obtain more detailed information in the neighbourhood. This meant expense, both in money and time, neither of which I could afford. Having heard a good deal about market gardening in the vicinity of Melbourne, I walked out beyond Brigston, where numerous market gardens are situated. The soil seemed very light and

poor, and the owners of the gardens I visited did not give any flourishing accounts of their business. The price of land in the neighbourhood was stated to be from £30 to £40 an acre. Large quantities of manure were required, and it had to be procured from Melbourne. I did not pursue my inquiries further, for besides being anxious to lose no time in visiting Tasmania, I did not feel inclined to settle in any country with so warm a climate as that of Victoria. Therefore, after making the necessary arrangements for the well-being of my family during my absence, I started the following week for Tasmania.

The T. S. N. Company run steamers twice a week between Melbourne, Hobart Town and Launceston. The passage to the latter place, which is by far the shortest, occupies about thirty hours. The saloon fare, including meals, is £2. The second class fare, exclusive of meals, is 12*s.* and you may either take your own provisions or pay at a moderate rate for such meals as you partake of. The second class cabin is roomy and comfortable, and on either side are empty berths for male passengers, there being a separate female compartment. These berths are not provided with bedding, but in securing mine I arranged with the steward

for the loan of a mattress. Although I had not suffered from sea sickness during the voyage out from England, I did not escape on this short run. As a rule the motion of a small steamer in the chopping sea of a channel is far more apt to induce sickness than that of a large vessel even in a gale of wind.

On arrival at Launceston, I put up at the Court-house Hotel, where I was comfortably lodged at a very moderate expense, the charge for each meal being one shilling, and the same for a bed, and no extras. These are the usual charges at second class inns in Tasmania, so that four shillings a day will cover the hotel expenses of a traveller, but nearly as much more is charged for the stalling of a horse, and although the price of oats is low, if you do not see personally to your horse's feeds he will probably get a very short allowance. If you wish to have a bedroom to yourself you must stipulate for it on arrival, or you will find yourself put into a room with several other occupants, and probably be disturbed during the night by fresh arrivals. I have since been in the habit of stopping, when in Launceston, at Sutton's Temperance Hotel in Brisbane Street, where although eighteen pence is charged for each meal, they are better served. The accom-

modation, in other respects, is superior, there being a large sitting room well provided with books, &c., and a separate smoking room. It is also quieter than a house in which a public bar is kept; a great advantage to a weary traveller.

I will here warn new arrivals against a certain degree of sharp practice that seems to prevail in the Colony, and to which, indeed, a harsher term might sometimes be applied. I have learnt from experience that it is necessary to keep a check on matters which, at home, are generally left to the honesty of the persons with whom you deal. The standard of morality in Tasmania is decidedly lower than in England; attributable, most probably, to the fact of the convict element having predominated so greatly in former years. Immigration having been slow and feeble as compared with other colonies, the morality of the community has suffered by contact with that element. This, however, is now fast disappearing, and with increased immigration it may be hoped that gradually a higher tone will assert itself.

VII.

A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON is beautifully situated at the junction of the North and South Esk rivers with the Tamar, by which it is reached from the sea. It is the chief town and seaport in the north of the island, as Hobart Town is in the south, and has about 11,000 inhabitants. Hobart Town is the seat of government, and, therefore, the capital of Tasmania; but Launceston has a large and thriving trade, being better situated with respect to Australia, and being the port through which most of the trade of the northern and richer side of the island is carried on. A first-rate macadamised road, originally constructed by convict labour, connects the two towns; and recently the main line of railway has been added. Another line, called the Western Railway, forty-five miles in length, connects Launceston with Deloraine, and these two lines traverse the most populous parts of the country. The streets of Launceston are well laid

out, and contain excellent shops. The hills round the town are dotted with villas, and flower gardens abound in all directions. The broad Tamar spreads itself out like a lake to the north, and from east and west the beautiful Esk rivers flow into it. Distant mountain ranges bound the horizon on all sides. There are numerous churches of every denomination; a fine Town Hall, and a Mechanics' Institute, which cost £8,000, and contains a library, two reading rooms, and a lecture room; and above these a large hall in which there is a fine organ. This hall is used for public meetings, &c. Fronting St. John's Street is a fine block of public buildings, containing the various public offices, the Post-office, and a Public Library. The Botanical Gardens on the east side of the town are laid out with much taste, and are a pleasant resort. The Theatre, at which there appears to be always some performance going on, is well supported; and the stars who visit the Australian Colonies always find it answers to pay Launceston and Hobart Town a visit. There are several banks, viz., the Commercial, the Tasmanian, and Van Diemen's Land; also branches of the Australian and Australasian Banks. I opened an account with the Com-

mercial Bank on arrival, and though my business transactions with it have been hitherto very insignificant (worse luck, as they say in Ireland), I have always met with the greatest civility and attention; and no charge has been made for keeping my small account, as would have been the case in England. Letters of credit on this bank are obtainable at the Bank of New South Wales in London.

There are many very charming walks and drives in the environs of Launceston. The Cataract and the Devil's Punch Bowl, both on the South Esk, and Clark's Ford, Distillery Creek, and Corra Linn on the North Esk, will well repay a visit. Trout and other fishing may be had in these and the numerous rivers and streams of the island. Salmon have also been successfully introduced.

The central part of Tasmania from north to south is more or less well settled, and an immigrant must not look in this direction for new land. If, however, he is pretty well off for capital and objects to bush life, he may easily purchase a farm or rent one at 10*s.* or 15*s.* an acre, but the land will be found to be considerably worn out. Landlords not being particular as to the sort of tenants they accept, and these

having often little capital, the soil has been exhausted by successive grain crops. Many of these farms by a judicious outlay in draining and manuring might be greatly improved, and guano, obtained from neighbouring islands is plentiful, and wheat is taken in payment for it at fixed rates. There are, however, large tracts of country all along the north coast and upon both the east and west sides of the island still unoccupied, and it is in these parts that the immigrant will select his grant. Of these the north-west coast has been the most opened up, but the settlements are generally near the coast, and there is plenty of land further inland for selection. It is in this direction that the Van Diemen's Land Company took up several hundred thousand acres nearly fifty years ago. Their researches, of which published accounts still exist, extended over about 2,000 square miles, and these tracts, containing much valuable land, remain mostly unoccupied to this day. A considerable portion is covered with dense bush and the Eucalyptus or Gum-tree abounds, but as a rule the best soil is to be met with where the bush is thickest, and therefore, though clearing land of this description is heavy work, in the end it pays the small selecter better than more

open country. Mount Bischoff, where large tin mines have been opened up, is situated within this area, not far from the Surrey Hills. On the west side of the island there are entire counties which have scarcely been explored and are wholly uninhabited. It may be observed that the Aborigines of Tasmania are now extinct, and as there are no large beasts of prey, a settler in the most remote wilds has nothing to fear in that way. Formerly bushrangers were troublesome. They were escaped convicts, and therefore disappeared when Tasmania ceased to be a penal settlement, a quarter of a century ago.

In the south-east of the island there are numerous estates and sheep runs, and much of the country is mountainous. It does not appear to contain any considerable amount of land for selection. There is much fine scenery, the climate is delightful, and the sea-coast offers great inducements to those who delight in sea-bathing, boating, &c.

Not having much time for exploring, and being desirous of settling within easy distance of Launceston, I decided, after due inquiry, on going north-eastward. This part of the country though in the immediate vicinity of Launceston,

had, strange to say, not been opened up more than twelve years, and the road being in a rough unfinished state and the bush dense, settlers were few and far between.

VIII.

EXCURSION TO THE NORTH-EAST.

ACCORDINGLY with my pack, or rather "swag," as it is called in the Colony, on my back, I started in this direction two days after landing. Three miles out of town I found myself already in the bush, and travelling a very rough road. Since my arrival nearly five years ago, this road has become pretty well frequented by miners travelling to and from the tin mines, recently discovered, about sixty miles to the north-east of Launceston; but during this day's journey from the time I entered the bush I only met one man, who was carting a load of palings. This, however, did not trouble me at the time, as I reflected I could not well lose myself, there being but the one road, and I had only to keep upon it till I reached Myrtle Bank, twenty-one miles from town, where it terminated, and where I had been informed I should find an accommodation house, so called in contradistinction to a public-house. Twelve miles out I came to the

Water-works on the St. Patrick River, from which source Launceston draws an abundant supply of water. A couple of miles beyond I passed through the township of Pattersonia. I saw no signs of even a village, much less of a town ; but there were two or three weather-board huts or cottages, widely separated on their respective clearings. On inquiry at one of these I was informed that another seven miles would bring me to Myrtle Bank. The day being hot and the road rough, I had hitherto loitered on the way, but as it was now getting dusk I pushed on more rapidly. After a couple of hours I began to look out for the lodging house, feeling quite ready for supper and a night's rest. I kept on for nearly another hour without meeting with any signs of habitation.

