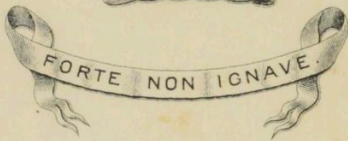


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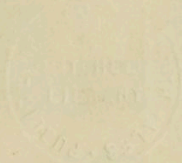
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Alfred Lee.

CASE *SHELF*

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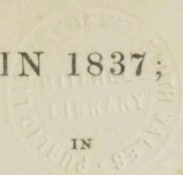
PART OF
South Australia.
 from the Surveys of
Colonel Light.

Jane Franklin

C. J. La Trobe

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

IN 1837;



1088

A SERIES OF LETTERS:

WITH A

POSTSCRIPT AS TO 1838.

BY

ROBERT GOUGER, ESQ.

SECOND EDITION,

WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

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INTRODUCTION.

FEELING convinced that if on arrival in England I found South Australia exciting much public interest, I should have numerous demands upon me for "full particulars" regarding the province, and that to repeat to each enquirer an already "ten times told tale," would occupy more time and patience than I should be able to bring to the occupation, I amused myself during my return to England, by extracting from my letters to private friends, and putting into a little more arranged shape, such information as I thought might be publicly acceptable. My anticipations I find realized. South Australia is exciting deep interest; and my best mode of answering the enquiries made of me is to publish a sketch of its condition and prospects. If I have ventured thus to come before the public, my motive in doing so has simply consisted in an attempt to save to myself and others, time and trouble.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

LETTER I.

ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PROVINCE.

You ask, what attaches me so closely to this province of South Australia? What induces me to prefer it to any other colony?

I answer, its constitution; first, as regards the disposal of the land; and secondly, its principles of government. I put the disposal of the land first, and the principles of government second, for this reason; that in my opinion a good government cannot make a new country prosperous where the means by which public land becomes private property are badly arranged, and a bad government can do no more than annoy and *temporarily* injure a country where a judicious system of disposing of public land is permanently established. In South Australia, as I believe, the very best system of disposing of public land has been adopted, and it is rendered permanent by an act of parliament, a circumstance which prevails in no other colony belonging to Britain.

The leading principles which control the mode

by which the public land of South Australia may become the property of individuals are—

1st. Uniform disposition by grant, instead of by gift, or reward for services performed.

2nd. Absolute freehold of the land to be granted, on condition of an uniform rate of deposit to an emigration-fund.

3rd. Such rate of deposit to be determined by the cost of conveyance to the colony of the number of mechanics and labourers required for the cultivation of the land granted, and for the general purposes of the community.

4th. The emigration fund so raised to be expended in the conveyance to the province, from Great Britain or Ireland, of young, healthy, poor persons of both sexes, in equal proportions.

The advantages to be derived from carrying out these principles are many and various; I shall just glance at them, and leave you to make yourself more completely acquainted with them by a perusal of either of the books in the annexed note, in which the principles are fully explained.*

1st. The mode of disposing of land involved in these principles deprives a bad government of one means of corruption.†

How many have been bought or silenced by a

* "England and America," published by Bentley, 2 vols. "Colonization of South Australia," by Col. Torrens, 1 vol. "Evidence taken before a Committee of the House of Commons, on the disposal of Land in the British Possessions. 1836."

gift of land, have been oppressed by arbitrarily withholding land, or have not dared to complain when they have had ample cause, by their requiring a gift of land, let our neighbouring colonies determine. On this point the South Australian act is clear, and we are preserved by it from any injury of the kind.

2nd. These principles prevent an undue dispersion of the settlers.

In other colonies, where land has been given away in such blocks that it became impossible for the proprietors to cultivate their possessions, and where the facility of obtaining land from the government prevented other persons seeking to become their tenants, the dispersion which has arisen from the intervening blocks of unused land has been very injurious. Again, when land has been reserved by the government for its own purposes or for the church, the dispersion has been extended. In some colonies this evil has arisen to an extraordinary height. In South Australia no reserves can be made, excepting for roads and footpaths, and the government is obliged to purchase of the commissioners even the ground on which the government-house and public buildings are intended to be placed.

As a good deal has been said about the degree to which the advocates of these principles think it proper concentration should be carried, or in other words, dispersion should be avoided, I will explain a little here. The colonization commissioners do

not mean the concentration they wish to produce in any way to interfere with the profitable employment of capital, or with the wishes of individuals in respect to the selection of their land. On the contrary, they are desirous that every person appropriating land should be enabled, by the great extent to which the surveys should be carried, to exercise perfect freedom of choice. They imagine that if you, coming out here, should wish to pay the requisite deposit for a piece of surveyed land though a hundred miles off, that you must have some peculiar reason for making that selection, and that they ought not to controul such wish: the amount of deposit to the emigration-fund, whereby alone such land can be appropriated, is sufficiently large to prevent your placing it there, if you did not think you could, by such investment and acquisition of land, produce a more profitable return to capital than by any nearer selection. Controlling you in your choice of land, and obliging you to select nearer the capital, or in any other particular spot, simply because the colonial commissioner thinks it available and good land, would be to prevent that freedom of choice to which all are entitled, and would force an undue concentration almost as much to be dreaded as a forced or undue dispersion of the population.

The desirable point of density of population is that where the greatest combination of labour and division of employments may be made to obtain compatible with ample wages to the labourer. At this point all would be prosperous, the capitalist

would receive the greatest possible return for the capital he employed, and the labourer would have an abundance of the necessaries and comforts of life. What this point is no one has ventured to determine; it would vary in different countries according to the circumstances of the country, and the kind of employment found most profitable under those circumstances; but however this may be in South Australia, whatever the kind of employment most adapted to the country, the plan of importing labourers in proportion to the labour required to be performed will meet any exigency, and may be made applicable to any set of circumstances; whether the climate and soil should be ultimately found to be fit for the breeding of sheep only, requiring comparatively but few hands, or for the culture of the grape, the olive, and other horticultural pursuits generally requiring the presence of many hands at the same time, in the same place, and for a long duration of time, the plan adopted will meet the emergency; a small or large deposit to the emigration-fund in the appropriation of land will cause such an influx of population as would enable a proprietor to combine labour to the extent required for the kind of cultivation intended to be pursued.

It has been urged by some that this mode of disposing of public land is nothing but a species of sale at a very high price, and that land can be got at a much lower rate in other colonies. In reply to this argument I offer the following facts relative to the only other British colony of which I have

personal knowledge, Van Dieman's Land. I leave out of this question now the purpose to which the purchase-money of land is applied, because, though in the case of South Australia the money is returned in the form of imported labourers, in Van Dieman's Land convicts are brought to the settler's door by application to the government. In South Australia, land of the first quality is to be had in the greatest abundance by the payment of £1. an acre to the emigration-fund: of this land, upon comparison with much in Van Dieman's Land of the very best kind, two acres in a state of nature will be required to keep one sheep; in Van Dieman's Land no such land is now to be obtained of the government; it is all appropriated; and of that which is now open, four acres would be required to keep one sheep. I speak upon this point, not only from my own observation, but upon the concurrent testimony of some of the oldest colonists and best judges in Van Dieman's Land. Again, in South Australia, land, peculiarly valuable by situation, can be obtained of the commissioners at the same rate as country land in Van Dieman's Land; it is now impossible to get any suburban or town lots without paying a very high price; in proof of which I quote from some valuable returns made by the colonial secretary of Van Dieman's Land to Governor Arthur in 1836, since which time the prices have increased. The average of the last three years given in those returns, shows 9s. 1d. per acre to be the price of country land purchased of the government, and of the town and suburban lots

£15. 14s. 3d. per acre is the average quoted; and one year, in which the greatest extent of land was sold, gave an average of £33. 14s. 9d. per acre, as the price paid to the government. Estimating then, the comparative fertility of the land to be procured at South Australia for £1. per acre, and that of Van Dieman's Land for 9s. 1d., a fertility at least two to one in favour of South Australia, together with the advantage of situation without additional price, I leave you to form an unprejudiced opinion, as to the relative dearness or cheapness of land in the two places.

But the actual selling price of land in Van Dieman's Land may be shown more accurately in another way. During "the good old times" of colonial land-giving, orders for land were frequently issued to favoured individuals, but who, not intending to use that land, did not even take the trouble to select it. These "unlocated orders," as they are called, are now often sold by auction, and the price they obtain is from 23s. to 25s. per acre. The only peculiar advantage which attaches to these orders is the privilege of selecting the land, and getting the title *instantaneously*, in that particular coming up to the South Australian mode of disposing of land. The purchaser of an unlocated order has no auction to wait for, as soon as he has fixed upon a piece of land answering his purpose he goes to the proper officer, has his location registered and the title completed.

3rd. The adoption of these principles secures to

the person thus appropriating land the labour wherewith to cultivate it.

In Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales the settlers cultivate their land chiefly by means of convicts, and all government-works are performed by them. Were it not for this species of slave-labour those colonies would be without roads or any public works, the farms would not be cultivated, the flocks and herds would run wild, and the principalities would exist, but not their princes; at any rate, if with the indomitable courage of Britons they still stuck to their possessions, they would be a wandering horde of half-savages, instead of keeping a splendid establishment and quietly rolling along in their carriages, or frisking about in their tandems. And this may be made clear. No regulation has ever been made for introducing labourers in proportion to the land to be cultivated or used. But for convicts, then, the settler must have performed all works by himself, or with the aid of his family alone; for if he brought out servants with him from England, they would not long have remained with him, feeling their power, and being themselves anxious to become lords of the soil. A man cannot be always, at his own cost, importing labourers; if he tried a second time he would again be disappointed; they would leave him as before, and he would be again alone.

In South Australia provision is made for the supply of labour without the introduction of the mass of crime which prevails in the convict-settlements; and upon a labourer becoming a land-

holder, his deposit in the emigration-fund provides the means of bringing to the province another labourer to supply his place. The number of labourers now being imported into the province, in proportion to the land appropriated, is three men and three women for every 100 acres; but I feel no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that this number is by no means sufficient to produce the required end, and therefore that the subscription per acre to the emigration-fund must be increased. Of the persons imported as labourers many bring out with them sufficient property to enable them at once to embark in employments which take them out of the labour-market; and others, who have not committed this fraud upon the commissioners, (for I can give it no milder name,) and who are really poor men, naturally follow their trades, which sometimes have nothing to do with the actual cultivation of the soil; of this class are tailors, shoemakers, and some other artisans. These persons, being all necessary to a fixed population, ought to be conveyed to the province with other mechanics and labourers; but due allowance in the subscription to the emigration-fund should be made for such persons, as well as for labourers, who, having saved money by their honest industry, contrive after a short time to relinquish labour, become distributors of produce, and themselves employers of labour. Such persons, though abstracted from the labour-market, purchase no land, and therefore do not provide for the introduction of more labour.

4th. By selecting young adult people only as emigrants, means are adopted of increasing the population at the lowest cost, and by maintaining a due proportion between the sexes much vice is prevented.

Upon the first part of this arrangement I need hardly offer a remark. It is an economical mode of expending the emigration-fund, which, when suggested, at once forces itself upon the understanding of every one. It may also be said here that the distaste for emigration is seldom so strong among the young and enterprising as among the old, and the pain necessarily felt by the very young and tender is avoided, by the emigration of their parents at such an age as that the increase shall take place in the province. Upon the importance of maintaining a balance between the sexes, however, it is impossible to speak too strongly; and it can only be adequately felt, perhaps, by a person who has resided in a country where the proportion of females to males is fearfully small. Crimes of the most heart-rending as well as the most abhorrent kinds are constantly occurring in such places; and offences, for which the last punishment is awarded in England, are committed there without dread of such a result. From such horrors the province of South Australia is yet free, and perseverance in the present plan will doubtless keep it so.

Fortunately, again, it is rendered illegal for convicts to be transported to South Australia, and thus not only will the colony be protected against the

mass of hardened vice which flows in with such a population, but there will not be the tendency which such an institution brings with it to increase the proportion of males to females.* It is not easy to place too high a value on this freedom from criminals when viewed morally; and though it might be proved, perhaps, that with the large government expenditure a system of transportation brings with it, the colonists might more rapidly acquire wealth, I feel that in giving my own, I speak the sentiments of the great majority of our population when I say, that they would rather forfeit a part of their income than have their children contaminated by the language and habits of those about them, and themselves harassed and annoyed by the endeavour to keep their convicts in good order.

The carrying out of these principles is confined to a board of commissioners in England, appointed by her Majesty, by virtue of the act of parliament founding the province.† By this act, 4 and 5 W.

* The returns which I have before mentioned, show that in Van Dieman's Land the gross number of females is about one to two and a half in the whole population, and as one to seven among the convicts.

† The intelligent colonists, as a body, feel themselves under a large debt of gratitude to the gentlemen holding the office of commissioners; when the project of founding the province appeared to the minds of many thinking men to be chimerical in the extreme, being convinced of the propriety of the measure, and of its success if established under good colonial management, they nobly stood forward and fearlessly encountered the loss of fame which would have ensued from an unpropitious result.

IV. c. 95, and by 1 and 2 V. c. 60, the commissioners are empowered to cause all the lands in the province to be surveyed; to dispose of such land to individuals who may wish to become possessed of it; to alter from time to time, as they may see fit, the amount of payment to the emigration-fund, whereby land becomes private property; to let to sheep or stock holders the right of pasturage over any land which may remain the property of the public; and they may alter and revoke, from time to time, any orders and regulations they may make for these purposes. The commissioners are also to receive any monies which may arise from this disposition of the land, and to use it in defraying the cost of the passage of poor labouring persons from Great Britain and Ireland to the province. They have also power to appoint any officers they may think fit, for accomplishing the objects above mentioned; and they may delegate to an officer residing in the province all their powers relative to the disposal of land.

With a view to preventing the province suffering from want of funds for the supply of labour, the commissioners have also power to borrow, at the colonial rate of interest (ten per cent.) or under, the sum of £50,000 on the security of the land of the province, to be placed to the credit of the emigration-fund; and a further loan, to the extent of £200,000, if necessary, for the maintenance of the government; and they may temporarily transfer, from either of these funds to the other, any surplus money which may not be required for its specific

purpose. Moreover, to prevent the province being a failure from want of capitalists, they were prevented commencing the settlement of the province until the sum of £35,000 should be raised as the purchase-money of land.

You will at once see that these powers are distinct from those of the government: the commissioners have no power to make laws; they cannot levy taxes; they have, in fact, no power whatever, except as relates to the disposal of land, the emigration of labourers, and the disposition of the funds they are the means of raising. Here, keeping within the provisions of the act, they have full power; the colonial government has nothing whatever to do with them, or with the business over which they are called upon to preside. The commissioners might just as well attempt to make laws or impose taxes, as the colonial government to try to control their surveys, or to order this piece of land or that to be surveyed for a town, or this person or that to make arrangements relative to emigrants. The line drawn between these powers is quite distinct.

Within a short time after their appointment in 1836, the commissioners succeeded in fulfilling the conditions of the act, by selling land to the required extent, and by raising a loan sufficient for the purposes of the government. The subordinate arrangements they have made have worked well; it has happened that more than double the number of labourers could have been employed than have been sent out during the year; but this could

not be known in England, and of the two evils, redundancy or want of labour, they wisely thought temporary scarcity the less detrimental.

I send you a copy of the terms issued for disposing of public land: they are too lucid to require comment.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ORDERS and REGULATIONS made by the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of the Act 4 & 5 William IV. cap 95; intituled "An Act to empower His Majesty to erect South Australia into a British Province or Provinces, and to provide for the Colonization and Government thereof. 9th May, 1838."

1. That all regulations for the disposal in the colony of public lands, except as regards sales made previous to the date hereof, be revoked.

2. The surveys of public land shall, as far as possible, be carried so much in advance of settled districts, that there shall at all times be an extent of land surveyed, and open to purchase, exceeding the wants of the colonists.

3. Surveyed lands shall be divided as nearly as may be into sections of eighty acres each, and maps of the surveyed lands, accompanied by the best practicable description of them, shall be constantly exhibited in the land-office.

4. One month's public notice shall be given of the time when any portion of public lands will first become open to purchase.

5. On some fixed day of every week, and at some fixed hour, the land-office shall be opened for the purpose of deciding upon applications for land: all applications must be made by sealed tender, by filling up a printed form, which will be supplied at the land-office: each tender must specify, by reference to the map, the section or sections for which the intending purchaser applies: all sections included in the same tender must adjoin each other: all tenders will be opened in public, and those received on the same day will

be opened at the same time: such tenders as do not comprise any section, included in any other tender, shall be first disposed of: when the same section or sections shall be named in two or more tenders, that tender shall be preferred which comprises the greatest quantity of land: when one or more sections shall be named in two or more tenders comprising equal quantities of land, then the tender to be preferred shall be decided by lot.

6. The sole condition of purchase shall be the payment of money at the rate of £1. sterling per acre, and nothing, whether above or below the surface of the land, will be reserved by the crown. Five per cent. on the amount of the purchase-money shall be deposited at the time of making the tender, and the remainder shall be paid within one week of the sale. If the remainder of the purchase-money be not paid within the time specified, the land shall be again open to purchase, and the deposit shall be forfeited.

7. The commissioners will sell land in England on the same terms as in the colony. Lands purchased under this regulation to be selected in the order of application in the colony; cases of equality in the order of application being decided by the order of the dates of purchase in England.

8. The leases of the pasturage of unsold lands shall be granted on the following conditions, among others; the term to be three years, the tenant having a right of renewal in preference to any other applicant. Cultivation of the soil, and the felling of timber to be disallowed. The land or any portion of it to be liable to sale, and if sold the lease to terminate on a notice of two months, the tenant having a right of renewal to unsold portions. The yearly rent to be 40s. sterling per square mile; but this regulation not to apply to proprietors of land contracted to be purchased before the 31st of August, 1836. No lease to contain any fractional part of a square mile of pasturage.

9. Any one who shall hereafter pay in advance to the proper officer either in England or in the colony, the price of 4,000 acres of land or upwards, shall have a right, for

every 4,000 acres thus paid for, to call on the colonial commissioner to direct the survey of any compact district within the colony of an extent not exceeding 15,000 acres, and within 14 days after the publication of such surveys at the land-office, to select his land from any part of such district before any other applicant. If two parties should apply at the same time for the same survey, the decision between them shall be according to rule 5.

10. An accurate statement of all purchases of land made and leases of pasturage granted, specifying the quantity and situation in each case, and the name of the purchaser or tenant, shall be published from time to time in the Colonial Gazette.

Sealed by order of the Board, May 16th, 1838.

L. S.

The government of the province is confided to a governor and council. Their powers as a council originally were unique, but, by a subsequent act of parliament, they have become similar to those obtaining in the same offices in other colonies, and consist in making laws, constituting courts, levying rates, duties, and taxes, and appointing officers for the peace, order, and good government of the province. Their duties are thus legislative and executive.