By this time it had become perfectly dark, and I felt that I was no longer on a road, but on a grassy bridle path with the gloomy forest on either side. Having been told that the road was open the whole way to Myrtle Bank, I came to the conclusion that somehow I must have missed the house, and I therefore decided on retracing my steps, keeping as sharp a look-out as the darkness would permit. I soon felt the road again, and walked back a couple of miles without

meeting with any signs of a house. Being by this time pretty well exhausted, I determined to bivouac in the best way I could for the night, and finding a stack of palings on the road side, I soon constructed a temporary shelter, and, collecting branches, lit a fire in front of my den. Having no provisions, I had to content myself with a solitary pipe, and finding it chilly, for the nights in Tasmania are always cool even in the hottest months, I made up the fire and settled down for the night. I now felt the comfort of a great-coat, which often, during the heat of the day I had wished I had left behind me, but I got little sleep, and when I did manage to doze a bit, fancied that I had a companion in my den, in the shape of a snake. I was not aware at the time that snakes, which are to be found, more or less, in most parts of Tasmania, and throughout Australia, do not stay abroad in the night time, and indeed are seldom met with except during the hottest months of the year. With the earliest dawn, I emerged from my shell, and, replacing the palings I had used, started on the way back to Pattersonia. Seeing smoke issuing from the chimney of one of the huts, I made for it, but found it no easy matter to get within hail, by reason of several large dogs who evidently

looked upon me as an intruder. Dogs are a great nuisance to travellers, in these outlying districts. There is a dog tax, but there seems to be great remissness in its enforcement in out-of-the-way places, and consequently at every hut you approach you are assailed by two or three of them. They are kept apparently to hunt the Kangaroo, Wallaby, Opossum, wild cats, and an animal called a "devil," which are numerous in the bush, for the sake of their skins. Certain parts of the two first named are good eating, and the dogs are kept on the coarser parts.

Having at length gained admittance, I found the inmates at breakfast, and gladly joined them. In the bush the meal is generally disposed of before the day's work begins.

This hut, and there are many like it in the bush, was roughly constructed of upright weather-boards with day-light showing between them, and simply divided into two apartments, one used as a bedroom, the other for general purposes. The fireplace is in the latter, built up with large stones, and occupies a third of the space. Large logs are burnt on this, for timber is of course plentiful, and a camp oven is suspended over it by a chain from a cross beam. Having break-fasted, I started again for Myrtle Bank, and

after a seven miles' walk succeeded in reaching the accommodation house. I was not sorry to get there at last, and made myself comfortable for the rest of the day. The landlord was absent, and in fact proved to be the solitary carter I had met the previous day. His wife, a Scotch-woman, gave me plenty of information about the locality, and next morning I came across a couple of splitters engaged in cross cutting and removing a part of a large gum tree that had fallen, blocking up the road, and gained further information from them. Bush roads are constantly rendered impassable by the fall of one of these huge trees, forming a wall perhaps seven or eight feet high, and not to be circumvented by a horseman, both ends being buried in dense bush, and it takes a couple of men several days to remove that part blocking the road. One of the most remarkable features of Myrtle Bank is the immense number of fern trees, commonly called "old men ferns," the stems of which are often from ten to twenty feet high, which, mingling with the Bush Myrtles, Sassafras, Eucalypti, and numerous other trees, form a splendid and almost impenetrable forest, stretching out in every direction, such as it would be difficult to rival in any other part of the globe.

IX.

PUBLIC WORKS.

AS already stated, the road, such as it is abruptly terminates at Myrtle Bank, and a bridle path of some dozen miles takes the traveller on to Scottsdale—a glaring instance of the reckless and improvident way in which public money is too often uselessly expended. Here is a road of about eighteen miles, which, though still in a rough, unfinished state, must have cost some thousands to cut through the bush, and which for want of completion is practically useless. Half a dozen carts per week carrying palings into Launceston is the utmost traffic on it during the summer months, and on account of its wretched state even this ceases once the autumn rains set in. Thus it has been for years, whereas, were a comparatively small amount expended on its improvement, the whole of this part of the island would be rendered available for settlement, the land would be occupied on all sides, and without taking account of the great permanent

increase of the revenue which would result from converting so large an area of unproductive waste land into an inhabited region, the sale of the land alone would probably defray both the expenditure already incurred, which at present remains a dead loss to the Colony, and the aditional sum required for completing the work. Last session, a sum of money was voted for the purpose, and for extending the road to Scottsdale, but in the preparation of the estimates, no account was apparently taken of the recent great increase in the cost of labour, resulting from the opening up of the tin mines and other enterprises throughout the Colony—in fact, estimates prepared in former years, when labour was cheap, appear to have been hastily adopted, and consequently the amount voted has proved insufficient. The chief engineer has, therefore, simply recommended the extension of the road to Scottsdale, but, unless the road to Launceston is put into good condition also, this will only prove a further waste of public money. Were the entire road completed, the produce of the districts of Scottsdale, and Ringarooma, and of the tin mines, would be conveyed by it to Launceston, instead of being sent coastwise at increased cost and risk. As it is, a bridle path the whole way would nearly answer

the purposes of the existing road, and the few settlers there are, would not be saddled with a road rate to patch it up solely for the benefit of two or three carters of palings.

The carrying out of public works in a thinly peopled country is a matter that requires very careful consideration, which does not appear to have been always bestowed upon it in Tasmania. The first and most important step towards opening up a new country for settlement, is the construction of main roads at the public expense. This induces intending settlers to take up land within a reasonable distance of such roads, even though they may be obliged to cut tracks without government assistance from their respective locations.

Others then select land along these tracks, which gradually become improved into serviceable country roads and lanes. Colonial governments are not, however, always wise and prudent in dealing with such questions. They are apt to rush into extremes. Either large loans are raised, and roads and railways are simultaneously started in all directions without reference to the limited supply of labour in the Colonial market, the result being a great increase in the price of labour, and consequently in the cost of the works, the

ordinary employers of labour being at the same time greatly inconvenienced; or the work is deferred altogether until the line of country through which the road is to pass, shall become settled. Of the two, the latter is by far the worse policy, and its adoption simply puts a stop to immigration. It is thus, that Tasmania, although the oldest of the Australasian Colonies, has been so greatly distanced in the race. Superior in many respects, as a field for emigration, her population remained for years almost stationary. A grand trunk road from north to south of the island was originally constructed by convict labour, and the country adjacent thereto became consequently well settled. This should have been followed by the gradual opening up of the rest of the island, and probably had she remained under Imperial rule and guidance, such would have been the course adopted, but about a quarter of a century since, the doubtful blessing of self-government was prematurely conferred upon her as upon her younger but more advanced sister colonies. The Members of the Council and of the House of Assembly, of course, all belonged to the settled districts, and they considered it not to their interest to further develop the country for the benefit of immigrants and strangers, at a cost,

which they argued, would saddle themselves with debt. They could not, or rather would not, see that an increasing population must eventually reduce the weight of general taxation. Their lines had fallen in pleasant places, and why should they inconvenience themselves for the advantage of others? "Sleepy Hollow" did not see the good of waking up at the call of patriotism. Better to vegetate in comfort and insignificance! So Tasmania remained almost forgotten by the rest of the world for years, and it is hard to say what the result would have been, though assuredly such selfish policy would have brought its own punishment, had not her mineral wealth, lying hid in these despised outlying districts, been suddenly brought to light.

Although in possession of one of the finest roads to be met with in any part of the world, the people of Central Tasmania determined some years ago, upon the construction of a railway through the same line of country, viz., from Launceston to Hobart Town, and in order to induce capitalists to provide the necessary funds, the Government of the day, quite oblivious of the rights of the outlying districts, guaranteed a fixed rate of interest to be paid out of the general revenue of the Colony. The line was opened for

traffic two years since, and although the late Government for a time considered itself justified in refusing to pay the guaranteed interest, mainly on the grounds that the line had not been properly constructed, it gave way last year so far as to pay over to the company the greater part of the accrued interest, and it may be expected that the present Government, the members of which, when in opposition, strongly condemned the quasi-repudiation policy of their predecessors, will admit the remainder of the claim, and so restore the credit of the Colony, which has been materially damaged by these proceedings. Even admitting that grounds existed for the course taken, it was bad policy to pursue it, especially at a time when a loan was being negotiated.

But apart from this question, it is evident that the construction of the line at the public expense, has been a gross injustice to the settlers in the outlying districts, who not only derive no benefit from, but may be said to be even injured by it, since produce can be conveyed to market from the central districts through which it passes, at prices with which in the absence of even ordinary roads, they cannot possibly compete. Evidently the only remedy is that good roads should be made, also at the public expense, through the

outlying districts. The Government seems lately to have, in a measure, recognised this fact, and a sum of about £150,000 is being expended on such works, but this amount is but a poor set off against the cost of the railway, and it is to be hoped will be supplemented by further annual votes, that is, when the credit of the Colony has been so re-established as to admit of the necessary loans being raised at reasonable rates. Such expenditure, if judicious, will lead to the sale of lands at present unprofitable, of which, it may be stated on good authority, there exists as large a quantity as there is of land already occupied. These sales will go far to cover the cost of the roads, which by inducing immigration, will largely increase the general revenues. It is a great pity that these works were not taken in hand five years ago, when labour was comparatively cheap. They could then have been constructed at probably little over half their present cost. The numerous mining enterprises that are now being carried on, and demand for labour on the works in progress have greatly disturbed the labour market, and the ordinary road labourer now receives as much as a shilling an hour. Five years since, he was content with half the amount. Under these circumstances, the difficulties farmers

have to contend with through the want of hands, may be imagined, the consequence being that sheep-farming is shown by the latest official returns, to be fast superseding grain growing. The fact is Public Works and Immigration should go hand in hand, and they would help each other. Immigration would meet the demand for labour, and the construction of the roads would open up the country for the eventual settlement of the immigrants. Each vote for works should include a sum to cover the cost of the grant of free passages to a certain number of ordinary agricultural or other labourers from England. These men should be carefully recruited by a travelling agent, and an agreement should be entered into with each man, ensuring him, during good conduct, employment in road-making for a year after landing, at a fixed rate of 4*s*. a-day, with the right of selecting fifty acres of land at the end of the year's employment. In this way the roads would be constructed at half their present cost, and a continuous stream of agricultural labourers would flow on to the land, and open up the country far and wide.