The funds for defraying the expenses of government were raised by the colonization commissioners in England, and they are therefore under their control. The act of parliament empowers the commissioners to borrow at or under the colonial rate of interest (ten per cent.) the sum of £200,000 for the purpose of founding the colony; that is to say, for the payment of salaries, building the go-

vernment house, public-offices, bridges, and for other public works. This loan is secured upon the colonial revenue, and in case this should fail, upon the land, after payment of any sum under £50,000 which may have been borrowed upon it for the purposes of emigration.

A constitution of local government is, by the act of parliament founding the province, promised to the colony so soon as the population of the province shall amount to fifty thousand souls.

LETTER II.

THE PROVINCE—SITE OF ADELAIDE, &c.

BEFORE my departure from England, we often conversed upon the advantages which appeared relatively to attach to Spencer's and St. Vincent's Gulfs for the first settlement. Kangaroo Island also was occasionally talked about. For some time the harbour of Port Lincoln dazzled me, and I was inclined to wish we might settle there. I have been long convinced that such a step would have been most erroneous, and that it is by no means necessary to the well-being of the colony that it should be located where "the whole British navy could ride with perfect ease," a favourite phrase at that time with me and my associates. We are much better off than we could have been there: we have a harbour sufficient for all our purposes: a town through which runs a never-failing stream of delicious water, and land which, to say the least, is far above the average of available land in these countries. The gentle elevation of the land on which the town is situated affords facilities for drainage; and in the immediate neighbourhood are picturesque hills, varying in height up to about 2,500 feet. We are within easy reach of the river Murray, which by the name

of the Murrumbidgee runs into some of the best districts of New South Wales, and by means of which we may, in time, have a profitable intercourse with our advanced and wealthy sister colony. Port Lincoln was not, however, disregarded by the surveyor-general, but before determining to settle elsewhere, he paid it a visit. The harbour he found to be surrounded by shoals, rocks, tide-ripples, and other difficulties, which render the approach very dangerous; but these passed, the harbour is all it has been described. The land he saw there was very stony and inferior.

The town of Adelaide is situated about six miles inland from the sea to the eastward, and about four miles from the range of hills above mentioned: it is in the midst of a very fertile plain, through which run, from the mountains towards the sea, several small streams of fresh water. In determining where to fix the chief town, Colonel Light had to consider whether it was more desirable to place it away from the harbour, but on a stream of fresh water, or at the harbour, but where all the fresh water the inhabitants required would have to be brought from a distance. He decided in favour of the first of these, and for many reasons he will be thanked for it by posterity. The only objection urged against the chief town being at a distance from the harbour, is the expense of conveying imports from the harbour to the town; but the distance is not great, and the country between them being nearly a dead level, nothing could be easier than to dig a canal, or put down a railroad, when the amount

of trade should render either worth the expense. There is no natural impediment: we have even now only strongly to wish for it, and means will soon be devised for effecting the desired end. A town will, however, eventually arise at the harbour; and such of the purchasers of the preliminary sections as desired it, were allowed by the colonial commissioners to select land there in lieu of town-acres in Adelaide. By this arrangement twenty-nine acres were taken there, and by it the chief town will be relieved from the presence of those low publicans and other loose people who are always found at ports, lying in wait for sailors. The town at the port will, in short, be to Adelaide what Wapping is to St. James's.

The town itself, besides the streets, squares, and public walks, occupies 1,000 acres, 300 of which are on the north side of the Torrens, the name given to the river dividing Adelaide. Around the town is a park 500 yards wide, retained for public walks; and in various parts of the town are six squares, besides some unequally-sided pieces, caused by the unevenness of the locality, and which are intended to be made, some time or other, ornamental places. Ten acres of land, close to the town, in a very beautiful position, and abutting on the Torrens, are reserved as the government domain; and upon these the government-hut is now standing. Some land is set apart for a botanical garden, and this comprises slopes of almost all available inclinations and aspects; this again abuts upon the Torrens, and is about a quarter of a mile

west of the town. The sites of a hospital, public cemetery, government stores, and schools, are placed outside the town, but on the park-land; and those of the public offices of the government, such as the colonial secretary's office, land-office, &c. are in the middle of the town. For the selection of this delightful spot, the plan of the town itself, and the arrangement of the public buildings, the province is deeply indebted to the highly cultivated taste of Colonel Light, and by way of showing that the public mind recognizes the sagacity displayed in the selection of the site of the capital, I will just give you two facts. On March 23, 1837, those who had deposited money for land in England, for the purpose of enabling the province to be founded, selected their town-allotments, and a few days afterwards, when the remaining acres of Adelaide were sold by public auction, they produced altogether the sum of £3,594. 4s., being at the rate of a little less than £7. an acre. While country-land could be obtained by the payment of £1. an acre, it is quite clear that nobody would give £7. an acre, unless for some particular or esteemed advantage: the situation fixed upon for the town was, in fact, generally thought judicious, and therefore a high price was given for the unsold lots. But the proof does not end here; the value of the town-land has risen progressively, but very rapidly, ever since the sale, some allotments having been sold for £80. an acre, and for others well situated, £160. has been offered and refused. But I must say a word or two upon this in another letter.

The greatest proportion of Adelaide is upon a bed of excellent limestone, an article by no means common throughout this continent: the other part of the town is on a bed of fine clay. Having occasion for a well upon my land in the town, I dug through about fifty feet of pure clay, fit for making the finest porcelain, and found water at the depth of fifty-six feet.

The land in the immediate neighbourhood of Adelaide is unequally wooded: between Adelaide and the harbour, about six miles, there is but little wood; and this remark will apply to the eastern side. On the town itself, however, and to its north and south, for some miles, there is a number of large gum-trees, amply sufficient for fire-wood and shade for cattle; and there being no brush-wood, the land between the trees, which may be averaged at six or seven to the acre, is covered with grasses of the richest quality. The hills, of which Mount Lofty ranges as one, command an extensive and very delightful prospect; occasionally, they are very precipitous, closely resembling the low Pyrenees, and are covered with gum and stringy-bark trees, the last of which woods is highly valuable for laths, shingles, and fencing. Some cedar has also been seen there.

Along the Torrens, to the east and west of the town, at the foot of and between the hills, are most delightful sites for farms and the residences of gentlemen; the views are perfectly lovely, and the land of the richest quality; indeed, all that I have

seen, with the exception of a few small sand-hills, is very rich soil, and covered with luxuriant grass; but having been unable myself to travel far over the country, my own personal experience of its capabilities is necessarily limited. Fortunately, however, my own want of personal knowledge is fully compensated by the discoveries and testimonies of some of the most intelligent and enterprising of the colonists; Mr. Mann, Mr. Morphett, Mr. Stephen Hack, Mr. Fisher, the colonial commissioner, Colonel Light, Mr. S. Stephens, and Mr. Wade, (a native Tasmanian, of considerable property, who, preferring South Australia to his native country, has settled there,) have explored very widely; and their united accounts amply prove the fitness of the country, not only for pastoral, but for agricultural pursuits. The gentlemen I have mentioned have each walked from Adelaide to Encounter Bay: Mr. Morphett, Mr. Stephens, and Mr. Wade have ascended Mount Barker; Mr. Fisher Mr. Morphett, Colonel Light, and Mr. Hack have been further north than any other persons, and they appear hardly to be able to make up their minds, as to which place preference ought to be given: and the extent of this excellent land appears to be almost unlimited. Before Colonel Light took his last journey northward, he informed me that he had either seen, or been over, upon a rough calculation, about 472,000 acres, of which not more than 80,000 acres were indifferent or unavailable land. The following extracts from a letter from

Mr. Wade, published in the *True Colonist*, of Hobart Town, sufficiently indicate his opinion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TRUE COLONIST.

Sir,

CONCEIVING that a short account of the observations I made during my visit to the new and interesting colony of South Australia may prove acceptable to your readers, I request you will indulge me by giving the following a place in your valuable columns:—

The soil is very rich generally; part of the plains Cowandilla, Onkaparinga, Aldinga, and those between Adelaide and the coast, are inferior to the generality of the soils there, but they are certainly superior to any thing in this colony. I do not assert that the soils are superior to our best, but their extent is so great as to give them an ascendancy over any thing we meet with here. In Van Dieman's Land we, perhaps, have as good soil as any in the world, but it is only met with in small patches, while the plains I speak of as inferior or second-rate soil in South Australia, are of greater extent than even our ordinary grazing land, Onkaparinga contains upwards of 100 square miles; Aldinga, and Cowandilla are nearly of equal extent, without any interruption of bad land. The soil of these plains is of a light red cast, with a limestone subsoil. They bear an immense crop of grass, but I think they will not stand the summer. I am informed that they are very luxuriant grazing lands in the spring and fall of the year, but when I visited them it was the height of summer, (December), and they then appeared dry. Some of them had been burnt while I was there; and I noticed, when leaving, some grass on a plain near Adelaide that had been burnt not a month previously, with new growth of grass at least four inches long. The quick growth is caused by the refreshing summer rains which always keep the round moist, or did while I was there, and I am in-

formed do so all through the summer, A portion of Cow-andilla plain is of a superior description of beautiful strong black soil, from which some of the native grasses had been taken for hay, and yielded abundantly for the trouble of gathering it. The land improves as you leave the coast, and is, in the neighbourhood of Mount Barker, superior to any I have seen in Van Dieman's Land. We certainly have as good soil in our low marshes, but those are of no extent, while in the vicinity of Mount Barker you find land equal in every respect to our marshes, of boundless extent, and with much richer and more luxuriant pasturage than I ever saw here, even in our artificial meadows. It is composed of lucerne, trefoil, vetch, kangaroo-grass, and here and there a straggling plant of a clover, resembling the *trifolium incarnatum*. These are indigenous to the soil, and form a pasture so thick that it is a labour to walk through it; the kangaroo-grass growing about five feet high, and yet of a very silky texture. What surprised me most was that it remained perfectly green while the grass here was on the wane, when I left this place to visit it. Nothing I can say would do justice to the opinion I conceived on the first excursion I made after my arrival; seeing a country of apparently boundless extent, running southward as far as the great Murray-river and Lake Alexandrina: northward as far as my eye could discover, from Mount Barker eastward, I could not tell how far; and westward, fifteen miles, beautifully undulated, loaded with the most luxuriant crop of green grass I ever saw, well watered by a river of delicious water. I thought the place a very paradise, and I now most unhesitatingly assert that as a pastoral or agricultural country, that portion must be equal to any in the known world. Nothing can surpass it.

On my visit to Encounter Bay, I met with land equally good, in every respect, to that above described, within five miles of the coast. This is called Mootaparinga, and has a river flowing through it. Further on again, between Mootaparinga and Adelaide, after crossing the first moun-

tains, I saw a plain of the same description ; this had also a river running through it ; and from what I saw, I am led to believe that the whole of the country is of the character above described. There can be no doubt of the land being very good on the banks of Lake Alexandrina and the Murray-river. The Murray has been navigated by Sturt, several hundred miles from the lake, and a river of its magnitude cannot fail to make the soil good from the immense deposit it must leave when it overflows. The land is not so well watered near the coast. The rivers decrease in size as you approach it, and the grass is not so durable as that more inland. The land here, as before, although not so good as our best, is, in my opinion, superior in usefulness to any in this colony, from its immense extent. It is tolerably good, or best second-rate, without the interruption of bad land. The only bad land I saw in the province, was in the vicinity of Encounter Bay, and some of the mountains on the road to Adelaide from that place. This was very barren, and covered with dwarf gums ; but even there the good land preponderated in quantity.

The climate is very regular, not subject to those sudden vicissitudes of heat and cold that we have here, and although somewhat warmer than this place, is not intolerably hot. The thermometer, while I was there, was on two or three occasions, as high as 132° , but this does not continue long, and is indicative of a change of weather. I do not remember having met with a single instance of a person affected with a cold while I was there. The longest continuation of dry weather was three weeks ; this, I was informed, was a very unusual occurrence ; the numerous genial summer showers quicken vegetation exceedingly.

The above is my opinion of the land, and I need not add more in confirmation of it, than that it is my intention to proceed to South Australia forthwith. I may add for the information of your readers, that all kinds of labour is exceedingly high. Any number of sawyers and splitters would find immediate employment at a very considerable advance on the wages received in this colony. Sawyers

are now receiving upwards of TWENTY SHILLINGS per 100 feet, and splitters equally high wages. Any labourers going from this place would benefit themselves, provided they could take credentials as to character. The inhabitants are very cautious who they employ, and will not engage men of bad character if they can get others. Any persons wishing employment, whether mechanics or labourers, will meet with employment at high wages. The labour-market is supplied by the commissioners, by expending the proceeds of the sale of land, in sending labourers from the mother-country. Hitherto wages have been so high, that the labourers soon save sufficient to enable them to become employers, and consequently drain the market.

Speculators will, in my opinion, meet with success in the market. The population, now about 3,000, is increasing very fast, four vessels arrived during my stay there, and I believe advices had been received of several others that were laid on for that port with emigrants. Such increase must cause a ready demand for our colonial produce. The high rate of freight is certainly against the speculator, (£3. per ton for a ten days' voyage,) but that will doubtless excite competition and remove the difficulty. The rate of freight will, I fear, prevent our timber from paying so well as might be expected in that market. I would not advise the sending it unless to special order. I think it might answer some of the New Zealand timber-merchants to send SAWED timber direct to South Australia: but they must not think of sending logs till the market is better supplied with sawyers.

Men of capital would also find it advantageous to settle their flocks and herds in South Australia. I feel confident that the return on such beautiful pasturage would be considerably greater than here. They can also secure good stock-runs in advantageous situations. They would certainly have to pay £1. per acre for what they wish to purchase, or rather subscribe that sum to the labour-fund, as the produce of the land-sales is all expended in carrying

labourers from the mother-country, where arrangements are making for sending a sufficient supply of useful servants, under thirty years of age. Then again, the stockholder has the privilege of holding 1,280 acres of the unoccupied land, at a rental of £4. per annum for every 80 acres he purchases. This privilege is given to buyers of land only, none but buyers being allowed to occupy grazing land. Capitalists who can expend £4,000. in the purchase of land, may demand what is called a special survey in any part of the colony, and will be immediately put in possession of 4,000 acres. The colony is formed on an entirely new principle, which is well worthy the attention and study of the lovers of political economy.

There is a most delightful spot near Cape Jervis, of which, having visited it, I cannot but speak, though from the accounts of those of my friends who have wandered far about the country, it is equalled, if not surpassed, by many places in loveliness: this place Colonel Light discovered, and called after the ship he commanded, "Rapid Bay." When I was there in November, 1836, a small stream of excellent water flowed through it, and as it abounded with fresh-water fish, there is every reason to suppose the flow is constant. The hills on each side are covered with the most luxuriant kangaroo-grass, the richest and most valuable grass known in these countries; and the plain was speckled with new and beautiful flowers. It is possible that, having just arrived from a long voyage, after seeing no land but Kangaroo Island with its interminable brush, my sensations, on looking at this place, may have been unduly biassed; but I shall never forget my delight on learning that up

the gulf the land was equal in quality and boundless in extent. My anticipations were always glowing, and on seeing them thus more than realized, you will not be surprised if my heart beat with gratitude to Him who had not only protected me during my voyage, but had led my steps into a land where all nature seemed to speak to His glory.

While the continent of that part of South Australia has surpassed, Kangaroo Island has not equalled the expectations formed of it in England. The land is covered with brushwood and small trees, the clearing of which would cost at least £15. an acre. When cleared, the soil is rich, the vegetable deposit being sometimes very considerable. Vegetables are raised there in great abundance, and at little expenditure of labour; in proof of which I may quote the following prices which are prevalent there: lettuces, fit for the table, $\frac{1}{2}d.$ each, radishes $1d.$ per dozen, cabbages, fit for transplanting $2s.$ a hundred, and other vegetables in proportion.

The chief attraction of this place is the harbour, which may be said to be perfect. The entrance to Nepean Bay is protected by a long sand-spit, or shoal, which, leaving a deep passage to the south, forms a complete breakwater. The only establishment at this place is one belonging to the South Australian Company; but the difficulty of cultivation, in consequence of the thick brushwood and the great scarcity of water, will for years, at least,

constitute a certain barrier to the extensive use of this island.

Holdfast Bay, opposite to Glenelg Plains, and where the Buffalo rode safely at anchor during many months, is an excellent roadstead; having said thus much, however, enough has been said in its favour. Holdfast Bay never was called a harbour, and some injury has been done by representing this as the only place adjacent to the main fit to receive ships. This idea, probably, was generated by the circumstance of the Buffalo having been placed there; and seeing this large ship at anchor, other ships followed the example for the purpose of discharging their cargoes, and thus the bay was at length considered the harbour. No serious accident has, however, happened, though some very heavy gales have been experienced by the ships riding there; one brig, the *Sir C. M'Carthy*, her anchors being foul, went ashore; but in consequence of the shore being sand instead of rock, she was so little injured, that, when sold for the underwriters, she brought £800, and was immediately afterwards got off.

The harbour of Port Adelaide is perfectly safe from all winds, and with the greatest ease will admit ships drawing sixteen feet of water. A canal over a mud-flat to some high ground, on which are two of the commissioners' iron-store houses, has lately been dug by the government, and it affords great facility in the discharge of cargoes. This

work has cost but £800, and will be the means of preventing for the future the great losses which some of the first emigrants have endured. At the present time, much inconvenience is being felt by the captains of ships, in consequence of no fresh water being procurable on the spot, but it may with great facility be conveyed there by pipes, either from the Torrens, or from the mountain ranges.

This harbour has got into very undeserved disrepute by being ignorantly mixed up with the disasters which have happened at Encounter Bay, (hereafter spoken of,) and by several ships having been carelessly put on shore even in the harbour: public testimonials in its favour have, however, been given by captains of ships trading to the port; and there is no doubt but that a very short time will show that nothing but common care is required to place ships there in perfect safety. Captain Hindmarsh has repeatedly said, that he could with the greatest ease have taken in the Buffalo, and Captain Lipson also, a commander in the navy, who acts as harbour-master and pilot, has put upon record the same opinion. The following letters from the surveyor-general and others show the opinions of competent judges upon its safety and capability.

Sir,

Adelaide, February 14, 1837.

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday's date, requiring information with regard to Port Adelaide. The limited time I have had for the performance of my duties prevented my making accurate plans of the harbour, therefore I cannot furnish you with one, but I have no hesita-

tion in saying, that when the entrance is properly buoyed down, ships drawing sixteen feet water may go in with the greatest ease, and when in there is not a safer or more commodious harbour in the world for merchant-ships. When the Tam o'Shanter took the ground, she had passed over the shoalest parts. The cause of her striking, I believe, was her not being sufficiently to windward, and the flood-tide catching her on the weather-bow, cast her on the edge of the northern sand, from which, I have been told, she might have been hove off; had the ship been found with proper hawsers. Since that period the Africaine and the William Hutt have been brought in with perfect ease, and the commanders of both ships have expressed their approbation of the harbour. Captain Lipson was with me yesterday morning, and he, in the presence of Mr. Fisher, declared that the harbour was one of the very best he ever saw in his life, and that he can take any ship in drawing two feet more water than the Buffal, which, I believe, would be seventeen feet.