I do not, however, advocate that the Government should undertake the road-making. The work should be done by contract, the Government

simply undertaking to provide the contractor with the number of men he may require, at the rate of 4*s.* a-day, and the contractor would frame his tender accordingly.

As to the works, half-finished roads should be first completed, and some return be thus obtained for the money already expended on them. Next, the more promising districts, whether as regards their mineral or agricultural capabilities, should be opened up.

Unfortunately, political parties in Tasmania are so evenly balanced that it is next to impossible for the Government of the day to do the right thing and retain office. In a House consisting of only thirty-two Members, a single adverse vote often puts the Government in the minority. Consequently more thought is given to currying favour with individual Members and constituencies than to the real interests of the country at large. Even when a progressive measure has passed the House of Assembly the chances are greatly in favour of its suffering shipwreck in the Legislative Council or Upper House, which, from its composition, is intensely conservative. For example, recently when the present Ministry was formed, a three months' Supply Bill, although voted unanimously by the

Lower, was rejected by the Upper House! There are, however, signs that the country is growing tired of being mis-governed by men who cling to office simply for the sake of the loaves and fishes; and the downfall of the recent Ministry may be attributed, in a great measure, to this feeling. Although ostensibly ousted on a minor question, the real cause of their downfall was the disgust of the country at the way in which the main line railway question was handled, whereby the credit of the Colony has been greatly lowered. There is, however, reason to hope that the new ministry will do its utmost to rehabilitate the Colony's credit; in which respect, considering its comparatively small debt and great resources, it should stand second to none.

X.

SETTLING AT MYRTLE BANK.

THE bridle path to Scottsdale passes through the forest already alluded to, and about seven miles on, the head of a vast ravine is reached, commanding a splendid view of mountains and forest, with the sea in the distance, and overlooking a deep glen to the right of the track. Skirting the glen for three or four miles the traveller crosses the river Brid, and a good road leads into Scottsdale. This district has been within a few years extensively cleared, and contains about 400 inhabitants, scattered over several miles of country. Four miles from the Brid the Vine Grove Hotel is reached, kept by Mr. Edwards; where the traveller will find excellent accommodation.

Besides keeping this Inn, Mr. Edwards has cleared a considerable breadth of land, and farms comparatively, on a large scale. Originally in business, he commenced his new life with little experience, and has passed through some vicissi-

tudes. He built and opened his hotel at the time the gold diggings at Waterhouse, some distance further north, were being worked, and when operations ceased there, in consequence of some mismanagement, he found himself with a considerable establishment on hand and few customers, but he struggled on manfully, and is now reaping the reward of his enterprise. The recent opening up of extensive tin mines near Ringarooma brings him plenty of business, and the Waterhouse gold diggings are again looking up. Of all settlers I have met with I have always found him the most willing to give me the benefit of his experiences, and any one on the look out for land in the Scottsdale district cannot do better than consult him. It is too much the habit of old settlers to let new comers gain their own experience, and, in fact, to profit by their ignorance, instead of aiding them with a little friendly advice. But the host of the Vine Grove Hotel is an exception to the rule, and the way in which he conducts his business is also exceptional. I am sorry to say the practice of too many publicans in Tasmania, and, I believe, other Colonies, is to encourage the unfortunate miner in his drinking propensities in a disgraceful manner. These men, and, indeed, most labouring men in the Colony are in the

habit of working for a spell, being, on account of the prevailing scarcity of labour, masters of the situation, and they then take their cheques to the public house, where they remain till all is expended. It may be imagined what orgies result, and what opportunities an unprincipled publican has of swindling them in their drunken fits, and yet, such is the strength of their fatal passion, they return again and again to the same dens in which they have been so barefacedly robbed and misused. The Government is greatly to blame for this state of things ; for as soon as a mining district is opened up, public houses are started all along the road leading to them, and licenses seldom refused. I have known men, who, when there was no public house in the vicinity, have gone without drinking for months together, saving sums, and who, as soon as a house has been opened in the neighbourhood, has struck work till every penny has disappeared. But after all, it is the same thing at home ; a flaring gin palace at the entrance of every court and alley, to tempt the working man as he passes to and from his wretched home.

In the Scottsdale district there is still plenty of good land available for selection, and, though it is heavily timbered, the large clearings that have

already been effected prove, that with patience and industry, a small capitalist may soon clear for himself a comfortable farm. The soil is so rich, that in digging a well, twenty feet of it has been passed through. The great drawback is of course the want of a road to Launceston, but this objection cannot continue much longer, especially now that the mining interests further on are becoming so important.

Twenty miles beyond the district of Ringarooma is reached, where there is much valuable land, not so heavily timbered as that of Myrtle Bank and Scottsdale, but the prudent settler will consider that the distance from Launceston is now becoming considerable, and that he is no longer within a day's journey of that or any other town. There is, however, now a good market here for agricultural produce, the tin mines being in the vicinity, and the settlers consequently have of late been thriving greatly, and the completion of the road between Myrtle Bank and Scottsdale which is now in progress, will be an immense benefit to the whole of the North-east of the Island, and doubtless lead to extensive settlement.

My inquiries resulted in a determination to settle at Myrtle Bank, for the following reasons. The distance from Launceston was only twenty-

one miles, a moderate day's journey, with a road the whole way; not a good road certainly, but likely to improve from year to year, if only through the expenditure upon it of the road-rate; and, moreover, I considered it probable that the Government would sooner or later be brought to a sense of the folly of leaving it in an unfinished state.

The situation was decidedly healthy, being some fifteen hundred feet above the sea level, and not far from the coast, and this I deemed of the first importance in the case of a growing family; besides which, both my wife and I prefer a cool bracing climate to the somewhat relaxing temperature of the low lying parts of the island.

Then there was plenty of land for selection, heavily timbered no doubt, but not more so than in the best parts of the Scottsdale district; and, as already observed, heavy timber denotes good soil. Clearing such land costs a pound or two more per acre, but the superiority of the soil more than counterbalances this objection; and next to a good climate, the settler should assure himself of the goodness of the land he selects. Lastly, I found that there was an unoccupied farm of about seventy acres of pasturage adjoining the land I thought of selecting, having a well constructed

weatherboard cottage upon it, containing three good rooms, besides a barn and stable, and I considered it would be far better to rent this for a time, and thus have an immediate home for my family, than to be either camping out, or residing in town, whilst a clearance was being effected, and a house constructed.

On my return to Launceston, I arranged for a five years' lease of this farm, with right of purchase at the end of the term, at a price fixed in the lease. Having also arranged with a neighbouring settler for the conveyance of my family and baggage, &c., from Launceston, I returned to Melbourne, after three weeks' absence. The mail had meanwhile arrived, bringing our letters from England, and so within a week I was back again in Launceston with my family.

Three or four days was all the stay it was necessary to make in town. The furniture purchased in Melbourne, and the few articles brought from England, were sufficient for our present wants, with the addition of a Colonial oven, and a few dairy utensils. A couple of bags of flour, and a supply of groceries completed our purchases, and on the morning of the first of December, 1873, we started in a four-horse waggon for our home in the bush.

The first two or three miles, travelled in the cool of the morning on an excellent road, we thought very delightful, but gradually the sun began to assert his power, and the road to get more and more rough, and by the time half-a-dozen miles were completed, we had quite changed our minds as to the pleasantness of this style of travelling. Boxes and various articles of furniture were jolted out of their places, and downhill would press forward in a mass on the family party; and uphill slid backwards, threatening at each jolt to tumble out behind. Then the children, after the first novelty of the thing had worn off, became restless. Buns and cakes, judiciously administered at intervals with intervening sweets, had a temporary soothing effect; but there is a limit to the capacity of a child, even when well shaken, for stowing away such dainties, and the elders of the party began to have rather a rough time of it. Apart from these inconveniences, it was no easy matter to retain a seat in a springless vehicle, either when descending into a rut three feet deep, or surmounting a boulder or stump the same in height. Half-way we pulled up to feed the horses, and the opportunity was taken to restore the things to their places, but ten minutes of fresh jolting unsettled all again. However, every day

must come to an end, and so, at last, did the day's journey. We had been nearly twelve hours on the road, and sore and weary we decided on staying at the accommodation house, already referred to, instead of attempting to settle in our own that night. To be sure, there were only two rooms available, a small bedroom and parlour, but we managed to stow ourselves away in these somehow, well pleased to be out of the waggon and housed for the night. The baby required no rocking.

Next morning we were early astir, and ready for breakfast. That over, we started down the hill for our new home. The waggon followed more leisurely, by a less precipitous track. My wife was agreeably surprised with the house, as I had described it in rather disparaging terms as a hut divided into two compartments by an intervening passage. For the reason, that I think an emigrant should come out second class in order that on landing he may not feel disgusted at his change in living, so, to prevent disappointment, a too flattering description should be avoided in such cases.

Our goods and chattels unloaded, and temporarily deposited on the grass, the first thing set about was the fixing of the oven. As this

had to be done in a particular way, I procured the assistance of one of the two splitters I had met with on my former visit to Myrtle Bank, and who were the only labourers in the neighbourhood. The fixing of the oven and the erection of the tent on an eligible spot near the house, were the principal operations of the day. Our scanty furniture did not take long to arrange, and such boxes as were not at once required, were stowed away in the tent, which also served as a temporary woodshed and scullery. The bedsteads fixed and a fire started on the oven, after colonial fashion, we began to feel somewhat settled. In summer, as in winter, a good fire is always kept going in the bush, the supply of fuel being unlimited. The nights also are cool, and a fire is very acceptable after sunset, especially in a weatherboard house.

XI.