I have the honour, &c., Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM LIGHT, Surveyor-General.

George Stevenson, Esq.

To his Excellency Capt. JOHN HINDMARSH, R. N., K. H.,
Governor of South Australia.

Port Adelaide, February 1st, 1837.

May it please your Excellency,

WE, the undersigned, beg to congratulate your excellency on the proof which our safe arrival in this port affords of its eligibility as a safe retreat for such vessels as are calculated from their burden to trade with the colony over which you preside: at the same time we beg to suggest, not merely as a matter in which we ourselves are deeply interested, but as one on which the prosperity of this new colony must in a great measure depend, the pro-

priety of removing, so far as lies in your excellency's power, one serious evil under which we at present labour, namely, the want of a regular supply of fresh water.

We understand that frequent attempts have been made to procure such a supply by digging of wells, but that these have all, more or less, failed. The only alternative now left us (unless assisted by your excellency in the way we humbly beg to propose), is to employ our crews in carrying, under the influence of a scorching sun, a very insufficient supply, while we feel, in duty to ourselves and our employers, they should be engaged in landing the cargoes entrusted to our care. What we, therefore, propose, is this—that two or three yokes of oxen be employed daily at this side of the river Torrens, in carrying water from thence to the ships in the port.

Such an arrangement would not only render the harbour such a one as every seaman would desire as an anchorage for vessels of our burden, 300 tons, but would be attended with the double advantage of ensuring to the colonists an early receipt of their property, and affording them an opportunity of conveying it to the vicinity of the intended capital by means of the return waggons.

With every good wish for your excellency's welfare and that of the colony, we beg to remain your excellency's most obedient and very humble servants,

JOHN DUFF, Commander of the *Africaine*.

ALEXANDER FLEMING, Commander of the *William Hutt*,

HENRY FRENCH, Owner of the *William Hutt*.

A great deal has lately been said about the fitness of Encounter Bay for a harbour, more especially by those who affect still to condemn the site of Adelaide. It is, however, a place pregnant with danger, and it has already become the scene of dreadful disaster. Already two large and fine ships, the *South Australian* and the *Solway*, have

been wrecked and totally lost there; the shore abounds in reefs and rocks, and the surf is represented by old captains as being worse than that at Madras Roads. The lamentable death of Sir John Jeffcott, Captain Blenkinsopp and two men at this place, when making their way through the tremendous rollers at the entrance of the Murray, and the wreck of the two ships just mentioned, ought to weigh with all those who are not "fitted for destruction by being deprived of their senses."

As there is, however, an attempt making by some to raise this place and the entrance to the Murray to undue importance, I send you copies of some original letters from persons who know Encounter Bay well, and which, I think will corroborate the account I have given of it.

Sir,

Hobart Town, February 24th, 1838.

AT your request I hand you over a plain statement of my opinion of Encounter Bay, having had the honour to command the South Australian Company's whaling establishment there during a season of six months, and afterwards to command the South Australian Company's Barque, "South Australian," which unfortunately was lost in a gale from S. E. by E., an accident I could not foresee nor prevent. However, as it was, I rest confident that I should have been equally exposed and in a much more dangerous berth had I chosen the anchorage under Granite Island, or since named Victoria Harbour. I find, in overhauling the South Australian Gazette, some persons have given an account of Victoria Harbour as calculated to moor our British navy;—sorry, most sorry should I feel as a British seaman to see our grand fleet moored there at the time I lost my ship; our foes, if any, would then have a clear ocean to cruise over; but let those persons who

give Victoria Harbour such a noble name, ask themselves, in the first place, "are they seamen?" and in the second, "have they been in the bay nine months, and experienced all weathers, night and day, in open boats:" they must say "no." Eighteen years' experience as a seaman has taught me to know what a harbour of safety is, and I have no hesitation to say, I would resign command of any ship sooner than again risk her there after August. The bay is quite open from S. S. E. to E., and when a gale sets in from that quarter there is a sea with ground-swell that the finest ship in her Majesty's service never could stand out. I have seen from the mouth of the river Murray to Rosetta Bluff a solid break, and from Rosetta Bluff to the Black Reef, I am sure I never saw a more terrific break; therefore any ship lying there must depend on her ground-tackle. I saw my fate the moment my first bower parted, and was prepared for it; I had lower-yards and top-masts on deck to ease the ship from labouring, but frequently the sea broke fore and aft. I was afterwards an eye-witness to the loss of the Solway and John Pirie, the former a total wreck, but the John Pirie being light and small did not strike so heavy, and was afterwards got off. I have given you my candid opinion of Encounter Bay, and remain

Your obedient servant,

Charles Mann, Esq.

J. B. T. MACFARLANE.

Dear Sir,

Hobart Town, March 1st, 1838.

I HAVE much pleasure in answering your enquiries relative to Encounter Bay, and its eligibilities for shipping, and by way of showing you how I have gained a knowledge of that place, I propose first to inform you how many times, and upon what occasions I have visited it.

I was there first in February, 1837, in the John Pirie, for the purpose of landing provisions and whaling implements for the South Australian Company's fishery, and I stayed there four or five days. I put in again, on my

return from Hobart Town, in April, and landed all my cargo of sheep, having experienced heavy gales from the westward. I remained there about five days. In May I took the barque "South Australian" there, and moored her in Rosetta Cove, with two anchors a-head, with nearly all the chains out; one anchor to the S. S. E., and the other to E. S. E. one anchor and chain astern, and a cable fast to the rocks ashore astern. Under the vessel's stern, about half a cable's length from the shore, there was about seventeen or eighteen feet water. I remained there about ten days, and then walked to Adelaide; I returned in about twelve days to Encounter Bay by land, and remained again about a week. I was there again in the John Pirie the latter end of June, for the purpose of landing oil-casks, but upon that occasion I remained but one day. I went there again in the John Pirie the latter end of December last, where I found the "South Australian" stranded; I went there for the purpose of saving the beef and pork she was loaded with. On these occasions I always made for Rosetta Cove, but I had ample opportunities of making myself acquainted with the bay as far as two or three miles to the eastward of Captain Blenkinsopp's station.

Rosetta Cove is capable of protection for two vessels during the winter season, but then they must be strongly moored. In the summer season, say from December to April, it would be dangerous. During these months it is subject to heavy gales from south to east, which send in a very heavy sea. The strongest gales that blow during the winter season are from N. W. to S. W.; with these winds Rosetta Cove is smooth enough, and the holding-ground is excellent.

In the winter season, four or five vessels may, if very strongly moored, ride safely to the eastward of Granite Island, where Captain Blenkinsopp's station was; but even there, I have seen such surf on the beach as to render it dangerous to land in a boat. The holding-ground is not good, being of a sandy and stony bottom; almost all the ships which have anchored there yet, have dragged,

and that even with the wind off the land. The Francis Freeling, under these circumstances, broke an anchor, and drove very near the Seal Rock; she finally left, not conceiving the place safe. This anchorage is quite open to the E. and S. S. E., and these winds send in a tremendous sea, which, in my opinion, renders the place quite untenable during the months those winds prevail. At the best, it cannot be called any thing but an open roadstead; and I am confident that no one who has the least pretension to the character of a seaman, would ever call it a harbour.

When I was there in December and January last, in the John Pirie, a heavy gale came on from the S. E. which caused a tremendous sea to roll into the bay. The Solway broke from her anchors and was wrecked on the reef. The Solway was lying to the westward of me, and though I had two anchors out a-head, with all the cables out, to the bare ends, yards and masts all down, it was to no effect. The wind and sea still increasing, for three or four hours after the Solway was wrecked, and the sea breaking over us in a terrific manner, I expected the Pirie would go down at her anchors, or tear her bows out of her. I prepared to slip, (the only and least glimpse of hope of saving our lives,) and to force her over the reef under press of sail, which we fortunately succeeded in doing, after nearly beating her bottom out, and ran her on the beach to leeward of the reef.

After thirty years' experience at sea, I never saw a vessel ride to an anchor in such a terrific sea; and I am quite confident that I should not have had better protection under Granite Island.

I have not been nearer than four or five miles to the mouth of the Murray; I could see nothing but one foam of tremendous surf all along, and it is my opinion, that there must always be a very heavy sea there, from its being open to the whole swell of the southern ocean.

I remain, dear sir, very faithfully,

your obedient servant,

To Robert Gouger, Esq.

GEORGE MARTIN.

Hobart Town, 6th March, 1838.

My dear Gouger,

I HAVE twice traversed the country which intervenes between Adelaide and Encounter Bay. My first visit was occasioned by the inquiries which Driscoll's death rendered necessary; and for about ten days I was, as advocate-general, the guest of the late Captain Blenkinsopp. This took place in August last, and consequently during the winter solstice. In the latter end of December (our summer season) the company's schooner, the John Pirie, on board of which I was then a passenger, anchored in the bay. The dreadful storm which drove the Pirie on shore, and wrecked the Solway, is of a date too recent to require any detail or comment; I mention it only to show that my visits have taken place at seasons which enable me to speak with confidence of the prevailing winds to which the bay is subject. The bay itself is bounded, westerly, by a lofty bluff or promontory of land, stretching out to seaward nearly at right-angle with the coast, and forming a substantial protection for vessels anchored in a cove to its N. W., and termed Rosetta Cove. About two ships, if moored fore and aft, may, during the winter season, lie here in great safety. The prevailing winds at this period of the year, are from the westward of south to the N. W. In the summer season, violent gales from the S. S. E. to the eastward must be expected, and even Rosetta Cove is not then altogether protected. At the distance of a mile and a quarter from the Bluff, and bearing from it about north-easterly, is a rocky island of small dimension. From this island a dangerous reef runs towards the shore, and it is connected in the same manner with the Seal Rock, a small island, distant about two miles and a half from it, and bearing about E. by S. At the termination of the Bluff shoreward, the South Australian Company have, on a gentle acclivity of land, the buildings of their whaling establishment. From this place the ground slopes gradually down to the sea, and a small and sandy plain, bounded inland by an intricate and hilly country, at a dis-

tance varying from a mile to a quarter of a mile, forms the sea-coast easterly from the Bluff, up to a small bar river which runs into the sea, near Mootaparinga. About four miles easterly from the Bluff, is the whaling establishment of the late Captain Blenkinsopp, and about equidistant between these locations, lies a large island, called Granite Island. This island is distant from the shore about a quarter of a mile: it is not exactly at right-angles with the coast, but lies in a slight degree diagonally, so as to form a fair protection against winds, varying from the N. W. to the S. S. W. The extreme length of the island is, I should think, considerably less than half a mile. From the seaward extremity, looking inland, there is deep water, and this continues to some shears, erected by the late Captain Blenkinsopp, half-way between the extreme points of the island. From the shears the water shoals rapidly, and in the deep-water I do not imagine that more than four ships could at any time lie safely; as it is requisite to keep close in to the island. The Seal Rock is distant from Granite Island about half a mile, and a reef of rocks extends from the one to the other. This reef forms a valuable breakwater, when the wind is blowing from the N. W. and from thence, for about six points southerly. In fact, it is this reef which makes Granite Island a tolerable roadstead during the winter months. Even during that period, however, gales often blow from the shore with such violence as to render the place untenable. During a gale of this nature, which occurred in July last, the Francis Freeling was driven from her anchorage in the direction of the Seal Rock. Providentially the wind suddenly subsided at the very moment when all hope was lost, and the crew were about to abandon her. The Captain of this ship soon after left the bay, on the express ground of the want of safety of the roadstead. The only ships which have continued at this anchorage for any length of time, are the Hind brig, Captain Blenkinsopp, and the American ship, the Statesman, Captain Coffin. These vessels were in the bay from the latter end of Fe-

bruary to the middle of September; and consequently, during the most favourable portion of the year—the winter season. Captain Blenkinsopp, in the statement of his experience of Granite Island, always spoke of it as forming a fair roadstead for about four ships, during the whaling or winter season: but at the same time, he dwelt with strong emphasis on the necessity of an extra supply of good ground-tackle. Captain Coffin's opinion was less favourable, and he frequently complained loudly of the anchorage; and I am convinced that nothing but the excellence of the spot for whaling would have induced him to have continued there an hour. Whilst lying at this anchorage, the Statesman broke the flukes of her anchor three times. During my stay at Captain Blenkinsopp's, in August, the wind generally blew off shore, or from the N. W. or S. W. The latter winds were from seaward; and when they prevail the surf is tremendous, and the noise of it literally deafening. On many occasions during my stay, the surf was so heavy, as, in my opinion, to have rendered the landing of goods impossible, and the beaching of a boat dangerous.

I have hitherto spoken of Granite Island during the winter season. In the summer, I should deem it a most dangerous spot: violent gales from the S. E. to the eastward are then of frequent occurrence. As an instance, on the 10th of December ult. the South Australian, a noble vessel, belonging to the South Australian Company was driven on shore by a gale of terrific violence from the S. E. and utterly wrecked. On the 21st of the same month, the Pirie and the Solway were wrecked by a violent gale from the S. S. E. The scene which I then witnessed can never be lightly erased from my memory. You know I am somewhat venturesome on the water, and no ordinary sea would excite my attention; on this occasion, however, I was literally awed. From the Bluff to the nearest island, from thence to the shore, and again to the Seal Rock and Granite Island, there was one mass of whitened foam. The heavy roll of the sea was so tremendous that

it was frequently impossible, from the decks of the Pirie, although lying near the Solway, to see the lower masts of that vessel. Again and again, the sea made a clean breach of the deck of the Pirie. It is a marvel to me, that this beautiful little vessel did not founder; and still more that she held on so long. I shall never forget the moment when she parted; I had landed at twelve o'clock with Captain and Mrs. Duff. From this time I watched the Pirie with intense anxiety. A little before three the gale had augmented till it was nearly a hurricane: her danger was so apparent, that I had induced Mr. Harper, the chief mate of the South Australian, and some whalers to come with me, in order that we might man and put off a whale-boat from Rosetta Cove. Mr. Harper, several of the whalers, and myself, were running from the company's station towards the cove, with the purpose of putting off, when a tremendous wave literally gulphed the Pirie. For a moment, I lost sight of her hull, and as she rose, I saw that the cables had parted—all seemed lost, as she drifted bodily on to the near island, over which the surf was then breaking with terrific violence. Captain Martin had, however, been long prepared for this event, and to his coolness and seamanlike intrepidity the safety of the vessel and crew are to be attributed. Just as I expected to see the Pirie crushed to atoms, her jib was hoisted, she wore and forged over the reef within a few yards of the island. Such is the scene I witnessed, and I have given it at some length, because I think it will put beyond a doubt the fallacy which would make of Rosetta Cove or of Granite Island safe harbours, or even a secure roadstead during the prevalence of winds like these. Captains Martin and M'Farlane are both decidedly of opinion that the anchorage to the eastward of Granite Island is open to all winds from the S. S. E. to the east; I concur with them in that opinion. I am sure that no one who witnessed the awful scene which I have just described would at such a moment have been mad enough to have deemed that anchorage a place of safety.

You have frequently questioned me as to the entrance of the Murray, and my opinion of its capabilities. Your enquiries I will now endeavour to satisfy. During my stay at Captain Blenkinsopp's in August, I frequently expressed my earnest desire to explore the seaward entrance to the Murray. At my urgent request Blenkinsopp gave me the use of a whaleboat, and accompanied by Mr. Wyatt I started a land-expedition for the purpose of exploring landward the embouchure of Lake Alexandrina. A slight sketch of the coast to the eastward of the Mootaparinga river will, I think, be useful. From the river easterly, the land rises abruptly, and for about four miles the shore presents a bold and rocky aspect, but at this distance it again sinks to a sandy level, winding round southerly. From this point there is a low sandy sea-coast, completely open to the southern ocean. The whale-boat sailed from the station of Captain Blenkinsopp till we neared this shore, and we then pulled for about three miles towards the Murray. The wind was about N. N. W., and it was far from blowing freshly, yet I could trace an immense surf running upwards of from six to eight feet in height along the whole coast as far as the eye could reach. At from four to five miles distant the entrance to the Murray is rendered strikingly obvious by an immense wall of foam, which appears literally to stretch directly athwart the entrance. I cannot think, from contrasting it with the shore-surf, that it could have been less than from ten to twelve feet in height, and this was the opinion of the men with me in the boat. This entrance is, I should say, more than a quarter of a mile in breadth. At a distance of four miles the men became alarmed, and remonstrated, but I induced them to continue their course. When upwards of two miles from the river an immense roller turned the boat on her beam-ends. On looking along the interval from this spot to the Murray, I could see repeated lines of rollers rising and breaking, and I became convinced that it would be impossible to effect the desired object, and that any further perseverance would uselessly risk

the lives of the men. I therefore reluctantly gave the signal of retreat. The land-party were more successful, and Captain Blenkinsopp ascertained that on the south-eastern or right hand side of the entrance there was a channel of very deep water; this was rendered almost certain by the difference in the number, and the force of the rollers on the respective sides. On the left eleven were counted, on the right three only were perceptible. Hence Captain Blenkinsopp was of opinion that if the whale-boat had passed the mouth of the river for about a mile and three quarters she might, by pulling close in shore, have effected a passage into the river. This scheme he subsequently put in practice, how unsuccessfully the melancholy death of Sir John Jeffcott, of himself and two of his boat's crew, may prove. A narrative of this lamentable affair, as gathered from two of the surviving seamen and from some extracts of Captain Blenkinsopp's diary, will comprise the substance of our present knowledge of the entrance to the lake. On Monday the 2nd December last, Captain Blenkinsopp dispatched a whale-boat to the Murray; the men were directed to pass the south-east or right hand side of the embouchure for the space of a mile, and then to pull up towards the entrance of the Murray, keeping close in shore: following these orders the boatmen landed on the south-eastern beach, considerably below the mouth of the river. There was scarcely any wind, and the weather was very favourable; notwithstanding this, however, the surf was running on the beach upwards of six feet in height as far as the eye could distinguish the line of shore. Here it became apparent to the men that it was impossible to pull against the current, they therefore determined to track the boat on. This they effected, some of the men keeping out to seaward in order to prevent the surf from beaching the boat, whilst the rest tracked her. After great labour and considerable danger they passed into the river, and when in smooth water they stood over to the western side, where they were joined by the land-party. The entrance once passed, the embouchure to the

lake is reported to present a calm and beautiful sheet of water, varying in depth from four to three and a half and three fathoms. On the south-eastern side it is said to carry this depth of water nearly up to the lake. The current, however, is fearfully rapid, and the boatmen who survived are of one opinion in respect to the impossibility of any vessel making a passage against the united force of the current and the immense sweep of rollers which rise and break for the distance of a mile and a half to two miles before the entrance to the river is attained. From the Monday, the day on which the expedition started, to the following Sunday, the party were engaged in exploring the embouchure, and they reached and encamped upon the bank which forms the entrance of Lake Alexandrina. On Sunday morning Sir John W. Jeffcott, the judge of the supreme court, joined the party, and unhappily agreed to accompany Captain Blenkinsopp on his return in the whale-boat. On Monday morning, the 12th December ultimo, Captain Blenkinsopp and Sir John W. Jeffcott put off in the boat, and after inspecting the state of the rollers determined to venture through them. The boat had passed several rollers, and, according to the statement of Mills, one of the survivors, had run out nearly three quarters of a mile from the entrance, when a roller of fearful magnitude turned the boat on her beam-ends, and nearly filled her. She rose, however, and the judge becoming alarmed, exclaimed, "The Lord have mercy on our souls, we shall be all drowned!" He had scarcely spoken before a short sea turned the head of the boat round, and a roller immediately following, she foundered. Captain Blenkinsopp clung to the boat, but was soon washed off. Sir John Jeffcott seized one end of an oar to which Mills was also clinging. In about three minutes Sir John relinquished his grasp, sunk, rose for a few moments, grasped at a box floating near him, missed it, and finally disappeared. Two of the men were drowned, and the others reached the shore, and, when utterly exhausted, were saved by the friendly aid of the natives. I have now given you the

result of my visit to Encounter Bay, and of the knowledge which I have acquired with regard to the embouchure and Lake Alexandrina. With reference to the latter I may add, that the problem of the existence of another entrance is at once and for ever set at rest. The width of the embouchure, the rapidity of the current on the south-eastern side of the stream, and the depth of water which it carries from the lake when viewed in connexion with the necessary allowance to be made for an evaporating surface so large as Lake Alexandrina, all tend to strengthen such a conviction. As to Granite Island or Rosetta Cove, useful as they are and will be to a limited extent during the whaling season, it is my opinion that to say they are, or ever could be, made good and secure harbours is a kind of mental hallucination little short of Midsummer madness.

With many earnest wishes that you may have a speedy voyage, believe me to be,

My dear Gouger,
Yours very faithfully,
CHARLES MANN.

LETTER III.

THE NATIVES—THEIR HABITS—PLAN OF TREAT-
MENT.

THOUGH I landed in South Australia without any feeling of fear of the natives, I nevertheless felt great anxiety respecting them. I knew full well that if the first rencontre with them should be unfriendly, that the effect might be truly deplorable. So many miseries have been sustained by those unoffending creatures in different parts of the continent, and so unrelenting has been the persecution of them, even though the first cause of quarrel has generally been an aggression of the whites, that I felt particularly anxious one instance, at least, of kind treatment, should be known in history—that the annals of our province should be unstained by native blood. That friendly intercourse with them was not impossible, had been shown us by Colonel Light, at Rapid Bay; he had succeeded, by his peculiarly conciliatory manner and mild treatment, to attach closely to him the band of aborigines who inhabited that spot. We saw them there carrying for him wood, reeds for thatching, and otherwise rendering such assistance as they could; and we saw them sleeping round his

hut at night, each party, white and black, having mutual and deserved confidence.

About a fortnight or three weeks after landing at Glenelg, one of the settlers, who was out shooting, saw at a distance a native man and boy employed in making a fire; he prudently withdrew his sporting charge, and put a bullet into each barrel in case of being obliged to defend himself. Having taken this precaution, he advanced silently until within a short distance, and then laughed heartily. The natives immediately seized their spears; but as he continued laughing, and held a biscuit to them, they put down their spears and approached him. They then embraced, and he succeeded in bringing them down to the settlement. Having early intimation of their approach, I went to meet them. The man appeared to be of about thirty years of age, and the boy about eight; both seemed intelligent, and, as far as my knowledge of physiognomy went, any thing but furious. As soon as they saw me they laughed, and patted me on the back, which ceremony I of course returned; but wishing to make them comprehend as completely as possible, that we wished to be friendly with them, I took a stick, and holding it over my head, broke it, saying "Wombara, wombara, no good," upon which the man seemed perfectly delighted, and with great earnestness embraced me. The wombara is a weapon used in the native warfare. We then went to the government-store, where they were supplied with a second-hand military coat, cap and trowsers each, which wonderfully delighted them; and on a

looking-glass being placed before them they were almost convulsed with laughter. This sensation having subsided, we introduced to them a new wonder; a pipe being given to one of them, it was lighted by a burning-glass: they looked above and below to find the fire, and seeing nothing but a piece of transparent substance in a wooden-frame, they seemed rather alarmed. On this, I pointed to the sun, then to the glass and tobacco; but the pantomimic explanation was hardly complete before the native patted his chest in token of comprehension, laughed and then looked at each of the party as if impressed with awe at our superior knowledge and contrivances. They were then taken round the settlement, and as at each tent they got some small present, they were evidently highly gratified with their reception. They remained some days with the person who had succeeded with so much credit to himself in bringing them down, and then returned to the woods, under a promise to come again with their whole family. A few days afterwards they re-appeared, attended by their friends and relations, all of whom received the same useful present and warm welcome as had their predecessors. From that time up to my leaving the colony, we were surrounded by natives, and not one instance of dishonesty or treachery on their part has occurred.

The aborigines I have seen are generally a well-formed and active race, differing in many important points from the accounts I have perused of the

natives of New South Wales. They are also unlike those who once existed in Van Dieman's Land. Once existed! Yes, in less than thirty years the black possessors of the soil have been nearly destroyed, and in a few more, not one will live to tell the tale. There are now, I am informed, but two women at Flinders' Island capable of perpetuating their race, and the proportion of deaths to births shows that the native population will soon be extinct. The progress of English colonization is marked by a trail of blood:—but this is episodal, and I gladly return to my account, with a feeling of pride, that instead of being charged with cruelty, the inhabitants of my adopted country have, hitherto, acted towards the aborigines the part of a humane and christian people.

I have said the South Australian natives are well-proportioned and active: I have not seen one deformed person among them; and they are not only generally healthy, and free from those cutaneous eruptions which so often afflict savages, but the excellence of their constitutions enables them to throw off diseases, and to recover from wounds which would be fatal to Europeans. A singular instance of this last fact occurred to a man who had fallen from a tree and broken his arm; the bone protruded through the skin, and amputation was by the colonial surgeon and other medical men, deemed necessary. To this operation, however, the native would not consent, and the predicted consequence of his refusal was death. He wandered about the colony, however, for some

weeks, during which time he got dreadfully thin, but his wound was no worse; some pieces of bone at length came away, and the arm, when I left, was gradually healing. Their figures are not light, as has commonly been represented, or their legs particularly thin: they have, frequently, bodies remarkably adapted for strength; broad shoulders, and stout, well-turned calves. I cannot say much for the "human face divine," as exemplified in them; and though, not unfrequently, you may remark a kindly and open expression in their countenances, it is by no means accompanied by that contour which would find its way to a European heart, male or female. The cheek-bones are unusually high, the nose flattened, and the mouth very wide, disclosing however, generally, a well-arranged and perfect set of teeth.

Their dress admits but of little description, the men seldom wearing any in the summer, and nothing but a kangaroo-skin loosely thrown over them in the winter. The women wear, constantly, a kangaroo-skin tied round the waist, with a string made sometimes of kangaroo-sinews and sometimes of twisted grass: both men and women carry a net into which they put such articles of food as they may chance to find on their peregrinations. They are, however, very fond of the dress given them by the government or settlers, and, appreciating our notions of modesty, they never think of approaching the settlement without being sufficiently clad. The women carry their children

behind their backs, in a part of the kangaroo-skin enveloping them, so tied that the upper part forms a kind of hood.

The simplicity of their dress does not afford much scope for the grace of ornament. In the hair of their children the teeth of the kangaroo are sometimes plaited; the men occasionally, when wishing to be very smart, tie round their head a wild dog's tail; and when about to go to war, to dance a corroboree, or to pay their addresses, they plaister their hair, and otherwise daub their persons with red ochre, or paint themselves with white stripes. By way of ornament, too, they manage to raise the flesh in rows, varying from one to four inches in length, and about three-eighths of an inch in height and breadth, across their chests; the process by which this deformity is made, I have not been able to learn, but it is universally found upon the males, even when very young.

The corroboree is the only species of dance I have heard of their practising, and, as far as I know, the mode of dancing it here resembles exactly that adopted in other parts of New Holland. The women and children sit upon the ground around a fire, and before each of them a bundle is placed, over which is bound tightly a piece of kangaroo-skin. This they strike with their fists in remarkably exact time, singing at the same time, in a monotonous, but not discordant style.

The men and boys are the only dancers; and while dancing they sing a song which, from the style of protection they adopt during the chaunt, has always appeared to me to be a declaration of gallantry in defence of their women. They retire in a body and in a measured step to a distance of about ten yards, where the dancing takes place; this consists of a very singular agitation of the legs while standing on tip-toe with the legs widely separated; after which movement for about half a minute, they rush towards the women, and stand over them with their arms extended in an attitude of defiance, and with their voices raised to a high pitch. The words spoken are apparently addressed to persons standing beyond the women, and are varied each time of advance; the chief actors in the scene, again, alter each time, their attitude of defiance. These corroborees only take place in the night, and generally by moonlight.

The language spoken by the natives of Adelaide and its vicinity differs widely from that of the northern or southern families. There is every reason to believe that it is of Malay origin, the similarity of some words being almost complete. For instance, the Malays of Dampier's Straits call water "*owey*" and the sun "*tindoo*." The aborigines of Glenelg call water "*cowey*," and the sun "*tindook*;" and there is little doubt but that further acquaintance with the language would have ena-

bled the gentleman* who discovered these similarities to have found others also.

Their food consists of kangaroos, opossums, rats, and all other animals, birds, snakes, lizards, and the whole genus reptilia, grubs, and other insects, fish and some few roots. In fact, the South Australian natives are as nearly as possible omnivorous animals; every thing which can be eaten they will eat: they delight in whale's blubber, and since the establishment of the whale-fishery at Encounter Bay, they have made that place their favourite residence during the whaling season. Though very skilful in detecting the haunts of their game, they have not adopted any ingenious implements for taking it; they set no snares for animals; they have, however, rough hooks and lines for taking fish. They can tell with precision whether or not the small and beautiful ring-tailed opossum has recently ascended a tree. They look round the bark carefully, and if an unfortunate animal has lately ascended, the light imprint of its claws detects its retreat, and unless the native also traces the marks of its descent, the tree is climbed and the animal to a certainty secured. And the mode of climbing the tree is interesting. The gum-tree frequently runs up twenty or thirty feet without throwing out a branch, and the girth of the stump being too large to admit of its being encircled by the arms and legs of the climber, another mode of

* Mr. Donovan, chief officer of the Katharine Stewart Forbes.

ascending must be adopted. A small stick, pointed and hardened by fire, is made a part of the accoutrements of the native; with this he makes a hole in the bark large enough to admit his toe, then, reaching as high as he can, he makes another and ascends from hole to hole thus made, his only mode of holding on being the insertion of his stick from time to time in the bark. The agility and ease with which this is performed is exceedingly striking. But their favourite food is the grub, and truly this is an article which ought not to be confined to the uncultivated taste of savages. It is about five or six inches long, about half an inch in diameter, white or slightly inclined to a reddish brown, and is found in the gum or wattle trees. The natives eat it raw: I never could bring myself to taste this living marrow, but, lightly fried, it becomes a delicacy fit for the most educated palate. At one time in the year the natives come from the woods literally fattened up with this delicious food.

The root which is most sought after by the natives is an oxalis, and resembles in appearance a small carrot: the taste is like that of a cocoa-nut, and it is full of nutriment. It is dug up chiefly by women, who carry for this purpose a heavy and pointed stick, about five feet long, which they throw into the earth to the depth of about eight inches, thereby rooting up the object of their search. It is very common, and a person lost in the woods but acquainted with its leaf, might on this alone subsist until accident or memory restored him to his home. Three persons have been lost

since the foundation of the colony, two at Kangaroo Island, and one on the main land : these lamentable deaths might not, perhaps, have occurred, if the sufferers had fortunately possessed a little knowledge of this kind.

The natives have no settled place of abode, but each family wanders over a space of several miles, an aggression upon which by another family is invariably punished. And they have no fixed habitations ; when the family, either from vicinity to the grubs or some other strong inducement, determine to settle for a time upon a particular spot, they pull down some branches of trees, and construct a few huts about four feet high and in the form of a bee-hive cut in half : they are thus quite open on one side, and here at night the natives keep large fire. This answers a treble purpose ; it keeps them warm, drives away musquitoes, and prevents the attack of an evil spirit, who delights, they say, in mischief, and who has been known to run away with a man now and then when it is quite dark, and he has wandered far from his friends and neighbours. This habitation is deserted after a short time for another spot, and the wind generally soon after disperses it about the plain. Their only treasures they carry with them, unless, indeed, they leave those implements behind at their encampment which their immediate purpose does not require.

Their weapons are simple and few in number,

The spear and throwing-stick for distant use, and the waddy and dirk made of kangaroo-bone or some hard wood for close quarters, are their only warlike implements. They have also a small and ill-formed shield made of wood, to use on the defensive. They have not even the boomerang of New South Wales, nor the bow and arrow of the natives of the northern coast: in this respect, as in every other, they are at the foot of civilization.

Yet are they not incapable of advancement; they are very observing and attentive, and have a degree of shrewdness which might serve as an indication of higher talent. They are, moreover, very obliging, and they very willingly perform works for those settlers of whom they form a good opinion. A little sugar, biscuit, or bread, is a sufficient inducement for them to bring wood, water, or stone for building, and several instances have occurred of ten or twelve of these poor fellows working during six hours consecutively for an individual for biscuit. With good usage they are exceedingly docile, and fortunately we have yet but once* had experience of them under other circumstances.

I regret to say that no effective arrangements have yet been made in the province for attempting their civilization. Nothing is wanting to lead to their amelioration but to secure their confidence; and disposed as they are at present to friendly

* In this case gross provocation having been given by the white man, revenge was taken by the black.

intercourse, this would be by no means a difficult thing to obtain. It is not by sitting still and waiting until cause for interference, in consequence of disputes, has become imperative, that this is to be accomplished; means should be at once adopted to render the good feeling permanent, and, if possible, to make them useful. The course recommended by Captain Maconochie, private secretary to Sir John Franklin, appears to me to be the most easy and sure way of attaining the end desired. He suggests that the natives of New Holland should be enlisted in our public service, and regimented like the Sepoys in India, or the Hottentots of the Caffre frontier, and thus formed into a field-police. He suggests that they would require to be officered by white corporals and serjeants, who should be made as deeply interested as possible in the successful management of their charge; that a convenient, light, and ornamental dress should be given them; that they should be kept in small parties, and always on the move; at first hunting, with their other duty, but gradually acquiring more and more precise notions of discipline, as their military education proceeded. Their families meanwhile, he suggests, should be encouraged to settle in native villages under our protection. The adoption of this plan would, I am convinced, be with facility carried into effect: kindness of manner, firmness, and a moderate share of common sense are alone required. Mr. Dawson, when at Port Stephens, found the natives useful as a police; and

in New South Wales they are often known to bring in convicts from the bush.

No legal provision, by way of purchase of land on their behalf, or in any other mode, has been yet made; nor do I think that with proper care it is at all necessary. I can see no reason why they should not, in a comparatively short time, be made to understand our notions, and to depend upon their own exertions for a livelihood. The field-police would be a good introduction to civilization; and I have no doubt but that it would be succeeded by their adopting, to a great extent, our habits and modes of life. At any rate, until it and other means shall have been tried and found fruitless, the enervating effect of specific legal protection should not be tried.

LETTER IV.

NATURAL HISTORY.

I CAN give you but little information relative to the natural history of South Australia. I have had no time to collect specimens, and I am not aware that any example of the kind has yet been set. I can, therefore, simply communicate to you what facts have passed before me, hoping at some future time to be able to add to my present communication.

The largest native animal is the kangaroo, and this is found in great numbers, and of a very large size. They frequent the mountains, chiefly where there is plenty of corn, but sometimes they are found on the plains. To say they are excellent eating is only repeating the account which every one has given who has partaken of them: at one season, however, the scent is very strong, and the flesh then by no means to be recommended. They afford excellent sport to the hunter; as the dog employed in this chase is the deer-hound of England, the gallop is generally short, but, of course, at a racing speed. The wallaba is also plentiful, and surpassing in flavour its gigantic relation.

The native dog is unfortunately too numerous. I give the name commonly used, though my con-

viction is, it is much more of the wolf than the dog. The colour is generally red, occasionally approaching black. It has a peculiar and very disagreeable scent, with the sharp nose and brushy appearance of the fox or wolf. Moreover, even when domesticated, it retains its subtle propensities, and is at any moment ready for mischief. It never attacks man, but sheep and even goats fall a prey to it, and it is no despicable foe to domestic poultry. With a view to the destruction of these animals, a reward of seven shillings for a female, five shillings for a male, and two shillings for a puppy has been offered by the local government.

Kangaroo-rats, rats, and bandicoots, a sort of rat, are very numerous, as also the very beautiful ring-tailed opossum. The flying-squirrel has not yet been taken at Adelaide, though it is very often met with at Port Philip, to the south.

Emus were often seen on our first landing; they are, however, a very shy bird, and soon leave the wilderness to civilized man after his foot has been planted there. I once saw seven of these magnificent birds together, within half a mile of the town: they are exceedingly stately in their movements, very fleet, and they have the recommendation of being very fine eating. The bustard or wild turkey, again, was often met with on our first landing, and it is now sometimes seen on the plains, but is seldom approachable with a gun. Wild ducks and quail are very plentiful, and easily attainable. When I first landed at Glenelg, without going two hundred yards

from my tent, I could always bring in a dinner of quail in about half an hour, and they are yet to be found in great numbers. The parrots of South Australia are exceedingly beautiful, and as numerous as sparrows in England. I have seen none like them elsewhere: the back is a brilliant green, the head purple, and the breast is a fine yellow shaded off to a deep orange-colour. Upon them, the blue-mountain parrot and lemon-crested cockatoo, the first settlers frequently regaled before beef and mutton were imported into the colony; these, however, soon gave way to our more antiquated means of existence. There are some very splendid little birds; the South Australian robin has a very bright red, approaching to vermilion, on his breast, instead of the dirty brick-colour your robin boasts; I would not however undervalue your winter pet: his habits are very nearly those of the English robin. A bird called by our colonists a wren, but, in fact a "mannikin," is another universal favourite: the colours are a pure glossy black and fine light blue.

Snakes are by no means so numerous as I had been led to expect, and hitherto no accidents have happened by their means. I have myself met with but one, and that a very small one: six of a very venomous kind, the diamond-snake, were, however, killed in my garden by the men employed in digging. Guanacs and lizards of various kinds are very common, and some of them are as splendid in colour as they are elegant in shape: they are per-

fectly harmless, or if some of the larger kind bite no venom accompanies the wound.