BUSH FARMING.

ALTHOUGH we entered on possession in December 1873, I had agreed to a proposal made by my landlord, that he should continue to run his cattle on the farm till the following May, and that my rent should not commence till then. This arrangement suited us both equally well, for it gave him time to reduce his stock gradually, and it gave me time to look round and gain some experience before purchasing cattle. Meanwhile, I had a house rent-free, and the right of keeping a couple of cows and a horse on the farm. On the other hand, the place wanted looking after. The landlord had not lived on it for over two years, and in consequence thistles, &c., had gained ground. I found plenty of occupation in cleaning the land of these, and in cutting down wattles, stinkwood, and other rubbish, which had been springing up.

For two or three years after bush land has been cleared, it is necessary to watch it closely

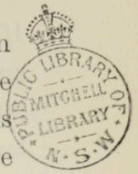
and pull up any young wattles, &c., that make their appearance. If this be neglected they grow so quickly that in three years it costs considerable labour to cut them down, for by that time they are long past pulling up, and if the work be not done at the right time of year, that is when the sap is up, they shoot again. A settler should therefore never clear more land at a time than he can look properly after. The fences round the orchard and garden needed repair, the cattle having broken through and sadly injured the young fruit trees. These also required attending to, and the soil about them dug up and cleared of grass, &c. In fact there were many things in this way needing attention, and I was glad therefore not to be encumbered with stock for a time. Meanwhile I did not neglect my own land, but immediately on arrival contracted with a neighbour for the clearance of four acres at £3 an acre. My free grant adjoined the farm and consisted of 90 acres, being 30 for myself, 20 in respect of my wife, and 10 in respect of each child (*see* Appendix).

Clearing land involves two operations at different times of the year; first, the scrubbing or cutting down of the bush, including, as usually agreed upon, all trees under eighteen inches in

diameter. This must be done before Christmas, in order that the felled timber, &c., may dry well during the summer months, and so be ready for firing before the wet weather sets in. Scrubbing requires considerable experience, for if the trees are not felled and cut up so as to be close to the ground, the burning off will prove a failure, and the second operation, that of picking up, be rendered very laborious. Moreover, an inexperienced hand runs great risk of being injured or killed by falling timber. The picking up should be done as soon as possible after the fire, and consists in collecting in piles, and burning whatever timber and rubbish the fire may have spared, hoeing up and adding to the heaps, fern heads, roots, &c., so as to leave the land ready for chipping in the first grain crop, sowing peas or turnips, or planting potatoes. Whenever practicable, the contract should include both these operations, but this cannot always be arranged, as the labourers and splitters of Tasmania are given to roaming about the country, taking a job here and there when it suits them to work. The advantage of including both operations in the same contract is, that the scrubbing will be done so as to insure a good burning off, leaving as little to be subsequently picked up as possible,

but when a man undertakes the scrubbing only, he is not so likely to trouble himself about that, and it is impossible to say how the scrubbing has been done till after the fire, when he will most probably have left the neighbourhood. In dividing the cost of clearing, rather more is paid for the scrubbing than for the picking up.

The first thing a settler should see to is the ringing of all the large trees on his selection, or if he intends to clear only a few acres each year, he should arrange so that the trees are rung three years before the burning off takes place. The object of this is that the bark, which peels off the trees after they have been rung, may fall before the burning, which, of course, it will greatly aid; whereas, if it does not come down till afterwards, it will be continually falling in heavy masses, tons in weight, both injuring the crops and entailing much labour in its removal. The settler must, of course, put up with this inconvenience for the first year or two, but it will be his own fault if it does not then cease. The ringing may be contracted for at from 3*s*. to 5*s*. an acre, according to the number and size of the trees left standing. The usual plan is to cut a deep ring round the trees three or four feet from the ground, care being taken not to leave any



bark unsevered, or it may either spread again and keep the tree alive, or delay the fall of the bark, but I have found it equally efficacious simply to cut the bark downwards all round the tree, forcing it outwards each cut before removing the axe, so as to form a receptacle for the rain running down the tree to lodge in and rot it, and this may be done in half the time. Of course the plough cannot be used in this forest land for many years after the first clearing, on account of the large trees and stumps remaining, and the crops are therefore chipped in with the hoe. The surface soil is extraordinarily rich, especially after a good burn, and will therefore stand several years' cropping, without being stirred deeper than it can be worked with the hoe, and I therefore recommend, when only a small clearance is each year effected, to take three or four crops, beginning with potatoes or turnips (the former, if the ground is partly free from roots, if not, the latter), then barley or peas, and finishing off with oats sown with grass and a little clover seed. After this oat crop, the land should be left in grass for several years, until the stumps have rotted and can easily be removed, and most of the large trees have disappeared by burning in the course of the autumn after each has fallen.

If left any time after falling, they become sodden and difficult to burn. Some settlers clear their land for the plough as soon as possible, felling large trees and pulling up unrotted stumps, at great cost of labour and capital, but I would rather recommend patience and the above system, whereby the heavy work is effected by natural causes, and meanwhile, if care be only taken to keep down rubbish, a fine pasture will be formed, capable of carrying three or four sheep to the acre, notwithstanding stumps, &c. These, to be sure, are not sightly, and should at once be cleared away with all fallen timber near the house, but with that exception, I would recommend the above course.

It will pay well to leave the grass for seed the first year after the oat crop; but in that case only one sort of grass seed must be sown with the oats, in addition to a slight sprinkling of clover. I have found cocksfoot to hold its own best against weeds, and clean seed of this description usually fetches 10*s*. a bushel; the average yield of an acre being about fifteen bushels. Unless labour be plentiful, which is seldom the case in the bush, it is not advisable to leave more than half a dozen acres of grass for seed each year, as it must be cut when it reaches the

right stage. If cut too soon, it will not thrash out: and if too late, the seed will shake out in the cutting and be lost. The right time is when the head and upper part of the stalk turn yellow, and the former, though not shaking, yields seed freely when rubbed in the hand. Grass should not be left for seed a second year, or dandelion and other weeds will seed whilst the grass seed is ripening. The grub also is likely to put in an appearance after the first year and destroy the crop. I find that cocksfoot stands the ravages of this pest better than other grasses, such as Timothy and English grass.

If the settler, wishing to have a large area under grass at once, clears more land than he needs for cropping, he should, immediately after the burning, sow his grass seed without chopping up the burnt ground. This will, in a great measure, prevent fireweed springing up.

But there is one thing the settler has to attend to before any farming operations, and that is, getting housed. He may be able to rent a farm in the neighbourhood of his selection, as I did, but that will be the exception to the rule. In any case he had better delay the erection of his permanent dwelling until he has cleared some of his land and made sure of the best site,

and can give a proper amount of time and attention to its construction. Moreover, the timber to be used will require seasoning, otherwise the walls will shrink and warp in all directions; daylight will show through chinks, and unpleasant draughts abound.

Having fixed upon, subject to reconsideration, the most eligible site for his house, the settler should proceed to clear a small space, felling all large trees in the vicinity, and construct a temporary hut of two or more rooms as may be required. This hut should not be erected on the site selected for the permanent building, but sufficiently near to be used afterwards as an outhouse. The site fixed upon should be rather elevated, and near a permanent spring of good water. The surrounding soil should be free from stones, and adapted for a garden and orchard.

XII.

STOCK FARMING.

DURING my first two years I was on the whole a loser on my live stock. There were several reasons for this. Before coming to the Colony I had had no experience in the business. I was not even aware that a cow had a different value according to whether she was about to or had just calved, or had been in milk for a longer or shorter period. I knew nothing about market prices and the characters of the people I had to deal with, or the best times of year for buying and selling. In fact there is no royal road by which this, any more than other knowledge, is to be acquired; and experience must be bought, whether in the shape of a premium paid for a regular course of instruction under a competent farmer, or in the way of losses resulting from lack of such training. When a man turns farmer without previous experience his safest course is to limit his operations as much as possible until he has had time to gain the requisite knowledge.

I paid rather more for my first cow than I ought to have done, but in other respects she was not a bad bargain. She was just springing and calved a week after I bought her. She proved to be a quiet good milker, and I sold her the following year as a fat beast for about the amount I gave for her. I reared her calf, and she has shown herself this year to be as good a milch cow as her mother. My second cow proved to be nearly dry when I got her, and I therefore paid for her a third more than her market value. My landlord had kept the land heavily stocked throughout the whole time he continued to run his cattle on it, and I should therefore have acted wisely in letting it remain idle during the following winter and spring, but I allowed myself to be persuaded by a neighbour, whom I had obliged and therefore thought I might trust (a mistaken notion in Tasmania), to buy of him a mixed lot of cattle in June (mid-winter) and shortly afterwards half a dozen steers for fattening. He assured me the feed would be coming on well the following month, but I have since learnt that it is not to be calculated on in this elevated district before the end of September.

It happened that at the time it was not con-

venient to pay cash for these purchases, but as I was expecting a remittance, I gave three months' bills. I made nothing by either of these transactions, and therefore got no return for my trouble and risk and keep of the cattle. I had paid considerably more than their market value at that time of year; the feed did not come on as soon as I had been led to expect, and, not receiving the expected remittance in time to meet the bills, I was obliged to sell the steers in a half fatted condition; the moral of which is, and I have acted upon it since, that it is better to let land lie idle than to buy stock for it on bills. In the first place, you will have better feed later on, and in the next, when you buy on a bill you will pay heavily for the accommodation, and it will need a good sale to make a profit. In my ignorance I deemed it foolish to be paying rent for a farm without putting stock upon it, and I was therefore the more easily misled.