In decayed wood, and in the bark of trees, small scorpions, centipedes, and tarantulas are frequently found: the sting of the first and the bite of the two last, would, of course, be very painful; but unless in the case of an infant or person of diseased habit, no fatal effect would be likely to ensue.

Of the insect tribe, however, white ants are the most injurious of any I have met with. They are very numerous, and wherever a quantity of dead wood is to be found, the white ants assemble. But they do not spare living timber; I have seen trees of large growth, apparently solid and healthy, filled with them: they have been perforated to the very top by the ants, and have become the habitations of millions of these pernicious insects. Nothing escapes them, or seems above or beneath their notice. During my stay at Glenelg, I was obliged to place all my furniture and boxes upon glass bottles, and watch daily whether or not these marauders had commenced their attacks: still I found the damage done me was considerable. They nearly destroyed a box of valuable linen, the corks of all the bottles, not sealed, which were in some large casks were demolished and the contents let out, while the temporary floor of my tent, one inch and a quarter battens, was quite destroyed.

Musquitoes are very numerous and troublesome in some parts of the country, and especially to new comers. At the harbour especially, where there is

an extensive mud-flat skirted by mangrove-trees, they are in myriads. Cultivation, however, and the removal of dead timber soon drives them away to a place where they may remain undisturbed. The annoyance they give is chiefly felt before a comfortable house is built: from a tent or reed hut it is almost impossible to dislodge them.

The butte fly and moth genera are by no means remarkable for splendour, and I have met with but one very extraordinary insect during my residence here. This is the "animated twig," I know it by no other name. It resembles the mantis more than any other insect; is either brown or green, and the muscles of the first portion of its legs expand so as to resemble small leaves: excepting when it is seen moving, it is almost impossible to know that it is not a part of the tree it is inhabiting. Its length is sometimes four inches.

The shores of the province abound in fish, the greatest proportion of which are excellent eating. The most abundant is the snapper, which varies in weight up to thirty pounds, is short and thick, somewhat resembling in shape the bream or perch. It is very highly esteemed, and is sometimes brought up to Adelaide in large quantities. The size of the fish, however, and its vigorous resistance when hooked, attract the attention of the sharks which are very common in the gulfs; and the fisherman is often disappointed when about to take in a fish, by an enormous shark relieving him of the trouble. Mackarel and a species of mullet are also

taken in great numbers, as well as a small white-fleshed fish resembling in shape and exterior appearance the salmon-trout.

A very extraordinary fish is sometimes caught, which, from its colour and glistening appearance, has been named the silver-fish. It is about eighteen inches long, and is without scales. In lieu of teeth it has an apparatus resembling two pairs of mill-stones, with which it grinds its food, and it is furnished with a pendulous piece of cartilage in the shape of a letter T inverted, hanging down under the nose and over the mouth, by means of which it collects its food. Down the back, instead of a bone it has a singular substance like whalebone, but white and nearly transparent; it has a double stomach and very small intestines. To the recommendation of singularity it adds that of very fine flavour.

The sands near the harbour abound in cockles and muscles, and in the harbour, *hanging to the mangrove-trees*, (a strange thing for English ears but nevertheless true,) some oysters have been found.

The only fish which has yet been taken in the Torrens, is a very delicate fish of the size and very nearly of the appearance of the smelt. They are very plentiful and delicious.

I can give you but little information relative to the botany of the place, having no lore that way. Almost all the flowers which from time to time spring up around Adelaide, whether yellow,

blue, pink, or cream-colour, are called by our botanists of the genus orchideæ; the fact is, I believe, none of our colonists are learned in plants, and I at last got tired of asking the name of any flower I found—it was always an orchis. With the exception of marshmallows then, lupins, buttercups, a large daisy, and different kinds of vetch, believe all our flowers to be beautiful and very plentiful,—but all orchideæ.

Our trees are generally by no means handsome. The umbrageous part of our large trees is generally at the top, at least this is the case with all the eucalypti. There is a yellow wattle of great splendour, and when in flower, it emits a most fragrant odour; this is common on the plains, and is a tree to be cultivated. There are also many very well-grown and ornamental shrubs to be found in many places; among these the native cherry, having foliage like a cypress, and bearing fruit with the stone outside and at the end of the fruit, is to be placed in the first rank.

The most valuable trees which have yet been discovered are the stringy-bark and pine. The stringy-bark has been before mentioned as being highly useful for fencing and shingling; it also makes good flooring and scantling for building purposes. The pine forests in the neighbourhood of Adelaide are likely to be highly profitable to the proprietors of them, if before the survey is completed and selection is made, their value is not destroyed, by the very unwarrantable destruction of them by those of the settlers whose notions of the

laws of "*meum* and *tuum*" are so lax as to enable them to appropriate these trees to their own private advantage. The colonial commissioner has striven to protect these valuable forests, but his efforts have been nearly unavailing.

The climate is, at least, equal to any I have known. It is much warmer than the south of France, but it retains all the enlivening qualities for which the climate of that region is celebrated. There is a lightness in the atmosphere which has a tendency to exhilarate the desponding, and to add life and joyousness to the gay. The winter begins in May, and terminates in September: during the two months I have mentioned, however, the weather is very delightful, somewhat resembling the end of May or the beginning of June in England; and during June, July, and August, rain falls very abundantly, but the temperature is too high either for snow or ice. Spring is of short duration, for all nature seems to start into life suddenly; as the sun gains strength, each week brings forward changes of the most beautiful flowers. Some very hot days occur in December and January, when the wind is from the north; but throughout the summer hardly a week occurs without the most refreshing showers falling; and whatever may have been the heat of the day, the evenings are cooled delightfully by a sea-breeze. The greatest heat I have known was shown by 116° on Christmas-day, 1836, inside the double-lining of my tent, and at the same time it was 94° in my reed-hut. When

houses shall be erected fit for the latitude, attention being paid to the mode of building, I have no doubt complaints of heat will seldom be made.

Some of the colonists have been afflicted during a few days in summer, with an inflammation of the eyelid, supposed to be caused by the hot wind, and ignorantly called ophthalmia. I am of opinion, however, that this annoyance is to be attributed to the persecution of a fly, resembling the common brown fly of England, but smaller and darker in its colour. Washing the eye with water, whenever opportunity occurs, is, I think, a preventive; and at all events, the complaint is easily cured.

LETTER V.

WHAT HAVE THE SETTLERS DONE?—WHAT ARE
THEY DOING?

“WHAT have the settlers done? What are they doing?” you ask. They have housed themselves, and that too, in many cases, comfortably; they are fencing in their town-land, making gardens and importing stock. But these summary answers will not suffice: you want to be informed, more particularly, upon each of these subjects.

The only public-building which was intended to be of a permanent nature, is the government-hut. It is sometimes called “Government-house,” but I, who think the governor of South Australia ought to reside in a house capable of receiving and entertaining the colonists, and of impressing the passing visitor with an idea of gentlemanly style and English comfort, cannot dignify the place in which his Excellency resides, as a “Government-house.” It is constructed of mud, put between laths, supported by uprights of native wood, and it is covered thickly with thatch. There are three rooms in it, with some little offices on one side,

with a kitchen and servants' apartments detached. You will smile, when I tell you, that in the plan fire-places were forgotten, and that a single fire-place and chimney has now been put down close to the front-door ; but recollect, that the architect was a sailor, and that the workmen employed were the seamen of the Buffalo, who, thinking they could " rig up a house " as well as a top-mast, would not allow any interference in their arrangements. The consequence is, that a place has been built, which might have made a good coach-house and stable at some future time, had it not been unfortunately placed in such a position as to require that it should, as a matter of taste, be pulled down.

The only public-offices worth mentioning, are the land-office and the surveyor-general's office. These have cost but little money, and will, if deemed necessary, last for years. They are built of deal, weather-boarded, and lined within, and are spacious and comfortable offices. There is an infirmary, under the charge of the colonial surgeon ; but this and the colonial secretary's office are merely temporary buildings. The officers of the government, you are aware, have not houses appointed for them ; and for many months I was obliged to make my own private residence my office.

Stone houses are springing up rapidly : more than half the town being upon a bed of limestone, the proprietors of that portion, by simply removing the earth to a depth of about two feet, find not only

stone wherewith to build, but limestone whereof to burn their lime.* Thus, there is a great facility for building, and that in a very substantial way. Messrs. Fisher, brothers, are building of this native limestone a very handsome and extensive store in the centre of the town, which, when finished, will form certainly the most important structure in the place.

Upon land where limestone is not found, the most durable and the cheapest mode of building is the *pisé*. My own residence is thus built, and it is at once cool, substantial, and of a finished appearance. The process is simple, but to have justice done by the workmen, the constant eye of the master is required; with this care, a very excellent and cheap house can be erected. The walls are composed of earth (a fine friable loam is the best) rammed hard in a frame about six feet long by three feet high, and supported by moveable props on the walls. The walls can be of any thickness; and this should be proportioned to the height of the rooms and weight of roof intended. Spaces can be either left for the doors and windows, or they can be cut out afterwards; but if the latter mode is adopted, it should be done as soon as the work is completed, or the mass hardens and the operation of cutting out is likely to injure the work. Should you go to the province without making yourself practically acquainted with the mode to be pursued, so many persons are there

* Lime is now being sold at 1s. 6d. per bushel.

who do now understand it, that you will experience no difficulty. The cost of building the walls is about 4s. 6d. a square yard of a foot thick: it will require plastering, which will be about 1s. 6d. a yard more. By means of these data, you will at once calculate the expense of the walls of the house you think you may require. If you want your house otherwise than a ground-floor, the walls of the lower part should be two feet thick, in which case, of course, the cost of working it will be enhanced.

Of wooden-houses, those made by Manning of Holborn, and described in Loudon's *Encyclopædia of Architecture*, p. 251, are by far the best; nor are they too dear to be within the means of most colonists. Their great advantage consists in their portability, and their being very easily erected or removed. I took out a small room made by him, and some of my friends bought of him large houses. They have answered remarkably well, and by far surpass any other wooden houses in the colony. They are covered with a tarpaulin, and this is the best temporary covering you can have at first; as soon as you can, however, you will find it expedient to substitute for the tarpaulin the colonial roof of shingles. I took out blue slates, and my house is covered with them; but this expense is unnecessary, though for durability and appearance there is nothing equal to them. The expense of a shingle-roof is trifling. One thousand shingles cost, in Adelaide, about 18s. or 20s., (in Van Dieman's Land the price is about 9s. or 10s.) and the ex-

tent of work covered by them, is about ten feet square.

The least desirable habitation is a tent, though this can be made comfortable with care. I took out a double one, twenty feet square, which, put down upon a deal-floor, formed an abode equal to some houses. This was made by Atkinson and Ibbotson, of King William Street, and was certainly a very comfortable temporary residence; but it was expensive, and very inferior in comfort to Manning's cottages. It is, in my opinion, highly desirable for each colonist, having the requisite funds, to take out some habitation from England; at any rate, this should be done until the year 1840 shall make its appearance. If the colonist wishes to reside in the country, his portable house is almost necessary; if he stay in the town and require a more substantial house, he will be able to let or sell the other with great facility. There has been much inconvenience felt by recent immigrants in consequence of their having fancied that houses would be ready for them, whereas all the labour of the colony has been required by the original settlers for their own accommodation. By way of guess, I should say, that when I left the province in November, 1837, about 300 houses and huts had been constructed, but they were all occupied.

Another reason why you should take out a house, is because there is no inn established there in which you could find accommodation. There is an excellent opening for a really good hotel; the great number of persons who, on first arrival, and

for some time afterwards would frequent it, would cause an ample return.

The operation next important to settlers after building a habitation, is the fencing in and cultivation of a garden. I do not mean a flower-garden, but one from which, in a few weeks, they might have salads and other green vegetables, without which, especially after a long voyage, health cannot be secured. To steerage-passengers, more particularly, who have fresh meat but twice a week, green vegetables are most important. But by none should the garden be neglected; it is absolutely essential, and it may be turned, if well managed, to a very profitable account. The same vegetables that grow in England may be grown here, and it is well for each settler to bring with him a small assortment of the more useful kinds of seeds. No inconvenience, however, is now likely to be felt by new comers from the want of vegetables; gardening operations are being rather extensively pursued, and, I believe, uniformly with good effect. Mr. Hack has enclosed, and is cultivating as a garden, seven acres: Dr. Wright has two acres of garden; the South Australian Company, and Mr. Fisher, have also large gardens. But Colonel Light is the most successful of our gardeners; by mixing some of the river-mud with the natural soil, he has produced by far better vegetables than any other South Australian.

Gooseberries and currants do not appear to be likely to succeed in South Australia, the climate

being too warm for them. We shall, however, be amply compensated for their loss. Peach, nectarines, and other fruits of that kind; pine, melon, pomegranate, almond, orange, citron, and some tropical fruits, will flourish admirably.

The fencing which is now being put up generally in Adelaide, is a close paling-fence of stringybark, about five feet in height. The cost of this, including the stuff itself, carriage, nails, and putting up in a workman-like style, is about 18s. per rod. This is rather costly, but once done, it will last for years, is very substantial, and it preserves always a neat appearance.

A considerable rise has lately taken place in the value of rural land; this is, perhaps, to be attributed to a variety of causes. The great fertility of the land, and its permeation by rivers and small streams of fresh water, together with the excellence of the climate, are doubtless among the causes. Another may be found in the immigration of capitalists and labourers from Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales. About the termination of the year, several gentlemen left Van Dieman's Land, with their families, servants, and stock. The chief motives for removal, besides those mentioned, which they assigned to me, were, their wish to leave a penal settlement with its vices and annoyances, and the judicious mode adopted in the province of disposing of public land. I have no means of knowing the precise number who have arrived from Van Dieman's Land here, but I estimate

it at about 200 persons. Another cause is the great advantage of locality which the early purchase of land has given the original proprietors. The holders of the preliminary sections, who gave but 12s. an acre for their land, can now readily obtain £2. an acre: there have, however, been but few transactions of the kind, the holders of the preliminary lots being far from anxious to sell. You will not be astonished to learn that this increase in price has taken place, when you consider the causes of rise in price just assigned, and more particularly the fact, that besides the sale of lands in England, prior to the emigration of a single settler, to the amount of £35,000, the sales by the commissioners are going on much faster than the warmest friends and supporters of the colony ever contemplated. Thus, in the course of a year after the proclamation of the province, and while the groaning prophets who condemned our plans, were maintaining that our notions were bubbles and the colony a juggle, our land was rising fast in value, and large sums were being invested in the purchase of our unlimited pastures. It is said, "all men are prophets;" it appears, however, that the enthusiastic and energetic are not always false ones.

But let us pursue this subject a little further. The original price of the land sold in England was 12s. per acre; of this, 437 acres were town, and 58,558 acres were rural land. In March, 1837, there were sold by auction, in the colony, 563 acres, the remaining part of the town, for which the sum

of £3,594. 4s. was paid. The outlay then would stand thus:—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
437 town-acres.			
58,558 rural-land.			
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/>			
58,995 purchased in England, at 12s. .	35,397	0	0
563 town-acres sold in the colony .	3,594	4	0
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 70%;"/>			
Total cost of the town and the preliminary sections	£. 38,991	4	0
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 70%;"/>			

The increase in the market-value of this land has raised the town-lots to an average of, at least, £100 an acre, and of the rural land, to at least £2. per acre. In return for the above outlay, then, we have the following result:—

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1,000 acres of town land, at £100.	100,000	0	0
58,995 acres of rural land, at £2. .	117,990	0	0
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 60%;"/>			
	217,990	0	0
Deduct, cost of land .	38,991	4	0
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 60%;"/>			
Balance	£. 178,998	16	0
<hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 60%;"/>			

This balance is the actual amount of profit gained by the purchasers of the town and preliminary sections, since the foundation of the province, a little more than a year. What a result! To obtain the foundation of this province, the sum of about £60,000. has been expended ; it has already created within itself property which would more than three

times repay the cost of its creation. But again; here is a subject for taxation! Profit has arisen to individuals to an enormous amount, and in a very short time, by means for the production of which the gainers have expended no capital. Here is that "rent," scientifically speaking, that *accidental profit* which has always been deemed by economists the very best subject for taxation, because it is felt by no one; by the institution of this tax, *now*, in the infancy of the province, it will be relieved from all debt, and need not be encumbered, for the sake of revenue, either with excise or customs.

Whatever may turn out to be the most profitable employment of capital, it is quite clear that the importation of an ample supply of sheep and other animals, should early occupy the attention of the South Australian colonists. In November, 1837, there were not 5,000 sheep in the province, though the discovered country would feed more than 100 times that number; fortunately, however, the inhabitants of Van Dieman's Land, about this time, were persuaded to send over sheep; and before I left that place the passage of many thousands was agreed for. Unless this had occurred, the colonial commissioner would doubtless have been obliged again to import sheep for the maintenance of the emigrants.

The extraordinary profits which attend the breeding of sheep in the Australian colonies are not generally known in England; but having spent some time in Van Dieman's Land prior to my return to England, during which time I took some

pains to make myself acquainted with facts relative to sheep-breeding, I am glad to be able to send you the result of my inquiries. I ought to say that I have shown this statement to some of the leading graziers in Van Dieman's Land, and they all agree that the data are under instead of being beyond the facts.

In this calculation the increase is taken at the rate of 80 per cent. per lambing season, and seven lambing seasons are supposed to take place in five years: the loss by natural and accidental deaths is calculated at five per cent. per lambing season. No deduction is here made for the expense of management, the produce in wool fully covering this outlay. The original purchase is supposed to be 500 ewes.

		FIRST SEASON.			
Ewes.	Deaths.	Increase.	Lambs.	Ewes.	Wethers.
500	—25 = 475	at 80	=380	=190	· 190
		per cent.			
		SECOND SEASON.		Wethers. Deaths.	
475	—25 = 450	„	340 = 170	· 170	190 — 10 = 180
		THIRD SEASON.		Deaths.	
Ewes of 1st Season.	Deaths.	„	506 = 253	· 253	180 + 170 — 18 = 332
450	+190 — 32 = 608				
		FOURTH SEASON.			
2nd Season.		„	592 = 296	· 296	332 + 253 — 28 = 557
608	+170 — 38 = 740				
		FIFTH SEASON.			
3rd Season.		„	756 = 378	· 378	557 + 296 — 43 = 810
740	+253 — 49 = 944				
		SIXTH SEASON.			
4th Season.		„	942 = 471	· 471	810 + 378 — 63 = 1220
944	+296 — 63 = 1177				
		SEVENTH SEASON.			
5th Season.		„	1182 = 591	· 591	1220 + 471 — 89 = 1602
1177	+378 — 78 = 1477				

Thus, at the end of five years the 500 sheep originally imported would have increased to 1,477 ewes, 1,182 lambs, and 1,602 wether sheep, giving a total of 3,088 sheep, and 1,182 lambs. I shall not carry on this statement to money results, but this can be done by any one who chooses to calculate it. The cost of fine-woolled ewes, two and four teeth in Van Dieman's Land, in January, 1838, was about 18s. each, and the net cost of freight to South Australia from Launceston is about 10s. a head.

A Van Dieman's Land grazier will pronounce this calculation crude. He would smile, for instance, at my giving all the value of the wool for the expense of management; and he would ask why the wethers should not be sold from year to year, and ewes bought with the proceeds, whereby the increase would be naturally much greater; but I have been content with showing what the profit is upon the lowest calculation and inferior management. At your leisure you can add to the computation I have made the extra profit arising from selling males and buying females, without being afraid of building castles in the air.

Oxen and cows again are a very fruitful source of profit, and the luxuriant pastures around Adelaide keep them always in excellent condition. I am by no means going beyond the fact, when I declare that oxen in South Australia worked hard up to the day of their being slaughtered, make as good beef as the best I have tasted in Van Dieman's Land, and quite equal to any commonly sold in the English shambles. Pigs maintain them-

selves, and get fat in the swamps by Glenelg, without any care being bestowed upon them: they are increasing very rapidly throughout the province, and some very good breeds have been introduced.

Poultry of all kinds succeed very well, and are increasing fast. These again require but little attention, finding in the grasses and insects almost sufficient food to support them, unless, indeed, they are kept in considerable numbers.

The South Australian Company is an establishment of which I was unwise enough to think with some jealousy at the time of its formation, but which has been of great, and is likely to be of very extensive use to the province. The business of the company includes many branches: it has a bank; is a land-company; it builds ships, and is a whaling and trading company. In some of these occupations it must with tolerable management succeed, but I greatly doubt the policy of the whole.

The advantage which the public has hitherto derived from its banking department has been considerable; and I am glad to know that the bank has already paid its expenses, a circumstance by no means expected, I believe, during the first year of its existence. Not only is there through it a great facility of exchange, but it is liberal in advances upon bonâ fide security. Upon the collateral security of town-allotments ample advances are made; they have a common exchangeable value, and can be turned at any moment into actual cash. Upon the rural land very slight, if

any advances have yet been obtained : this land has not yet become private property, it is urged, and, until the situation is determined, it is not deemed by the resident manager prudent to make advances upon it. Good bills are discounted at the rate of ten per cent., the usual rate of interest payable there and in the adjacent colonies.

The company possesses about one seventh of the land in the province yet disposed of, and about one-sixth of Adelaide. From this source I think it will be found to derive eventually its chief profit. At present, in consequence of the surveys of the rural land not being completed, it has the power of operating only upon its town-land ; upon this it may build extensively with the greatest certainty of realizing large returns. A commodious and well-finished hotel, six and eight-roomed houses fit for the reception on their arrival of persons possessed of property, and in the minor streets some rows of cottages for labourers and artisans are much wanted, and would yield ample profit. From twenty-five to thirty per cent. could thus be easily obtained.

About the *middle of the present year*, 1838, I think there is not much doubt but that the rural surveys will be completed, and that each proprietor or tenant of a preliminary section will be able to go upon his farm. To persons of small capital the company offer land upon very favourable terms ; they invite tenants upon lease, assist them in building homesteads, and in stocking their farms. The tenants select their land, and have a right at

any time during the lease to purchase the farms at a fixed price mentioned in the lease.

The whaling business of the company has hitherto proved unfortunate, partly from accidents to shipping, and partly from disputes which have arisen as to the right of fishing in the bays and gulfs of the province, and which have caused some of the seamen and subordinate officers employed in that service to leave their engagement. When this branch of the company's business shall be placed under an organized system, however, it may make good returns, for there are bays belonging to the province which afford as good fishing as any to be found in the world.

The attempt to build ships in the colony at present I consider a very wild and dangerous experiment. It does not pay in Van Dieman's Land, where wages are lower and materials cheaper than in South Australia; besides which it is a very expensive operation. It would be infinitely cheaper to purchase and sail out small vessels than to build them on the spot: and I much regret the idea is being acted upon, as I feel convinced it will be the means of sweeping away the profits accruing upon other parts of the company's business.

Again, I cannot think that the avocation of merchants is likely to be found profitable to the company. In trading, no company unless possessing monopoly rights, can successfully compete with individuals; and it is an employment in which the standing of the company may be injuriously affected in the colony. There may be times when

for the trading purposes of the company the bank ought to refuse discounts; by refusal the company might at times almost monopolize profits; but if it did so, not only would one branch of its business be injured for the promotion of another, but a feeling against the company's proceedings would certainly arise in the province.

By dropping trading and ship-building, I am of opinion more good for the province and for the company may be attained.* An engineer might with advantage be added to the establishment, who, if he were an architect also, would not only conduct the company's buildings in the town and country, but might contract with the colonial government for the erection or performance of all public works, such as government-buildings, bridges, aqueducts, roads, &c. Thus, the province would very quickly present a civilized and attractive appearance.

Sheep-breeding and grazing generally, to any extent, may be entered upon by the company, with a full confidence as to the pecuniary result. The company will probably not manage its flock so cheaply as individuals, but the profits attending this pursuit are such as to allow an ample discount for the probable inattention of agents.

But perhaps one of the most important circumstances connected with the company, is the union of its directors and their constituents with the in-

* Since my arrival in England, I find that the directors have ordered these operations to be discontinued.

terests of the province. I always thought it highly desirable that communications the most intimate and frequent, should be maintained between the emigrants and those they left behind ; but until lately, I never felt the *degree* of importance which attaches to this bond of fellowship. Upon the strength and degree of interest maintained between the mother-country and her offspring, depend the protection to be afforded to it, when needed, from assailants from without, and from political and individual oppression within. In this view, the South Australian Company is a most influential establishment : among its directors and subscribers are names of high worth and reputation, and it is for them to sift to the bottom all movements, at home and abroad, which can in any way affect the interests of the province, and to act with decision upon them. Upon the general good fame of the province depend the number of instructed families who shall emigrate, the amount of land purchased and consequent emigration of labourers, the increase in value of the land,—in fact, its general prosperity. In long-established communities a company has mainly to regard the management of its own affairs and the conduct of its own officers ; in a new country where society has hardly yet rooted, it has other cares, and those of the highest import.*

* The South Australian Company owes its foundation to Mr. G. Fife Angas, a gentleman who attached himself to the principles of the colony in 1830, and who ever since has been ready, in purse and person, to advance its in-

The following list of shipping I believe to be tolerably correct: at the time of my leaving Van Dieman's Land, (March, 1838,) four vessels were fitting out at Launceston, and three from Hobart Town, for South Australia, with sheep, cattle, and other necessaries. The return of shipping arriving at Port Adelaide during this year will certainly, at the least, present double the tonnage now sent.

LIST of SHIPS arrived at South Australia from England,
up to December 31, 1837.

NAME.	DESCRIPTION.	TONNAGE.
Duke of York . . .	brig . . .	191
Lady Mary Pelham . . .	" . . .	201
John Pirie . . .	schooner . . .	120
Rapid . . .	brig . . .	160
Cygnets . . .	barque . . .	239
Emma . . .	brig . . .	160
Africaine . . .	barque . . .	317
Tam o'Shanter . . .	" . . .	450
Buffalo, H. M. S. . . .	" . . .	850
Coromandel . . .	ship . . .	662
William Hutt . . .	brig . . .	240
John Renwick . . .	ship . . .	400
South Australian . . .	barque . . .	200
Sarah & Elizabeth . . .	" . . .	269
Carried over		4,459

terests in every way. Those who have had the pleasure of working with him in this cause throughout, have been struck with his intrepidity of thought and action, equalled only by his zeal in promoting the furtherance of religion and education in the province.

NAME.	DESCRIPTION.	TONNAGE.
	Brought over . . .	4,459
Schah	schooner . . .	160
Katherine Stuart Forbes	barque . . .	457
Hartley	" . . .	350
Lady Emma	" . . .	135
Navarino	" . . .	457
		<hr/>
		6,018

LIST of SHIPS arrived at South Australia, from Colonial
and other ports, up to December 31, 1837.

NAME.	PORT.	DESCRIPTION.	TON.
Vansittart . . .	Hobart Town . . .	cutter . . .	60
Success	" . . .	schooner . . .	140
Truelove	" . . .	" . . .	140
Mary Anne	Launceston . . .	cutter . . .	36
Mary and Jane . . .	Cape of Good Hope . . .	brig . . .	200
William	Launceston . . .	cutter . . .	20
William	" . . .	brig . . .	160
"	" . . .	" . . .	160
"	" . . .	" . . .	160
Africaine	Hobart Town . . .	barque . . .	317
"	" . . .	" . . .	317
John Pirie	" . . .	schooner . . .	120
"	" . . .	" . . .	120
"	" . . .	" . . .	120
Emma	" . . .	brig . . .	200
Regia	Sydney . . .	barque . . .	250
Rapid	" . . .	brig . . .	160
Royal George	" . . .	ship . . .	451
Isabella	Launceston . . .	barque . . .	300
Lord Hobart	Cape of Good Hope . . .	brig . . .	189
Africaine	Launceston . . .	barque . . .	317
Industry	" . . .	schooner . . .	84
Abeona	Mauritius & Swan-riv. . . .	" . . .	78
Henry	Launceston . . .	brig . . .	150
			<hr/>
	Carried up		4,249

NAME.	PORT.	DESCRIPTION.	TON.
		Brought up . . .	4,249
Anne . . .	Sydney . . .	schooner	80
Currency Lass . . .	" . . .	"	100
Elizabeth . . .	Launceston . . .	schooner	53
Alice . . .	Sydney . . .	brig	230
Sir C. MacCarthy . . .	Launceston . . .	"	180
Syren . . .	" . . .	"	150
Syren . . .	" . . .	"	150
Solway . . .	Hamburgh . . .	barque	400
Abeona . . .	Hobart Town . . .	schooner	78
Gem . . .	Launceston . . .	"	90
John Pirie . . .	Hobart Town . . .	"	120
Peter Proctor . . .	Calcutta . . .	brig	267
Eudora . . .	Hobart Town . . .	barque	208
Industry . . .	Launceston . . .	schooner	84
Gem . . .	" . . .	"	90
William . . .	" . . .	brig	160
Abercrombie . . .	Sydney . . .	"	144
			<hr/> 6,833
		From England . . .	6,018
		Total . . .	<hr/> 12,851

The population, when I left the province in November last, might be fairly estimated at 2,500 ; after which time, and before I left Van Dieman's Land, it very rapidly increased.

LETTER VI.

THE LABOURING POPULATION.

I HAVE great pleasure in answering your enquiries relative to the advantages South Australia holds out to labouring emigrants. You inform me that you are a house-carpenter, are married, and have three small children; that by the sale of your household furniture, (retaining your tools,) with what little you have in the savings' bank, you can muster about £40. The fact of your having saved, by careful industry, a little money, will not operate as a reason to prevent your admission for a free passage by the colonization commissioners. Your wife and yourself would, doubtless, on application in the proper form, be admitted; but you would probably have to pay for the passage of your children. This, however, will be but a trifle out of your way, when compared with the advantage the change of place may eventually produce to you.*

* Wages are much higher in South Australia than in Van Dieman's Land, and to this cause may be attributed the very considerable immigration of labourers which has taken place thence to South Australia. While I was in

On your arrival in the province, you will find a small house ready to receive you, free of rent, or if many ships happen to arrive about the same time, probably you will have to put up with a part only of a house; but however this may be, your protection on first landing being the especial care of a most kind and highly-respectable gentleman, Mr. Brown, the emigration agent, you will be quite sure to be made as comfortable as the means at his disposal will admit. After a few weeks, you will have to leave the habitation so provided for you, to make room for new-comers, who will require simi-

Van Dieman's Land, (February 1838,) the Bussorah Merchant arrived from England with emigrants from Ireland; but they found no employment, and the streets of Hobart Town were as much infested with beggars when I left in March, as any town in France. In some parts of Van Dieman's Land labour is absolutely lower than in England, while in other parts it is much higher. This state of things is to be explained only by reference to the convict system. When a convict has behaved well for a sufficient length of time together, he has accorded to him an indulgence called a ticket of leave; that is, permission to choose his master *in a particular district*. In what district the ticket-of-leave man is to work depends altogether on the chief police-magistrate, and as he generally orders ticket-of-leave men into a country district, labour is cheap there, and dear in the towns. To such an extent is this system carried, that in the Oatlands district, applications have been frequently made by ticket-of-leave men again to be assigned to masters, as they found it impossible, *in that district*, to earn sufficient wages to maintain themselves. In such districts free-labourers are not to be found. This is one of the many singular anomalies arising out of the convict transportation system.

lar advantages to those you will have enjoyed. Should you not be hired by a private settler immediately on arrival, Mr. Brown will find you some government employment at adequate wages.

The labouring emigrants already in the province are generally moral and well-disposed. As far as can be, care is taken in England that the emigrants are all virtuous and good members of society; and, although instances of demoralization will creep in, and bad habits are contracted on board ship, still the very great majority of the South Australian artizans and labourers are steady and trust-worthy people. They are civil enough to their employers, and they have every cause to be so. They earn high wages, and the prices of provisions are such as to enable them, out of their high wages, to save money fast. In proof of which, most of those who came out with Colonel Light in the *Rapid* and in the *Cygnets*, and who landed without a sixpence, are now owners of an acre or more of land, with a comfortable cottage of their own upon it.

Nevertheless, I feel myself compelled to warn you against some of the faults and bad habits of many of the South Australian labourers, for these they have managed to acquire, even since their arrival in the province. It has always appeared to me, that the minds of the emigrants have been injudiciously filled in England, probably with the benevolent intention of decreasing the pain of parting from their friends, with too high an idea of their own importance, with too elevated anticipa-

tions of the future; these have been nurtured and heightened on the voyage, and it has not been until they found it necessary to go to work in earnest, that the illusion has been apparent. When the mistake is first discovered, disappointment takes the place of their castles in the air, and some time elapses before the usual course of labour is cheerfully followed. There is a standing joke in Adelaide against a young woman, who having married just before she left England, got, during the voyage, certain elevated notions of her newly acquired dignity. On the emigrants from her ship landing, a gentleman walked down to Glenelg to hire a servant, and seeing this person standing on the beach by her boxes, he walked up to her, and after talking a little about the voyage asked, "if she was engaged?" "Engaged," said she, with a simpering yet modest smile, "I am married, sir?" "Oh, my good girl," rejoined the inquirer, "I beg your pardon, I too am married, and certainly did not mean the kind of engagement you supposed. I want a servant, and wish to know if you are hired." "Hired, indeed!" said she, in a very altered tone, and bridling up to her full height, "do you think *I* mean to work, then; no, indeed, my husband will never allow that, he will keep me." The event, however, has not justified the prophesy; and having recovered her senses, she now works hard. Colonization is hard work, and no one unless possessed of a considerable capital, ought to think of going to a new country unless he is disposed to put his shoulder to the wheel in good earnest. To

the industrious workman the rapid return he realizes sweetens labour; every week shows to him the advantage he is gaining, and if he avoid bad habits, he will soon be a happy and prosperous man.

Another fault is idleness. Sufficient wages are so easily obtained, and from so many masters if one should fail, that all desire to give a full amount of work for high wages appears to die away, and the object of the labourer seems to be to learn how little work and how short a day his master will put up with. The injustice of this conduct is not reasoned upon by the labourer, but its effects are really serious; and to such an extent did I find this go in my own case, that for several months prior to my leaving the colony I employed but one man in building my house or on my grounds who came from England direct; all my men were from Van Dieman's Land, where they had been for some years, and I uniformly found them far better and more industrious labourers than any others I could obtain. I am grieved to be obliged to mention this fact, but I should hardly be honest in my representation if I did not give the whole truth.

The third danger is rum and spirit drinking. This is carried to a lamentable excess in the province, and it is an evil of the first magnitude. Most labourers try to make it a stipulation with their masters that they shall be allowed a fixed quantity of rum a day, and a worse habit, perhaps, neither master nor servant can adopt. Throughout Van Dieman's Land the labourers are content with tea, and this the masters give liberally; intoxicating

liquors are never resorted to except upon seasons of rejoicing. In Adelaide, a dozen drunken people, marines and labourers together, are to be found daily at those dens of iniquity the gin-shops; in Van Dieman's Land, (and I draw the contrast with great sorrow,) during a three months' residence, I have not seen more than half-a-dozen men intoxicated. I know this is partly to be attributed to the unlimited power which a Van Dieman's Land master has over his convict servant; but from whatever source this state of things arises, it is deeply painful to me to be obliged thus to condemn, instead of to praise, the inhabitants of my adopted country.

Artizans of almost all kinds are wanted in the colony, not only carpenters, but joiners, cabinet-makers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, brickmakers, quarrymen, stone-masons, lime-burners, plasterers, working engineers, wheelwrights, coopers, sawyers, and in a limited degree plumbers, glaziers, painters, shoemakers and tailors. Strong and industrious labourers of different kinds are also wanted; and among them well-diggers and bankers, hedgers and ditchers, thatchers and gardeners, would find ample work and high wages. Shepherds, especially from the highlands, would obtain high wages; and there is a very great demand for female domestic servants and dairy-women. The wages which I gave for some months to men accustomed to all kinds of colonial work, such as clearing land,

grubbing up trees, fencing and gardening, was 6*s.* a day; but these were very skilful men, and each worth two of those I have described as just landed from England. I may add they were all Irishmen!

Provisions are by no means dear; excellent beef and mutton are always to be obtained for 1*s.* a lb., salt beef and pork for about 9*d.*, kangaroo 9*d.*, wild ducks 1*s.* each, quail 6*d.*, snapper about 6*d.* a lb., and other fish in proportion. Fresh butter is 2*s.* 6*d.*, and salt butter 1*s.* 6*d.*; milk 10*d.* a quart, flour 55*s.* the barrel of 196lbs., sugar 6*d.*, and tea 3*s.* 6*d.* and 4*s.*

I annex copies of some letters from persons resident in the colony to their friends in England, which were given me upon my leaving the colony for the purpose of being made public if I saw fit, and which will, I am sure, prove very interesting to you.

* October 10th, 1837.

Dearest Sister and Brother,

I HAVE no doubt you think us unkind in not writing to you sooner, but I thought it best to delay writing until I could send you a satisfactory account of the colony, the which at present I can. We have had since our arrival here much better health than we ever had in England; we had a very fine passage, but was treated with the greatest of inhumanity by the captain and surgeon and super-

* In the following letters the only alterations made are occasionally in the orthography and punctuation.—R. G.

intendant,* but I have not heard of a single complaint from any other vessel that has arrived here; but the captain and doctor was soon forgot by the kind manner we was treated on our landing by the whole of the gentlemen belonging to the colonial government. Good labourers, of any description, are now getting 5*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* per day, and they were and are very much wanted: tradesmen can get 10*s.* per day, but most that is wanting is carpenters, bricklayers, and masons. I can earn myself † 1*l.* per day, and not work so hard as I did in England for 7*s.* Beef and mutton is plentifully supplied by the commissioners at 1*s.* per lb.; potatoes is very dear at present, but the next season I expect they will be cheaper than they are in London, as they grow very fast, as likewise do most vegetables. Fowls breed three or four times a year; all cattle breed very fast, so that we may expect meat soon to be very cheap. Shoes is exceedingly dear; clothes is much cheaper than we could expect. Parrots and cockatoos are plentiful, which are excellent eating; there is plenty of kangaroo, but very shy, as likewise is emus, turkeys, geese and ducks.