My next experience was in sheep. I bought forty very fine three parts bred Leicester ewes. On large runs, especially if somewhat scrubby and therefore injurious to long fleeces, merinos should be kept, but on a farm, on which the sheep have no need to travel in search of herbage and water, a heavier class of animal is more

profitable, particularly for breeding purposes, the percentage of lambs being so much larger. I also procured a fine looking four tooth Leicester ram, apparently sound in every respect, but through some defect, which persons accustomed to sheep, who subsequently inspected him, were unable to detect, he proved a failure, and I got no lambs. I did not exactly lose by this transaction, as the ewes, besides giving good fleeces, fattened early and sold well, but I failed to realize the profit which a good percentage of lambs would have produced. This failure, however, was rather a mishap than the result of inexperience, as the same thing might have happened to any one of my more experienced neighbours; but still it shows that when, as in the case of a small flock, you rely on one ram, you should make sure, notwithstanding appearances, that he has previously proved himself competent. My later experiences have been more felicitous, and my farm is now fully stocked with both cattle and sheep; but I may give the following as the results of my short experience for the benefit of those who may, like myself, arrive with very little knowledge in respect of live stock. Do not overstock, and, as far as possible, let the land rest during the winter and early spring, confining the stock,

more especially during the latter time, to one or two paddocks, feeding them on hay, straw, turnips, &c. Have as little to do with buying and selling as possible, particularly at sale-yards. Being at a distance, time is wasted and expense incurred in driving the cattle, &c., to and from market, and if prices prove dull, you have scarcely the option of withdrawing them as those can who live in the neighbourhood. Being so circumstanced you cannot follow the markets, and the regular dealers therefore have the advantage of you. You are not known, as they usually are, to the auctioneer, who may also be a purchaser himself, directly or indirectly, when a bargain is to be made. So also with regard to buying, you cannot afford time to be constantly attending distant sales, and therefore you buy at a disadvantage, preferring to pay more or take what may not exactly suit you, rather than return home without the stock you require, and therefore be obliged to attend some other sale.

But it will be said, how then are you to manage? My advice is to rear your own stock. Buy a certain number of good cows and a bull to start with, rear their calves and keep them till fit for the butcher. It is too commonly the practice to let young cattle pick up a poor living on runs or

anyhow, till they are a couple of years old and then improve their feed. My experience has been that it pays better to keep them on good pasture from first to last, and not allow them to lose their calf flesh. I also find that, being used to the climate, they do better here during the winter season than cattle reared in warmer districts. At three years old they are prime beef, which, even when the market is dull, fetches a high price. So with sheep. Buy a few good ewes to begin with, six tooth half bred Leicesters, and increase your flock by selecting the best ewe lambs produced from year to year. Always have a good ram, a pure Leicester, and change him each year. You may probably arrange with a neighbour for an exchange of rams. Instead of driving the few sheep you may have to dispose of, to a sale-yard, rather sell direct to some one supplying meat in the neighbouring, mines or keeping a refreshment house for travellers, allowing them to be taken away a few at a time, if desired.

Defective fences are a source of great trouble and annoyance to the settler, especially if he have neighbours who are not particular about letting their cattle and pigs roam in search of feed. Several sorts of fences are put up in the

bush. When the land is first cleared, an ordinary log fence is usually constructed, because, in the first place, a large part of the unconsumed timber remaining after the fire, can be thus conveniently disposed of, and next, because it is easily repaired when any of the trees that have been left fall across it, and of course for the first few years, these, having been killed by ringing, are continually falling; but, on the other hand, the log fence is very liable to be burnt, for if, from any cause, such as a piece of lighted bark carried by the wind from some fires in the neighbourhood, it be once fired, it will be consumed the entire length, unless immediate steps be taken to pull down a part not yet reached by the fire. As "burnings off" generally take place in the dry season, when the standing crops are ripening, a considerable amount of damage is likely to result to the crops when these fences catch fire. Pigs are also apt to make their way through them, and perhaps a neighbour may not be above helping them to do so by casually pulling out a piece of timber near the ground—and it is no obstacle to sheep—I therefore think the "choc and log" a better fence to erect when putting up. It is not easily burnt, and if well constructed, will stop pigs and sheep as well as

cattle. On heavy scrub, there are usually, after a fire, a sufficient number of straight logs to make such a fence, and the trunks of the fern trees make capital chocs. To construct it, the chocs are cut from three to four feet long, and are placed transversely about five yards apart. Resting on these, the logs are laid longitudinally, and so on, in alternate layers, until the required height is attained. Then comes the dogleg fence, formed by crossing two short spars and leaning upon them where they cross, a longer spar and so on. This description of fence is only fit for internal use on a farm, and cannot be recommended in any respect, except for cheapness of construction. The best fence, especially as a boundary fence, is the "post and rail," provided care be taken to place the two lowest rails close enough to the ground and each other, to prevent even small pigs from getting through. It is strong and high enough to keep out cattle and horses, and affords no foothold for sheep to run up. It cannot easily be tampered with, and a glance along it at once shows if a rail has been displaced. It is besides, more sightly than any of the other fences, and takes up no ground. That part of the post in the ground should be invariably charred to prevent decay.

I strongly recommend the new comer to be most particular about his fences, both with a view to keeping his cattle and sheep in separate paddocks, which is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the former, and preventing the incursion of stray cattle, &c., and he will then, if not of a quarrelsome disposition, have some chance of living in peace and amity with his neighbours.

XI.

BUSH LIFE.

THE third adult member of our party was a servant girl. An elderly Irish nurse had agreed to accompany us, but after we had helped to outfit her, and had arranged for her passage, her courage failed her, and the night before we sailed she pleaded ill health, and refused to come. Luckily, we had heard of a general servant, an orphan and without any family ties, who wished to emigrate, and although the notice was so short she agreed to come, and next morning we carried her and her box off in triumph, on our way to the docks. The exchange was, I think, a fortunate one in every respect, for most probably an elderly and sickly woman would have proved an encumbrance rather than a help on board ship, and probably would not have made herself general useful in the bush. The girl we brought turned out a useful and willing help to my wife both on board ship and in the bush, and remained with us for a few days.

The wages of ordinary servants in this and the neighbouring colonies range from £15 to £30 a year, but they have to work harder as a rule than in England, fewer servants being kept. The high rate of wages farm labourers earn preclude me also from employing a man regularly on the farm, besides which, in our small domicile it would be very inconvenient to board and lodge one. At the present time the labour market of the Colony is quite unsettled on account of the tin discoveries, but a good man, regularly employed, may reckon upon 15*s*. a week and his rations. I therefore do the general work of the farm myself, with any assistance there may be available in pressing times. Thus my wife and I have to work hard, but still, we greatly prefer the life to one of genteel poverty in England.

The usual practice of settlers in the bush is to breakfast before commencing the day's work—that is, between six and seven o'clock, dining at mid-day, and taking tea or supper after the day's work is over; but we find it more convenient to breakfast and dine an hour later, which allows time before breakfast, as we are early risers, for milking the cows, feeding pigs, chopping wood, and other miscellaneous work. Tea is the usual beverage, and meat is eaten at each meal.

Twice a year, viz., in the spring and the autumn, we lay in a supply of flour, oatmeal, which we always eat at breakfast, and grocery stores. Of milk, butter, eggs, bacon, potatoes, and vegetables, the farm, of course, provides an unlimited supply, and we kill our own meat at an estimated cost of 3*d.* for mutton, and 4*d.* for beef. We allow the pigs to range the farm (all pasture) and pick up their own living during the greater part of the year, most of them being fattened and killed off during the winter. Those not so disposed of are helped on till spring with a few turnips. With proper conveniences in the way of good pigsties and a large boiler, pig farming may be made to pay well in the bush. The first crop planted on newly cleared ground, if not very full of roots, should be potatoes, on account of the quantity of ashes left by the fires. Therefore, if a man clears half a dozen acres each year, he may calculate upon at least twenty tons of potatoes; and after the first year, he should grow at least three acres of peas. With these he may fatten a large number of pigs, and well cured hams and bacon always fetch 8*d.* to 10*d.* per lb., wholesale. These pack closely and are easy of carriage, and therefore, it is far preferable to dispose of farm produce in the bush in this

way, than to convey it to market over bad roads, and at a heavy cost. In fact, until good roads are made, the bush farmer had better grow only as much as he can consume on his farm, and lay the rest of his land down in grass.

Carrots also fatten pigs well, but unless grown in an enclosure the opossum and wallaby destroy the crop by eating off the heads of the young plants.

Within the last few years jam-preserving has become an important trade in the south of Tasmania, the quantity exported from Hobart Town having increased from about one and a half million pounds in 1872 to considerably over three million pounds in 1876. A jam and preserved fruit company is being now formed in Launceston, which it may be expected will develop the trade in the north of the island where all the ordinary fruits attain great perfection. In this district the raspberry cane thrives wonderfully and I believe would pay well if grown extensively. The wholesale price may be taken at 2½*d.* per lb., and an acre of raspberry canes would at that rate yield a clear profit of over £20. Currants and gooseberries also thrive far better than in the warmer districts. A settler with a family of children who could help to pick the fruit would

do well to turn his attention to the cultivation of these small fruits.