Dear brother and sister, if you can rely on my word, I would advise you to come out to Australia, where you will better your condition ten-fold, as also would James Tupper, as he could a shingle-splitting earn £1. a day, as it is an article of great consumption. Please to inform your mother if she will send R. Tupper out, Mr. Gouger, the bearer of this letter, will bring him out with him, and I promise to do the best in my power for him. I have bought an acre of land in the city of Adelaide which cost me £8., which is now worth £50. without any thing being done to it, and land of every description is increasing in

* It is but justice to say that no complaint relative to these gentlemen ever came before the proper authorities, and that this is the first complaint of the kind I have heard.—R. G.

† The writer of this letter is a blacksmith.

price every day. We have now got a comfortable stone cottage and a good shop, with two fires constantly a-going, and a good garden well stocked with vegetables. My brother is now at work with me, and is doing very well.

So no more at present from
Your affectionate Brother and Sister,
W. S. and P. SIMONS.

Direct to me at Pleasant-cottage, Currie-street, Adelaide, South Australia.

Please to give our kind love to mother, sister, and brother, and all enquiring friends: likewise to Mr. Hancock and Williams, and I intend to write to them the first opportunity.

To Mr. Phillips,
No. 6, Little John Street,
St. John's, Horsleydown, London.

* Adelaide, Oct. 30, 1837.

My dear Friends,

WHEN I left you it was under a promise that in about eighteen months you should hear from me; I now write to redeem that pledge, and not that alone, but to compensate as well the kindness I received at my departure, by sending an account of the situation in which I am placed; and I shall leave it to yourselves to determine if I have not made a change for the better. When I embarked, every thing I had been possessed of which could not be termed an absolute necessary was turned into money to provide a comfortable equipment for myself, wife, and child, and to such a nicety was this executed, that when at Rio de Janeiro the last shilling was expended; thus it may truly be said we were landed penniless upon a foreign

* This letter is printed without any alteration whatever.

shore; but you all know how sanguine my expectations were, and how determinedly my mind was formed to combat every difficulty which might present itself towards accomplishing my object. It was in the early part of September, 1836, when we made port at Kangaroo Island, and at the time the town-sections were disposed of by public auction I was enabled to purchase two acres, and a number of domestic articles; and I know it will be highly gratifying to you to hear that at the present time (without any future prospects,) I am worth at least £160. Now I address myself more particularly to Mr. Duhuime: "are you determined still to remain in London, to struggle with the uncertainty of employment and all its attendant evils? and looking to the brightest side of the question, every year will leave you but a *trifle* better than the last, and the prime of life is thus sacrificed in advances which are *too gradual* and *insignificant*: here industry and perseverance are sure to meet with their reward. This maxim is bandied about in your metropolis, and I for one know enough of its fallacy; for so far from prosperity being the *certain* attendant of industry, few, very few, can raise themselves with every exertion of mind and body above the common lot of indigence. *This* is the theatre for action, and *this* is the market for your labour: you may get here 10s. a day with ease, while your expenses in housekeeping need not exceed 30s. a week, and a *certainty* of employment. The gentleman who waits on you with this can certify you on this subject. Should you wish to engage I have no objection to contract for your services for one year at the above rate, for ten hours' clear work at the above sum: this can be done by your signing a document to that effect with the gentleman who is the bearer of this letter, previous to leaving England; but I do not press this, because I would wish every one who comes here to have an opportunity of choosing that mode of life which his own observation suggests as being most beneficial, and I have no doubt you will do better by remaining free."

Of all who have settled at present I do not know of one

who is a cabinet-maker following his own trade. When I was liberated from the service of the commissioners, my time was employed at carpentering, but I have commenced as storekeeper, and for the short time I have been thus engaged I have met with that success which makes me to look forward with hope to the future. Little did I imagine, while receiving your jests and instructions about store-keeping, that within so short a time your picture would be realized.

With respect to the soil no doubt remains as to its capabilities. I do not think there is a single species of vegetation that cannot be cultivated with success, except those with which our climate is at variance. Our summers, if we may judge from the last, are remarkably settled, and considerably warmer than in England; but the winter, or rather the rainy season and the spring, are, for aught I can observe, equally variable; but although the changes are sometimes severely felt for the time, it does not appear that they are attended with that fatality, or rather ill health, so prevalent in the mother-country. It is quite common in this country to bask in the most agreeable sunshine for three or four days, and this will be succeeded by two or three days of cold wind, and frequently rain, now and then a hail-storm, but these are slight. The hoar-frost has made some of the potatoes droop, but we have no frosts like those of England, and taking all circumstances into consideration, as well as soil and climate, nothing should induce me to return for a permanence. There is one thing justice compels me to mention: in the summer we sometimes have a hot wind which affects the eyes very materially; and I have known a person nearly blind for three or four days. The common house-fly, the blue-bottle fly, and the musquitoes are quite a pest in the hot weather; but slight veils of gauze will protect our faces, and wire-gauze is a most valuable article to prevent the fresh meat from walking away.

As to refinement, I do not think the colonists have yet had leisure to consider much on this head: let this be as

it may, here is a convincing proof at my elbow that in my own family it is not much studied; Akenside's Pleasures of Imagination, after being twice drowned on the voyage, is at last serving as an envelope for a pound of candles.

My wife, child, and myself are quite well. I think I may say we have not had any illness, except sometimes a head-ache, since our arrival. Want of room compels me to desist. You have all my best wishes for your welfare. Do not let another opportunity pass without writing. Direct to me—*late of the Survey Department*. Adieu for the present.

S. CHAPMAN.

To the workmen in the employment of
Messrs. Wilkinson, Cabinet Manufacturers,
Ludgate Hill, London.

November 2, 1837.

Dear Mothers, Sisters, and Brothers,

I HAVE embraced this opportunity of addressing you with these few lines to you, hoping they will reach you with safety, and find you all in good health, as it leaves me at present; and thank God for it, for I never enjoyed better health than I have in this country. The climate is exceedingly fine, the winter here is more like the spring in England, for the frosts here is very trifling, not sufficient to cause ice. The spring is very pleasant; the summer is warm, but we have cool breezes generally from the westward; they rise about ten o'clock, and continue nearly all day. I think, in my opinion, that this country is far superior to Sydney or Van Dieman's Land: as I have experienced all three colonies, I decidedly pass my opinion on this place in every respect to land and climate, for I have been a good deal about the country since I have been here, and had a good deal of intercourse with the natives. I begin to talk their language very fair for considering the short time I have been here. I was the

first person as ventured over the hills in search of them. I fell in with them about eighteen miles from the town: there were thirty-five in number. The women and children was very frightened when they saw me, as I was the first white person they had ever seen. They gave a shriek; the men took to their spears, but did not offer to throw them at me. The men were quite naked, as that is their usual way here in the woods, for they could not climb the trees with clothes. They use a stick in getting up: they chip a piece of the bark out to place their foot in every step until they come to the limbs of the tree, for they get young birds and opossums out of the holes. But me and my master* was out a shooting cockatoos a few days before, when we fell in with four of the men, and we took them down to our tents, and gave them plenty of biscuit and sugar; so those men knew us again, and made much of us. I took with me six pounds of sugar and sixteen pounds of biscuit; I shared it amongst them, except about two pounds as I kept for myself. The sun was just going down when I fell in with them: I slept but little that night; but one of the natives kept singing and beating two sticks until day-break, which I thought was to keep watch. The next morning I went out a hunting with them: the women and children was so frightened of my gun that they would not go with us: they all seemed astonished at it a sending a bullet three inches in a tree at a distance of about 200 yards. I shot a quantity of birds and they got several opossums, which is rather larger than a foot, so we had a sumptuous feast. The next morning I persuaded

* Mr. Brown, the emigration agent, to whom, Mrs. Brown and this enterprising servant, the natives of the colony are under great obligations. They have, in fact, done the work of the protector of the aborigines as far as the maintenance of good feeling between the whites and natives is concerned. Their kindness to the aborigines has been uniform and striking.—R. G.

them to come down to our tents: the women objected to this at first; I then made motions to them that I would give them plenty of sugar and biscuit, then they consented to come; but when the women saw the ships in the bay they stared with astonishment to look at them. They stopped close to my tent that night, the next day they went away: they came down again in about a fortnight afterwards, and had several corroborrees; but now they stop about the town, and fetch wood and water for the people for some bread. They now bring me in young cockatoos and opossum-skins, for which I give them bread in return: I sell them 3s. each, so I clear about £1. per week, that and my wages together is better than I should get in England. The natives, just before I wrote these few lines to you, asked me to go with them about a hundred miles in a north-east direction, and asked me to take two kangaroo-dogs with me: they tell me there is plenty of kangaroos, emus, and other birds; they tell me there is two large rivers of fresh water, where there is plenty of wild ducks and black swans: they say that there is some large plains out that way, and the natives that way are very frightened of us, for they were a coming to have a look at us, when there was a ship a coming in fired two big guns, which frightened them so they turned back again; I have not made up my mind whether I shall go or not.

Dear kindred, I do not know what sort of account you have heard of this place: my opinion is, as many more, that there is every promising prospect of a flourishing colony. The town is improving very fast, and we have not had to undergo one-half of the inconveniences as I expected we should, for we never have been short of provisions yet, for the vessels are continually coming from Sydney, Van Dieman's Land, and other places. We have some large flocks of sheep, and herds of bullocks and cows, also horses; and vessels still coming in with stock and provisions. The land produces very fine rich grass, of various sorts; the town is beautifully situated on two spots

of rising ground, with a strong running stream of water through the centre, which runs all the year round. The town is surrounded by large plains. The people that has made gardens, their crops has turned out very fair crops; I have seen small spots of wheat and oats, looks remarkably well at present. Any person coming out here can never regret it, for labour will always be in full demand, and I hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing my brothers and relations out here. I have one acre and a quarter of land in the town, which will become very valuable in the course of a few years. My master gave £5. per acre, and I have been offered £80. for it, but I refused to sell. I sold three-quarters of an acre, as I purchased for £10. per acre, I sold for £23. a few days after. Labour of every kind is in full demand. Wages here, is for labouring men, about 30s. to 36s. per week; mechanics, from 50s. to 60s. per week. Price of provisions: fat beef and mutton, 1s. per lb.; salt pork, 10d.; butter, 2s.; fresh butter, 3s.; sugar, 8d.; tea, 3s.; kangaroo, 9d.; milk, 8d. per quart; beer, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 6d. per quart. Dear mother, I hope you have received the letters I have sent you, five in number, for I am in expectation of seeing my brother John, and William Gray here shortly; also, a letter from you. The gentleman, Mr. Gouger, has had the kindness to favour me with bringing these few lines to London for you, which he will be so kind as to send you a letter where he resides, as you can ask any question of the colony, and of our way of employment; and if either of my sisters or brothers would like to come out here, he will have the kindness to give you every instruction how to proceed. When I write the next letter, I will endeavour to send you something home. You will be so good as to give my kind respects to Mr. and Mrs. Lambert and family; that I have not seen John yet, but hoping they have heard from him. Dear mother, give my kind love to my uncle and aunt Nolles, that I sent their letters to Sydney, by post, soon after I arrived in the colony; and tell them I am

doing vory well ; and to my cousin, Thomas Grandshaw, and family ; and tell him to remember me to his father, mother, and family.

Dear mother, give my kindest love to all my sisters, brothers, and relations, and remember me to all enquiring friends, and tell them I am in good health and doing well, thank God for it.

I remain your affectionate son,

JAMES CRONK,

In South Australia.

To Mrs. Cronk,
Next door to the Prince Regent,
Globe-road, Mile-end, Stepney.

Adelaide, South Australia, Nov. 7, 1837.

Dear Father and Mother,

I HOPE this letter will find you as well as when I left England. You, perhaps, expected to hear from us before, but that was impossible, as the ship never stopped any where after we left Portsmouth. We had a most wonderful voyage, never experiencing any rough weather scarcely at all. We left the docks, you know, on the 27th June, and we anchored at Holdfast-Bay, October 17th, being a remarkably short passage. We passed the Hartley, about three weeks before we got there. She left the docks six weeks before us. We had a most excellent man and perfect gentleman for our captain, and I must say the same by our doctor, which made things very pleasant on board. Our doctor was likewise very clever in his profession, which, I am sorry to say, I had occasion to prove. I was taken with sea-sickness before we got to Portsmouth, which continued till within a week of our landing ; for some weeks I never left my bed, except to be lifted out to have it made : at the end of that time, my bed used to be laid on the deck of a morning, and I was taken up and laid upon it. Indeed I suffered much more than any other person on board, and we had a great deal of illness. A

person of the name of Rush brought two children on board with the whooping-cough, which our little darling, Peter, caught, and suffered for two months on board with it, as it had such an effect upon his bowels. You have no idea of the miseries of illness on board of ship; the dear little fellow seemed a great deal better the last week or two we were on board; and on Saturday, the 21st October, we landed, and every body was delighted with his little tricks in the boat, as we came to shore; you might have taken a lease of his life, to all appearance, but he changed poorly in the morning, about eight o'clock, and on Sunday morning, about six o'clock, he had a dreadful fit, and continued out of one into another, till Tuesday night, and from thence gradually sinking till Thursday night, at twelve o'clock, when he expired like a lamb. My tears fall so fast I can scarcely see to write at all. I endeavour to resign myself to the will of God, but nature will have its way; and it seems hard, after bringing him so many miles, to lose him now. The doctor says it was the cough, and that his lungs were entirely gone. Dear father, if you could call and tell Mr. Hutt, the mischief it caused letting those people bring such a complaint on board, as there was three died on board with it, besides my little dear, and there are at least twenty bad with it now here, I think they would be more particular in future. Notwithstanding all my trouble, I am now getting as strong and hearty as ever I was in my life; the climate seems to have such a wonderful effect upon my constitution, and indeed on every body's that conduct themselves sober and steady. The heat, yesterday, at twelve o'clock, was 100° in the shade, and for all that, your appetite is as sharp as in frosty weather in England. We seem to be always hungry, which proves the healthiness of the climate. Indeed, it is a wonderful country; a complete natural garden. The flowers which grow wild about would shame many English gardens, and to see the trees and beautiful evergreens about the fields, it looks like a fine park.

The provisions are at present very high: fresh meat,

1s. per lb. ; butter, 2s. ; bread, 1s. 8d. per quartern ; sugar, from 7d. to 8d. per lb. ; tea, from 4s. to 5s. ; pepper, 2s. per lb. ; soap, 7d. to 8d. ; coffee, 2s. per lb. ; but wearing-apparel would frighten you. Boots and shoes are dearer than any thing. Men's shoes, from 12s. 6d. to £1. a-pair ; boots, from £1. 10s. to £2. 10s. Women's in proportion. Straw bonnets, £1. 6s., that would be about 8s. at home. I shall do well by the thimbles, hooks and eyes, and other things I brought out with me, as they are an immense price here ; I have already sold some. I send this letter by Mr. Gouger, a gentleman who will be so kind as to call on you, and he will give you £5. from me, if you will be so good as to lay it out in the following articles. There is a place in Skinner-street, where they sell common strong leather boots ; if you have three pairs of a sort, and they will do as well here as better, as it is the upper-leathers wear out first. Three pairs of Wellington's, for £1. 10s., and three ditto lace-up boots, to fit Dad ; and about three pairs of common leather boots for me, ten and a half inches long ; half a dozen pair of common worsted-stocking shirts for Peter, at about 3s. each, and about half a dozen pair of common braces ; if there is money enough left, I should like flannel for two petticoats. I would send more money, but Peter only had £5. for cooking for the voyage, and he has not yet sold his fat ; it will not fetch much here. We have paid £4. for the doctor and funeral of my little dear.

Dear father and mother, in the course of a very few months I hope to send you the money we owe you, as Peter has a most excellent place, through the recommendation of Captain Fell : he went on shore, and brought Mr. Neale, the gentleman we are with, off with him, who engaged Peter directly ; and the gentlemen all say Peter left the ship with the best character of any man in it, and I thank God, he deserved it thoroughly. Our captain and doctor have told most of the gentlemen in the colony, what an excellent fellow he was all the way out, in every respect ; and he had a great deal to put up with, and very hard work

to do, but his temper was always the same: had he been like some husbands, I should never have lived through the voyage. He is engaged as butcher, and is just the man they wanted here; he has £2. a week, all his fresh meat, and milk, nearly a pint a day, and that is sold at 10d. a quart here; a house, with two rooms and wash-house, and a piece of garden-ground, eighty feet by thirty; and Mr. Neale, being a storekeeper, we get all our things at reduced prices. I at present assist Mrs. Neale in her household-work; I have a pint of porter per day, which is 1s. 2d. a pot, and we have not settled yet how much money I am to have a week, but they are such good people to us, they are like parents to us. I am so well satisfied with every thing, I wish all my friends and relations would come to us, they would do so much better here than it is possible to do in England. Common labourers are getting from 25s. to 30s. a week, and their rations, which is as good as ten more to them; and good carpenters have from 8s. to 10s. a day. Women's wages are equally high; indeed, they seem more wanted than men. Boys and girls are getting immense wages; no matter how many children a man has here, they are all wanted to work. Pray tell William Joyce he had better come out as soon as possible; likewise George Cook and his family; and indeed, I should like you to read this letter to as many people as you can, for if we were to have our passage paid back, and five hundred pounds given to us at landing, we would not accept it. Whoever you know that is coming out, had better bring as many clothes with them as they can, and tell them to try and save a little of their provisions on board, as they are allowed to bring it ashore with them; they will find it useful. This one letter must do for all friends this time, as I had such a short notice. Give our love to aunt and uncle Cook, Mrs Pizey, all brothers and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. Day, grandmamma Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Lott, Mr. and Mrs. Bells, and all other our kind friends. We often talk of you all, and wish you were with us. Direct to us at Mr. Neale's storekeeper, near Vic-

toria-square, Adelaide, South Australia. If you could send our looking-glass, I should be glad, as we cannot get one. Wishing you, dear father and mother, every happiness you desire, our best love, and remain

Your dutiful son and daughter,

PETER and ANNE COOKE.