In the course of the second year we found it absolutely necessary, on account of our increasing family, to enlarge our house, and with the assistance of a neighbour I added a "skilling" at the back which gives us three additional rooms. One of these is a kitchen, the second a bedroom for the children, and the third a store room. This additional accommodation makes the place quite comfortable, especially as our sitting room, which has been repapered and smartened up generally, no longer serves as a kitchen. Our flower garden also, which we laid out in front of the house the first year, has greatly improved, having lost its new appearance, and is now filled with well grown bushes, rose trees, &c. Some of the roses bloom throughout the winter, and as the trees retain their foliage all the year round, the contrast of the seasons is far less striking than at home. In clearing away the scrub, which had been allowed to make way near the house, I left here and there a likely looking wattle, and these have now grown into large handsome trees, showing a pretty yellow blossom in the spring, and I think they greatly improve the appearance of the clearing, although my neighbours do not

appear to be of the same opinion, but then they look upon the flower garden as a sort of folly. Nothing useful about it. A good cabbage garden is more to their taste, but why not have both?

The great drawback to living in the bush is having neither a doctor nor a clergyman in the neighbourhood. We have in some measure met the latter want by holding a service on Sunday at a neighbour's house. Happily we have been wholly free from sickness, and have not needed the doctor. Indeed the pure and bracing atmosphere we live in almost precludes sickness with ordinary care, but it would be, nevertheless, more satisfactory, if only in case of an accident or child-birth, to be within reasonable distance of medical assistance. The latter event has occurred twice since our arrival, and on both occasions we had to rely on the services of the midwife of the district. For those who have the means there is of course the alternative of a temporary sojourn in town on these occasions. With these exceptions, and perhaps a want of society, it will be seen, from what I have written, that a comfortable, healthy and pleasant life may be led in the bush, far better at least, than the anxious pinching existence of many who cling to some wretched situation in London, earning scarcely

sufficient to keep up what are deemed necessary appearances, too often at the expense of the actual necessaries of life.

For those who can afford the time, there are also amusements in the bush. Kangaroo hunting can be indulged in, and opossum shooting on moonlight nights. Snares may be set for these and other animals, and there is generally a river at hand for trout fishing. A good riding horse can be bought for less than half the price in England, and the cost of keeping one or more on a farm is trifling.

XIV.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF NEIGHBOURING SETTLERS.

I WILL devote this Chapter to the Colonial experiences of the settlers in this district with whom I have come in contact.

E. N., a Scotsman, kept the accommodation house at Myrtle Bank when I first came here. Travellers were few and far between in those days, and N. gained his livelihood mainly by carting palings into Launceston. He also rented the farm adjoining mine, a portion of which only was cleared. He paid rent partly in cash and partly by clearing, his agreement including the bringing into cultivation of three acres a year. His lease was for five years, and he had therefore to clear fifteen acres. This he did in the first two years, and thus took crops off the whole fifteen acres for the last three years of his tenancy. Before coming to Myrtle Bank he had been a shepherd and had saved some money. During his last three years he turned his attention to carting paling during the summer

months, beginning with a couple of horses and a cart. This business involves the employment of one or more splitters. The splitter, who pays a license of 5*s*. a month, has first to find a gum tree in the bush suitable for his purpose. He may spend a couple of days in the search, for not one probably in five hundred will split straight. Having selected his tree his next operation is to fell it; and an inexperienced man may often fell a tree which, after all his trouble, will not produce proper palings. This done he cross-cuts it into proper lengths, divides these into manageable pieces of timber, which he then splits up into palings, generally five feet in length, and half an inch thick. This is done with a peculiar sort of tool: the use of which is not always readily acquired. I have been told by some men that after many trials they have been unable to acquire the knack, whilst others become great adepts and can split a thousand palings a day. Splitters generally go about their work in pairs. One splits whilst the other prepares the pieces for splitting. Some trees will produce eight or ten thousand palings. It is the splitter's business also to clear a track from the place where he has felled the tree to the main road; and therefore it does not pay him to fell

a tree at a distance therefrom, unless it be one capable of producing a large number of palings, or unless there be other trees at hand suitable for splitting. The purchaser of the palings pays the splitter at so much a hundred, and draws them out of the bush. The price has lately risen in this neighbourhood from 4*s.* to 5*s.* per hundred; and on an average a splitter may make 10*s.* a day at this healthy occupation. His employer provides him with rations, deducting their value when a settlement takes place. The present race of splitters seldom work continuously; but, when they have fulfilled a contract for a certain number of palings, draw whatever balance may be due, after deduction of advances, cost of rations, &c., and carouse till it is expended. Palings fetch in Launceston 10*s.* to 12*s.* a hundred; and, therefore, notwithstanding cost of carriage over bad roads, the carter's profit is considerable. N. commenced with a cart and pair of horses. On an average he made two journeys a week into town with a load of 400 to 500 palings. During his last two years he exchanged his cart for a waggon drawn by three horses, with another in reserve; and was thus enabled to increase his load to 800 palings. The horses' keep cost little beyond what the farm

produced. Bags of chaff were taken for the journey in and out of town, which occupied two days; and when not at work the horses grazed on the farm. By the time his lease expired he had saved a considerable sum; and, his wife's health being delicate, he was enabled to take and stock a farm in a warmer and more settled part of the country.

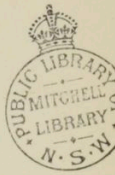
A. D. became my neighbour on the departure of E. N. He had been in the Colony about twenty years, and owned a hundred acres of bush land in this neighbourhood. At one time he had cleared a few acres, but had not settled on the property, and during a visit to the gold fields in New Zealand, had allowed the wattles, &c., to take possession of his clearing. Apparently averse to bush life, he had for many years rented a farm near Launceston, and, besides building a house upon it, had spent both labour and money in clearing a large part of scrub. On his lease expiring, his landlord raised the rent, and he subsequently gave up the tenancy. Had he originally settled on his own land, and spent his time and money in clearing it, instead of improving a property not his own, he would long since have been the owner of a comfortable farm, instead of finding himself, on resigning the one he

had rented, in much the same position as when he arrived in the Colony. Since his advent, however, to Myrtle Bank, the tin mines near Ringarooma have opened up, bringing numerous travellers to his accommodation house, and he is now building a larger and more suitable one on some land he has purchased nearer the main road. He contracts for the carriage of tin ore from the mines to a depôt on the main road, by means of pack horses, the return load being provisions for the miners. He employs his son and nephew on this work, and he looks after the farm himself, and is also clearing his own land again. He also carts paling into town during the summer months. A. D.'s case shows how much better it is for an immigrant to make his way at once boldly into the bush and settle there, than to waste his time and means for the sake of living in more settled districts. Both A. D. and his predecessor have large families to support. T. A. owns about fifty acres of land on the other side of the farm I rent. He also has been in the Colony some years, and whilst in service saved sufficient to buy his farm, partially cleared, with a house, &c., upon it. He also carts palings during the summer months into town. When I arrived he had only a cart for this work, but he has since set up a waggon, and

is evidently prospering. When not carting, he clears and cultivates his farm, and has now nearly cleared the whole of it. He is also a family man.

A brother of A. D. owns a farm about two miles off. Before settling in the district he led a roving life, and made a good deal of money at the gold mines, but managed to get rid of it. Having married a year or two before my arrival, he built a house, and settled down on his bush land, which, like his brother, he had acquired years previously, but had not utilized, and he has now cleared some sixty acres. Having little capital, it has been somewhat of a struggle hitherto to make both ends meet, but his present position as owner of a farm, rent free, with house, stabling, and outbuildings upon it, and a garden and orchard, fully repays his exertions, and the only pity is that he did not settle in the bush when he first acquired this land.

All these men belonged to the labouring class in England, and came out without capital. Had they not emigrated they could not have risen in life as they have done. R. J. owns thirty acres of land adjoining my selections. He has lived upon it for over ten years, and has mostly cleared it. He is one of what are called the "old hands," few of whom acquire land, and was sent out to



the Colony about twenty-five years ago. Since his discharge, he has been a hard-working man, sometimes splitting, sometimes clearing land on contract, and has earned a great deal of money, but has an unfortunate propensity "to work it down" as soon as earned. His actual living, as a single man, costs next to nothing, and, but for his fatal passion, his farm would support him in comfort, but, as it is, I doubt whether he will not yet part with his land, and die in destitution.

These are all the neighbours I have within a radius of four miles, except splitters, who come and go, erecting a temporary hut on arrival to work out a contract for palings, and generally putting a firestack in it on leaving. From these cases an immigrant may probably form some idea of what he may look forward to, should he determine on settling in the bush. There is still an advantage, a great one, which I have not mentioned. There are, generally, in the bush no public houses at hand to tempt the working man, who may go for months together, without tasting a drop of liquor. Settlers, however, make a good deal, and at such times as Christmas, generally arrange with one of the carters to bring out a five-gallon cask of beer, or a couple of bottles of spirits.

XV.

ADVICE TO THE HIGHER CLASSES.

HITHERTO I have addressed myself more especially to the labouring class, and to those who, though not coming under that denomination, can command but a small amount of capital; but, before concluding, I will add a few remarks for the consideration of those in a higher position in the social scale.

Many persons can command a certain amount of capital, say a couple of thousand pounds, who are really perplexed for a livelihood. The interest of the money, if invested in the funds or any safe security, will not be sufficient, even for a single man to live upon, and there is probably an objection to going into trade. The only thing a man in England so circumstanced can do, if not brought up to a profession, is to look out for an appointment of some sort or other, and treat the interest of his two thousand pounds simply as pocket-money. In other words, having the

means, which, if properly utilised, would enable him to live in independence, he prefers to barter his freedom for a livelihood. But what with general education and competitive examinations, suitable appointments become daily more scarce and difficult to procure. German and other foreigners, who can write and speak two or three languages, and live at a quarter the expense of an Englishman, compete for appointments in mercantile houses; and the son of the small tradesman, mechanic, &c., instead of sticking to his father's trade, prefers to change the fustian jacket and cap for the cloth coat and chimney-pot of a clerk, with the view of rising, forsooth, from the position of a working man to that of a gent—and to gratify this desire, he is content to earn half the wage his father's trade would bring him, and carry on a perpetual struggle on a wretched pittance to keep up the appearances his new position in life entails at the cost of comfort. Were emigration to increase ten-fold among the lower classes it would not sensibly diminish this competition for genteel employment, now that education is becoming more and more general. The strong and healthy might emigrate, but numbers would remain available for clerkships. In fact, the middle classes must cease to reckon upon these

indoor employments as their perquisites in the battle of life.

A man, married or single, the happy possessor of a couple of thousand pounds, if not too wedded to town life, may do far better by emigrating. I am acquainted with a gentleman who arrived from England with his wife and family, three years since. He brought with him about that amount, and has taken up a block of over six hundred acres of bushland, fifteen miles beyond this, of which he has now cleared over two hundred acres. On first arrival he put up a weatherboard hut, in which he lived with his family till this winter, when he removed into a large, well-built house, which he has had constructed from his own designs, and under his immediate superintendence. He had farmed for many years at home, and more recently had been in business in London; but both he and his wife declare that they have never been happier than during these three years of bush life. A man works with a will, and therefore with pleasure, when he feels that every hour and shilling he expends on his work will produce ten-fold in future years.

There are, however, many, no doubt, who would object to the isolation of bush life. In

that case, a small farm may be rented or purchased in a more settled part of the island; and probably a sheep run of a few thousand acres in the vicinity might be rented from Government. A few hundreds expended in stocking these would produce a good return; or, if some business occupation be preferred, the mineral wealth of the Colony, which will probably at no distant date render Tasmania one of the most important of the Colonies, is being just now largely developed; and any one with a little capital—a very little will suffice—may personally take up and work a claim with every chance of success. Individuals personally superintending the working of their own claims are far more likely to succeed than companies.

Again, persons with limited incomes may live far more comfortably in Tasmania than in England. All the necessaries of life are cheaper, taxes are light, and without question the climate is excellent. Hobart Town or Launceston will compare favourably with any provincial town at home. There are churches of every denomination; and, in fact, all the requirements of civilized life are equally well provided for.

Education is amply provided for all classes. In adition to numerous private schools, at which

a sound classical or commercial education may be had at much the same terms as are charged in England, a public school is allowed whenever a regular attendance of twenty children can be obtained. The Board of Education provides these schools with certificated teachers, male and female, who, in addition to a regular salary, receive from the parents fees for the children at the following rates:—

Full-time Schools.

	Per week.	Per month.	Per quarter.
Per child	9*d.*	2*s.* 6*d.*	6*s.*
Two children of the same family, each	7*d.*	2*s.*	5*s.*
Three or more do., each	6*d.*	1*s.* 8*d.*	4*s.*

Half-time Schools.

Per child	6*d.*	1*s.* 8*d.*	4*s.*
Two children of the same family, each	4*d.*	1*s.* 3*d.*	3*s.* 6*d.*
Three or more do., each	3*d.*	1*s.*	3*s.*

Parents who are unable to pay these fees may have them reduced or entirely remitted on application to the Board.

The Council of Education holds an annual examination for the degree of Associate of Arts

(A. A. degree) open to all competitors of any age and of either sex. The Council also confers two Tasmanian Scholarships annually of the value of £200 per annum and tenable for four years at a B itish University.

A Gilchrist Scholarship of £100 a year, tenable for three years either at the University of Endinburgh or at University College, London, is biennally awarded, and a "Dry" Scholarship every year—also two exhibitions of £20, tenable for four years, and annually bestowed on boys under fourteen on certain conditions. Lastly, local examinations for Matriculation at the Melbourne University are held twice a year under the superintendence of the Council.

Tasmania becomes every year more and more the resort of visitors from all the neighbouring Colonies, whether with a view to recruiting health or spending a pleasant holiday. Delightful tours may be made in all directions, and every variety of scenery is to be met with. For those fond of the sea-side the south-east coast would be found a charming locality.

If country life be preferred there are pleasant little towns and villages accessible by rail throughout all the central parts of the island, and as to rural pursuits a small farm may be

had at a moderate rent which will give healthy occupation, and at the same time enable a man with a small income to indulge in many things, which otherwise he could not afford. He could keep a horse or two without feeling the expense, kill his own meat at half the price charged by the butchers, who here, as elsewhere, take the lion's share of the profits, and have unlimited supplies of vegetables, milk, butter, poultry, &c.

The voyage out in one of the numerous steamships that now make the run in about six weeks is nothing less than a pleasure trip, in fact, far more agreeable and comfortable than the yachting indulged in by the wealthy, and the cost is not greater than living at a good hotel for the same period.

The great, in fact, the only real drawback to emigration is the supposed severance of old friendships and family ties, but when this is calmly considered it will be found to be far less serious than at first thought appears. It is an idea which belongs to the past. The voyage is no longer a matter of six months. People no longer live as a rule in one town or village all their lives, but think nothing of removing, business permitting, from one place to another, thereby

causing nearly as great a severance of old ties as emigrating. Postal communications are regular and frequent, and it costs less to send a letter from one side of the world to the other now than in former times from one side of England to the other; and, in fine, if, after a sojourn of greater or less duration, a man wishes himself back in the old country, no great difficulty stands in the way. He will always find a ship leaving within a month, and so within a quarter of a year he may have his wish fulfilled.

Lastly, a capitalist in search of investments will find opportunities in Tasmania rarely to be met with. For a long time enterprise lay dormant, but within the last two years it has roused itself. Prospecting parties are out in all directions, and fresh discoveries are being made every day. Gold, silver, tin, copper, iron, coal, and slate, and stone of the best description, are being met with in all directions, and all that is needed for the full development of these mines of wealth are capital and labour.

The following statistics will show that the Colony has been making considerable progress during the past ten years; but I venture to predict that this is as nothing to what the next decade will show:—

CUSTOMS RETURNS.

Returns of the Amount of Customs Duties collected, and Value of Imports and Exports annually during the past ten years.

The following are the comparative returns of Customs Duties received for the years 1877 *and* 1878 :—

1877.

	Hobart Town.			Launceston.			Total.		
	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*	£	*s.*	*d.*
January ...	7,184	12	9	7,634	16	8	14,819	9	5
February	8,302	2	7	7,372	5	5	15,674	8	0
March ...	9,813	15	7	7,940	14	11	17,754	10	6
April ...	8,051	16	0	8,258	7	11	16,310	3	11
May ...	7,930	17	7	7,064	18	0	14,995	15	7
June ...	6,258	14	11	9,279	4	10	15,537	19	9
July ...	7,214	15	5	8,187	1	0	15,401	16	5
August ...	8,025	19	4	7,377	14	6	15,403	13	10
September	7,899	15	0	9,417	4	5	17,316	19	5
October ...	9,659	7	8	10,665	13	1	20,325	0	9
November	15,328	11	10	7,087	4	4	22,415	16	2
December	9,083	5	11	10,692	16	6	19,776	2	5
	104,753	14	7	100,977	1	7	205,731	16	2

1878.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
January ...	9,558	1	4	7,946	10	6	17,504	11	10
February	8,764	19	3	6,103	13	6	14,868	12	9
March ...	11,427	13	1	8,137	15	5	9,565	8	6
April ...	7,776	1	8	9,303	4	1	17,079	5	9
May ...	10,816	12	7	8,213	14	11	19,030	7	6
June ...	7,399	9	5	6,984	0	7	14,383	10	0
July ...	7,399	8	8	7,541	13	9	14,941	2	5
August ...	8,154	2	10	8,491	11	10	16,645	14	8
September	9,546	9	9	7,906	6	3	17,452	16	0
October ...	13,668	2	7	9,938	3	7	23,606	6	2
November	15,196	0	11	9,793	12	2	24,989	13	1
December	8,599	18	2	7,562	5	2	16,162	3	4
	118,307	0	3	97,922	11	9	216,229	12	0

Increase, £10,497 15*s.* 10*d.*

The following are the returns for four years :—

	1875	1876	1877	1878
	£	£	£	£
January ...	11,431	12,522	14,819	17,505
February ...	13,420	14,921	15,674	14,869
March	18,060	17,236	17,755	19,565
April	17,639	13,625	16,310	17,079
May	15,057	17,493	14,996	19,030
June	13,338	14,009	15,538	14,384
July	11,378	13,630	15,402	14,941
August ...	15,230	17,452	15,404	16,645
September ...	13,937	13,397	17,317	17,453
October ...	17,333	19,373	20,325	23,606
November ...	19,778	18,051	22,416	24,990
December ...	18,053	17,138	19,776	16,162
	184,654	188,847	205,732	216,629

Comparative return of Consolidated Revenue for four years, ending 31*st December* 1878 :—

	1875	1876	1877	1878
Customs, net ...	181,212	185,011	201,956	211,029
Inland ,, ...	62,103	63,202	73,127	79,167
Territorial,, ...	50,397	39,622	49,574	54,299
Railway Traffic	19,413	18,373	18,398	*22,141
Railway rate ...	10,558	——	——	——
Miscellaneous ...	16,384	16,700	14,393	14,393
	340,067	322,908	357,448	381,029

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Returns of Imports and Exports for the years 1875, 1876, 1877, *and* 1878, *exclusive of sub-ports* :—

IMPORTS.

	1875 £	1876 £	1877 £	1878 £
January ...	93,622	59,291	78,148	97,168
February ...	118,362	85,021	102,564	114,156
March ...	145,441	115,816	125,819	126,265
April	86,775	68,638	100,268	86,975
May	72,182	94,054	86,246	104,644
June	80,692	63,610	101,682	74,139
July	46,937	62,816	89,437	83,479
August ...	100,668	115,583	82,758	100,229
September ...	88,914	91,131	114,461	106,638
October ...	108,487	81,387	112,043	138,521
November ...	101,533	96,321	141,949	145,549
December ...	103,646	105,013	121,482	81,059
	1,147,262	1,082,721	1,256,857	1,266,822

* Includes amount of Tolls and Compensation received from Main Line Railway Company.

EXPORTS.

	1875	1876	1877	1878
	£	£	£	£
January ...	111,964	169,172	224,712	224,854
February ...	176,336	131,964	162,133	118,534
March ...	185,099	146,690	177,956	155,042
April	113,247	94,997	89,000	108,092
May	57,319	62,639	88,785	62,488
June	45,530	79,003	72,524	60,202
July	34,246	41,673	59,248	67,551
August ...	56,306	72,490	71,964	77,622
September ...	44,601	68,680	60,031	55,113
October ...	45,285	44,652	59,833	51,407
November ...	46,220	37,267	54,590	75,514
December ...	92,277	117,052	206,398	194,548
	1,008,430	1,066,279	1,327,174	1,250,967

MINERAL EXPORTS.

GOLD.

Return of the Value of Gold exported during the years 1875, 1876, 1877, *and* 1878 :—

	1875	1876	1877	1878
	£	£	£	£
January ...	1,754	1,400	4,464	2,917
February ...	3,507	—	6,000	1,302
March	2,678	1,550	632	4,106
April	125	3,950	—	4,472
May	404	1,365	4,171	2,780
June	350	7,170	—	3,912
July	300	—	2,674	2,040
August ...	—	1,040	3,195	6,165
September ...	1,441	7,508	1,343	3,995
October ...	685	9,734	2,104	8,363
November ...	1,080	6,750	204	10,590
December ...	1,441	1,290	2,177	8,470
	13,765	41,757	26,959	59,122

TIN.

Return of the Value of Tin and Tin Ore exported for the years 1875, 1876, 1877, *and* 1878 :—

	1875	1876	1877	1878
	£	£	£	£
January ...	——	2,630	23,914	41,985
February ...	2,464	8,940	25,448	27,019
March	10,295	9,335	37,190	40,050
April	5,100	6,160	31,639	31,897
May	4,740	5,943	25,354	21,292
June	40	13,295	16,807	23,610
July	40	7,650	20,339	28,891
August ...	190	9,210	18,390	28,849
September ...	125	6,797	15,151	19,242
October ...	3,655	4,353	20,692	11,525
November ...	160	5,216	17,294	7,269
December ...	4,320	13,525	30,900	28,551
	31,129	93,054	283,118	308,580

APPENDIX.

IMMIGRATION LAWS.

EMIGRATION to Tasmania is assisted by means of "Bounty Tickets," which may be procured in the Colony, or from the Emigrant and Colonist Aid Corporation, 25, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster, where *full particulars* can be obtained. The regulations and payments under this system are as follows:—

PAYMENTS REQUIRED FROM APPLICANTS.

For a family ticket, including a man and his wife, with all their children under twelve years of age, at the time of embarkation £15; for a ticket for a single female £5; for a ticket for a single male £10. All children of twelve years of age and upwards at the time of embarkation, are

to be considered as adults, and must have each a separate single ticket.

BOUNTY RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

For each adult, £16; for each child of three years of age and under twelve at the time of embarkation, £8; for each child under three years of age at the time of embarkation, £4.

Applicants for Bounty Tickets must fill up one of the printed forms of application, which will be supplied by the secretary to the corporation stating the sex, age, and class of the immigrant they are desirous of introducing.

No ticket will be issued for the introduction of any "single" person above the age of 60 years at the time of sailing of the vessel from the United Kingdom unless upon payment of £16; and documentary evidence of the age of any immigrant must be produced, when required, to the satisfaction of the Immigration Agent upon the immigrant's arrival in the Colony, otherwise the person introducing such immigrant will be liable for the whole of the passage money.

In the case of families, if the parents or either of them are over the age of 60 years at the time of sailing, the deposit to be made by the person procuring the ticket will be £20.

The person introducing an immigrant under a Bounty Ticket who shall be found upon arrival not to be in accordance with the description given in the application shall be liable to repay to the Immigration Agent, on demand, any money which may have been paid from public funds, on account of such immigrant.

The immigrant must sign an engagement for himself and family to the effect that he will not leave the Colony within four years after arrival, without paying one of the Immigration Agents one-fourth of the passage money for every year short of the four years, and a proportionate sum for every part of a year. Persons sending for their friends or relatives under the bounty system are expected to provide for their reception on arrival, or will have to pay to the Government a charge of two shillings per day for their support.

FREE GRANTS OF LAND.

Under the Immigration Act of 1867, the Immigration Agents abroad are empowered to issue to approved emigrants, proceeding to Tasmania from Europe at their own expense, land-order warrants, entitling the holders, on arrival in the Colony, to

a land-order in respect of such person named therein.

Such land-orders to be of the nominal value of £18 for each immigrant of and over 15 years of age, and of £9 for each child, between twelve months and fifteen years of age; and to be available for their full value in payment for land purchased under the Waste Lands' Act, 1863.

The seventh and following sections provide that any cabin or intermediate passenger arriving from Europe or India, with the intention of settling in the Colony, and who has not received a land-order under the previous section, may at any time within twelve months after his arrival obtain from the Board of Immigration a certificate, entitling him to select thirty acres of land; if married, he shall be entitled, within twelve months after the arrival of his family, to future certificates, authorising the selection of twenty acres in respect of his wife, and ten acres in respect of each child, selection to be made within a year after the date of the certificates. These certificates will also be received by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, in payment for lands selected for purchase under the Waste Lands' Act, 1863.

Persons purchasing or selecting land by virtue

of these land-orders or certificates, must reside for five years in Tasmania, before they become entitled to grants from the Crown of such land; but in the event of death before the expiration of the five years, their heirs-at-law or devisors shall be forthwith entitled to the grants.

In the event of the condition of residence not being complied with, the order lapses, and the land reverts to the Government.

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SUPPLEMENTARY CHAPTER.

A GOLD FIELD.

SINCE sending the preceding chapters to press (that is, within the last two months), a gold field has been developed within six miles of Myrtle Bank, which bids fair to rival the richest in the Australian Colonies. For long past this part of the colony has been known from its geological formation to be auriferous, and at different times a straggling prospector has found gold in one gully or another, but not in payable quantities. Even on my farm traces are to be seen, and, doubtless, when the neighbourhood is thoroughly prospected, numerous deposits will be discovered.

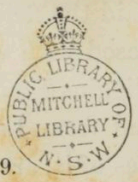
In regard to the gold field I am now writing about, hitherto known as Mount Arthur, but renamed Lisle by the Governor on the occasion of his visit to it last week: its discovery is due to two brothers, the Bessells, who have been prospecting the district for the last nine months. During that time they have generally found gold

in sufficient quantities to keep them in "tucker," and more recently their earnings averaged probably £1 a-day. Having finally fixed upon a likely site for continuous operations upon a creek, now called Bessell after them, they pegged out their claim and made application for the allotment in the usual manner. It is scarcely two months since the discovery of the field, which extends for a couple of miles along the creek, and already the population is reckoned at one thousand. Of these perhaps one half have taken up claims (now limited to a quarter of an acre with a chain's breadth) along the creek, and are clearing on an average about £5 per man per week. Others are prospecting the adjacent ranges and gullies, and some of these have happened on good finds. When over there last week, I heard of a couple of lads who had just pegged out a claim for themselves, and washed twelve oz. of gold, (nearly £50 worth), in two days. I was greatly astonished at the alteration that had taken place in the appearance of the field. Where three months since all was dense scrub and not a hut to be seen, now all sorts of tenements have arisen, including several stores. Two hotels are in course of erection. A township is being laid out by a government surveyor, which will pro-

bably contain a population of several thousands before the year closes. Meanwhile the sound of the hammer reverberates on all sides. The bed of the creek is not easily found, for the water has been diverted in all directions by races for sluicing purposes. No loafers are to be seen, all are busy, either sluicing, prospecting, building, or trading, and all are well contented with their gains. The field is especially at present "a poor man's diggings." Few rich finds have yet turned up, but all are making more than "tucker," that is, from 10s. to 20s. a day; which, provisions being reasonable, is good pay. It is calculated that there is at least a couple of years' alluvial washing along the creek, and it is to be expected that meanwhile reefs will be met with. The Governor, Mr. Wild; the Premier, Mr. Reibey; and the Minister of Lands, Mr. O'Reilly, paid the field a visit last week, and were much pleased with what they saw. A good road to the "diggins" and the improvement of the existing road from Launceston, which comes within five miles of it, are urgently required, and this they seemed to realize, but it will not now be possible to complete these works before the winter sets in.

I may here mention that within the last year another gold field, situated on the banks of

the Tamar and also within easy reach of Launceston, has grown into great importance. Until recently it was known as Brandy Creek, but by desire of the township, which has a population of several thousand, the Governor on the occasion of his visit last week, re-christened it, very appropriately, Beaconsfield. This is a far more advanced gold field than Lisle, and very fine reefs have been met with, and crushings of between 4 and 5 oz. to the ton have been obtained. As half-an-ounce to the ton pays, this is very good. Our numerous gold and tin discoveries are daily attracting miners and others from the neighbouring colonies, and when made known in England will doubtless induce many, now suffering by all accounts severely from depression of trade, to decide on emigrating to Tasmania.



Myrtle Bank,
18*th March*, 1879.