Dear father, Peter wishes you would remember him to them all at Ward's, and read what of this letter you like to them, and at Proctor's, the same: he wishes Will Joyce would come in the next ship; but, he says, he had better get spliced first: he would like his brother George to write to his mother, and give our love to her, and tell her how well we are doing, with the blessing of God. Pray tell whoever thinks of coming out, they must make up their minds to be sober, as liquor being so cheap here, it is the destruction of many here; it is quite dreadful. Dear mother, I dare say you remember I am twenty-five years old to-day; I wish you was here with me.

Your's,

ANNE COOKE.

Mr. Norris,

41, Rosomond-street, Clerkenwell,
London.

The accompanying paper will show you the regulations adopted by the colonization commissioners for the selection of emigrants.

PROVINCE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

COLONIZATION COMMISSIONERS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

Appointed by his Majesty by virtue of an Act of Parliament (4th and 5th William IVth. chap. xcv.) intituled, "An Act to empower his Majesty to erect South Australia into a British Province or Provinces, and to provide for the Colonization and Government thereof."

Colonel Torrens, F. R. S., *Chairman.*

Edward Barnard, Esq.

Wm. Hutt, Esq. M. P.

John G. Shaw Lefevre, Esq.

Wm. A. Mackinnon, Esq.

M. P.

Samuel Mills, Esq.

Jacob Montefiore, Esq.

George Palmer, Jun. Esq.

James Pennington, Esq.

Josiah Roberts, Esq.

G. Barnes, Esq. *Treasurer.* Rowland Hill, Esq. *Secretary.*

Office, No. 6, *Adelphi Terrace, London.*

REGULATIONS FOR LABOURERS WISHING TO EMIGRATE.
TO SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

1. The act of parliament declares that the whole of the funds arising from the sale of lands and the rent of pasturage shall form an emigration-fund, to be employed in affording a free passage to the colony from Great Britain and Ireland for poor persons, "provided that they shall, as far as possible, be adult persons of both sexes in equal proportions, and not exceeding the age of thirty years."

2. With a view to carrying this provision into effect, the commissioners offer a free passage to the colony (including provisions and medical attendance during the voyage) to persons of the following description:—

3. Agricultural labourers, shepherds, bakers, blacksmiths, braziers and tinmen, smiths, shipwrights, boat-builders, butchers, wheelwrights, sawyers, cabinet-makers, coopers, carriers, farriers, millwrights, harness-makers, boot and shoemakers, tailors, tanners, brick-makers, lime-burners, and all persons engaged in the erection of buildings.

4. Persons engaged in the above occupations, who may apply for a free passage to South Australia, must be able to give satisfactory references to show that they are honest, sober, industrious, and of general good character, *and they must therefore fill up the annexed form and transmit it properly attested, as directed in the form itself.*

5. They must be real labourers going out to work for wages in the colony, of sound mind and body, not less than fifteen, nor more than thirty years of age, and married.

6. To the wives of such labourers as are thus sent out, the commissioners offer a free passage with their husbands.

7. To single women a free passage will be granted, provided they go out under the protection of their parents or near relatives. The preference will be given to those accustomed to farm and dairy-work, to sempstresses, strawplatters, and domestic servants.

8. The children of parents sent out by the commissioners will receive a free passage if they are under one or full fifteen years of age. For all children between the ages of one and fifteen £3. must be paid by the parents or friends, or by the parish. The commissioners cannot in any way become responsible for it.

9. Emigrants will for the most part embark at the port of London, but if any considerable number should offer themselves in the neighbourhood of any port of Great Britain or Ireland, arrangements will, if possible, be made for their embarkation at such port.

10. The expense of reaching the vessel and taking their baggage on board must be borne by the emigrants, but on the day appointed for their embarkation they will be re-

ceived even though the departure of the ship should be delayed, and will be put to no further expense.

11. Every adult emigrant is allowed to take half a ton weight, or twenty measured cubic feet of baggage. Extra baggage is charged £2. 10s. the ton.

12. The emigrants must provide the bedding for themselves and children; and the other articles most useful for emigrants to take with them are strong plain clothing, and the lighter and most necessary tools of their own trades.

13. On the arrival of the emigrants in the colony they will be received by an officer, who will supply their immediate wants, assist them in reaching the place of their destination, be ready to advise with them in case of difficulty, and at times give them employment *at reduced* wages on the government-works, if from any cause they should be unable to obtain it elsewhere.

14. On the arrival of the emigrant-labourers in the colony, they will be at perfect liberty to engage themselves to any one willing to employ them, and will make their own bargain for wages. This arrangement, while it leaves the emigrant free to act as he may think right, manifestly renders it impossible for the commissioners to give any exact information as to the amount of wages to be obtained; they can merely state that in all new colonies, particularly in the neighbouring settlements of New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land, wages are much higher than in England.

In providing clothing, it should be remembered that the usual length of the voyage is about four months.

By order of the Board,

ROWLAND HILL, *Secretary.*

Applications to be made to the *Superintendent of Emigration*, 6, *Adelphi Terrace.*

May 9th, 1838.

Register, No.

Date.

Form for Persons desirous of obtaining a Free Passage to South Australia, to be filled up and returned to the Colonization Commissioners for South Australia, *No. 6, Adelphi Terrace, London.*

The same form will do for a man and his wife and their children under fifteen, all others will require distinct forms.

Name of the applicant .
 Trade or calling
 Place of residence
 Married or single
 Age Man's age. Woman's age.
 Names and ages of the children, if there are any under 15 years ..
 Charge for the children by whom defrayed, (see regulation 8) ...
 Name and address of some late employer, with the time the applicant worked for him
 Name and address of the minister of the parish in which the applicant resides

I do hereby declare, that the above statement is true; that I have carefully read the preceding regulations for the selection of emigrant-labourers, and that in applying for a free passage to the colony, I am really and truly acting in accordance with the spirit of those regulations, which I understand to be this:—That the privilege of a

free passage, if granted, will be allowed me in the expectation that I go to the colony as one willing and intending to work there for wages, until, by such means, I shall have saved sufficient to enable me, in the same manner, to employ others.

Signed by the applicant.

CERTIFICATE TO BE SIGNED BY TWO RESPECTABLE
HOUSEHOLDERS.

We certify, that we are well-acquainted with the above-named applicant, and that we believe the above statement to be strictly true; further, that we believe the applicant to be honest, sober, industrious, and of general good character, and like to maintain self in the colony.

Signature.

Place of abode.

Signature

Place of abode.

CERTIFICATE OF A PHYSICIAN OR SURGEON.

I certify, that the above-named applicant is neither seriously mutilated nor deformed in person, nor, in my opinion, afflicted with any disease calculated to shorten life, or to impair physical or mental energy.

Signature.

Place of residence.

I certify, to the best of my belief, that the above certificates are authentic, and that the persons whose signatures are affixed to them are worthy of credit.

(To be signed by the magistrate, or clergyman, or, if in Ireland, Catholic priest of the parish in which the applicant resides.)

Signature of the magistrate.

Place of residence.

Signature of the clergyman.

Place of residence.

Signature of the Catholic priest.

Place of residence.

** It is particularly requested that no gentleman will certify this return, unless thoroughly convinced of the statements contained in it.

CLOTHING, &c.

As washing on board ship can be allowed to a very limited extent only, emigrants are earnestly advised to take out as large a stock of clothing as they can obtain; women would do well to carry out the materials and make up their clothes on the voyage. All will be required to provide themselves with bedding, knife and fork, plate, spoon, drinking mug, &c., the latter had better be of tin or pewter.

LETTER VII.

RELIGION—EDUCATION—SOCIETY.

You ask me whether, as a father anxious above all things for the eternal welfare of those connected with you, you would be right in emigrating to South Australia? Whether means exist here of procuring for your son religious and moral instruction? You also ask what kind of society you will find? I shall state facts, and leave you to draw your own conclusions.

There can be no doubt that in leaving England you must experience a loss in some of these essentials; in no country under Heaven, certainly in no new country, can there be found opportunities of instruction of any kind, equal to those enjoyed by Britons, in their native land. You, who are residing in a large and wealthy city, can select from the numerous preachers about you, him, whose principles and impressive eloquence may most attract you; and amid the number of public-schools and other seminaries within twenty miles of you, you can send your son to that, of the management of which you most approve. You cannot have this extent of choice in South Australia; your

position there, in these respects, will resemble that in which you would be placed if you were living in, and could not possibly get out of, a fortunate English country-town.

The act of parliament has given the council of government the power to appoint clergymen of the Scotch and English churches, and his late Majesty was pleased to appoint the Rev. Mr. Howard, of the Episcopalian church, chaplain of the colony. Having been appointed by His Majesty in council, along with the other officers of the province, and his salary being payable by the colonial government, of which it is a rule that no fees be allowed in any office, no charge is made for the performance of any of the ordinances of the church; there are, in fact, no surplice-fees. Neither this fact, nor the constitution of the province generally, were, I presume, known to the bishop of Australia, when he wrote to Mr. Howard, relative to the appointment of surrogate, and claiming from Mr. Howard a very considerable portion of certain fees he might receive for the performance of occasional duties. To prevent confusion of ideas upon this subject, it may be as well to remark that the first clause of the South Australian act relieves this province from the operation of any law passed for any other part of Australia; thus, the bishop is at once deprived of any jurisdiction over it; at any rate, he cannot claim payment for services, for the performance of which, even the person actually performing them has no stipulated reward. Nothing can be more

clear than the words of the act, and nothing more decided than the intention of its framers; viz. to prevent this province being in any way interfered with by regulations made for the penal colonies. The importance of this clause will be at once clear to you; and though I know you are deeply attached to the discipline of the Established Church, and would protect it in all ways, your liberality of opinion would, I am quite sure, prevent your placing manacles of any kind upon a young people, where no vested interests exist, and where all claim an equal and imprescriptable right to civil and religious freedom. The word "toleration," even, ought never to be recognized in our province, in connexion with religious principles and opinions. He who *tolerates* assumes a superiority over the person tolerated; contention henceforth ensues, and the end of the assumption is "hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness." Before the colony was founded, I defended the appointment, by the government, of an Episcopalian or Presbyterian minister; I did so because I did not then see that we could insure the presence of a minister of the Gospel with us; we have, however, now secured this, and I hope, therefore, that arrangements will in time be made for placing the support of the whole body of preachers throughout the colony, upon the same footing—viz. the voluntary contributions of their respective attendants. As it is, however, the matter is more spoken of as one of principle, than as being hurtful in practice; there is no church-reserve; no tithe; there is simply a payment of £250. a

year by the government to a respectable clergyman, and no gentleman of liberal mind would wish him to have less.

A gentleman, named Stowe, of the Independent denomination, arrived from London, just prior to my departure, and is fast drawing around him a congregation. He is at present supported by a society in England, called "The Colonial Missionary Society," but this of course is merely a temporary arrangement, and it is expected that "those who are taught in the word, will minister to him that teacheth."

Mr. M'Laren, the colonial manager of the South Australian Company, also preaches on Sunday, to a small, but very attentive audience, and it is to be lamented that the very excellent discourses of this gentleman are not more widely appreciated. A remarkable earnestness attaches to his style, and his eloquence is sometimes very forcible. Mr. M'Laren unites, in an extraordinary degree, aptitude for business, manly decision, urbanity of manners, and glowing piety, and it is only to be regretted that the shortness of his intended stay in the province (three years) will soon deprive it of one of its best and most enlightened defenders.

There is also a Methodist chapel, built by Mr. Edward Stephens, the manager of the South Australian Company's bank; but as yet no regular minister has been appointed to it. Mr. M'Laren preaches in it in the morning, and it is occupied by the Methodists in the afternoon and evening.

The means of education for youth are, as yet, narrow, but I hope and believe that ample opportunity for instruction will soon be afforded. Mr. Stowe, with the assistance of a young gentleman he brought with him from England, unites tuition to his other duties. There is no ladies' school yet established, and if any surprise should be expressed on this point, recollect, that when I left the colony, it had not been founded quite a year.

There is, moreover, no Sunday or infant school yet in operation; but, while an attempt was making in the colony to commence the latter, a scheme was afloat in England to establish a wide system of education in the province, and the names attached to the prospectus afford a guarantee that the plan will be pursued, and efficiently carried out. The following extract from the prospectus will sufficiently explain the plan:—

It is proposed to establish a society in London, agreeably to the following plan:—

I.—The general designation of this institution shall be, “The South Australian School Society.”

II.—The sole objects of this society shall be, to establish and conduct infant, British, and labour schools in the colony of South Australia, and to render their influence subservient to the advancement of true religion, the promotion of civilization, and the general welfare of the inhabitants of that colony.

III.—These objects the society shall endeavour to attain, by the following means:—

1st. To commence with infant schools on the English plan, for children, until they reach the age of eight years.

2nd. Schools on the British system, combining with it a small unoppressive portion of bodily labour, until they reach the age of twelve years.

3rd. Schools on Dr. Fellenberg's plan, for instructing the youth in agricultural and other trades, combined with the higher branches of education, until they reach sixteen years of age.

4th. The adoption of a plan for introducing the youth after sixteen years of age, into suitable employments in the colony as regularly indentured apprentices for five years; with a scheme for publicly rewarding their industry and good conduct. The whole of the schools to be conducted on the soundest principles of moral and religious education.

IV.—The society shall consist of a president, vice-presidents, treasurer, committee, and secretaries, and such of the public as shall subscribe to the funds.

V.—A subscription of one guinea annually, or a donation of twenty pounds at one time, shall constitute a member of the society.

VI.—The committee shall at first consist of six members in Britain, and three in the colony, with power to add to their number, as occasion may require.

For some months past, a gentleman considered in every respect suitable for the important office of head-teacher, and director of the schools, has been making himself acquainted with those different plans and systems of education, to qualify him for this great undertaking; and as soon as the necessary means shall be raised, he will proceed to South Australia and commence operations.

After a few years it is confidently expected that the whole expense of the establishment will be raised in the colony, so that the committee anticipate the hope of requiring no more assistance from the mother-country than what is necessary for the erection of the buildings, the proper establishment of the institution, and its support during the infancy of the colony. Unless, indeed, they

should be burthened with uneducated children from the British Isles, or other colonies; which, however, is not likely to be the case, as the emigrants must be young married people, according to the act of parliament; but should this even be so, the excellent system of education which is proposed for adoption, will considerably lessen the expenses by the proceeds of the labour of the children, and of the youth in the higher schools; an advantage which has hitherto been derived from the system of labour-schools in this and foreign countries, where it has been judiciously carried out.

The present committee are—

John Rundle, Esq., M. P., Tavistock.

Raikes Currie, Esq., London.

John Pirie, Esq., London.

John Baron, Esq., M. D., Cheltenham.

Charles Hindley, Esq., M. P., Ashton.

Christopher Rawson, Esq., Halifax.

George Fife Angas, Esq., London, *Treasurer*.

To this institution we now look for our means of instruction for the working classes.

Our society is at present mixed and disjointed. That it should be mixed is no wonder, as the desire to emigrate is produced by so many causes, varying in different persons, according to their circumstances and habits. Society can be found here, therefore, of almost any kind, even from the very degraded, up to the most refined and gentlemanly. Of these two classes, and the many intermediate shades, I am glad to assure you, that the great preponderance is in favour of the intellectual and good, and there can be no doubt that the evil passions of the badly inclined would not have appeared in such strong relief, had they not been

encouraged by the only newspaper which the province at present possesses.*

* The following paper was circulated throughout the colony, in July, 1837 :—

TO THEIR BROTHER COLONISTS.

Adelaide, July 31, 1837.

The *South Australian Gazette* and *Colonial Register*, was commenced in England at the suggestion, and with the support of the then existing body of colonists, and many of their friends, in the expectation that they would thereby secure to the colony most of the advantages which so eminently distinguished the public press of the mother-country—a full and accurate register of the events taking place in the colony—an unflinching advocacy of the principles upon which it is founded—a developement, from time to time, of the advantages which those principles and the natural capabilities of the country, secure to present and future emigrants ; and a careful watch over public acts and public men, conducted in a spirit of impartiality, manliness, and honesty.

It is the opinion of the undersigned that, with respect to each and all of these topics, the *South Australian Gazette* and *Colonial Register*, has eminently failed : That many important events have occupied the attention of the colonists, which have not been recorded ; and in many which have been mentioned, blunders of the most obvious kind have been made : That the great and leading principles of the colony have scarcely been alluded to ; while points which, for the interest of all, should have been touched upon but slightly, have been brought prominently forward : That instead of such accounts of the soil, climate, harbours, and other natural features of the country as could have been honestly made, and, if made, would have encouraged emigration, and given confidence to the numerous and wealthy proprietors resident in England, partial and garbled articles have been inserted, and investments

Another newspaper is about to be started, by the subscription of the colonists generally; and just prior to my embarking at Hobart Town for England, the types were purchased, and the other arrangements for it satisfactorily completed.

A literary and scientific association was founded in England, by some of the colonists, and a considerable library of books was collected from various sources. There has, however, been too

in land discouraged, rather than advocated: and that, instead of an honest critique upon public measures, no number of the paper has appeared in the colony, without being distinguished by anonymous calumnies, inserted and defended apparently only for party purposes, and the gratification of personal feelings.

The undersigned, therefore, consider it desirable that another journal should be established at the earliest possible period; and they request those of their brother colonists who approve of such a measure, to communicate with them on the subject—

ROBERT GOUGER, Colonial Secretary.

J. H. FISHER, Colonial Commissioner.

WM. LIGHT, Surveyor General.

CHARLES MANN, Advocate General and Crown Solicitor of the Province.

JOHN BARTON HACK.

BOYLE TRAVERS FINNISS, Assistant Surveyor.

T. GILBERT, Storekeeper General.

EDWARD WRIGHT, M. D., Medical Officer to the Survey.

THOMAS YOUNG COTTER, Colonial Surgeon.

CHARLES BERKELEY.

JOHN BROWN, Emigration Agent.

JOHN MORPHETT.

much unfriendliness manifested to hold meetings in the province, but the society is by no means abandoned, and, I trust, the British public may yet look to this institution for a periodical and complete account of the colony.

LETTER VIII.

PRACTICAL HINTS PREVIOUS TO EMIGRATION.

I AM not about to give what you ask for, *advice* as to what you should do, or leave undone, prior to embarkation for South Australia; I shall simply tell you what I did, and what I intend to do again, on my return. I wish to avoid incurring the risk, pains, and penalties of giving advice; but that you may have all the benefit of my experience, I shall look over my old invoices and give you extracts from them: and first, as to ironmongery.

Nails: these may be purchased in almost any quantity; but shingle, batten, and paling nails, are always wanted in large quantities. They should be in kegs of a cwt. each.

Spikes, clasp-nails, and brads assorted.

Grubbing tools; axes, pickaxes, hoes, crow-bar.

Splitting-tools; felling-axes, cross-cut saw, maul-rings, sets of wedges, and splitting-knives; all the felling-axes should be made after the American pattern.

Gardener's tools; potatoe-forks and hoes, garden-rakes and hoes, hedging-hooks, pruning-knives, trowels, spades, shovels, watering-pots; scythes,

with handles; sickles and stones for sharpening them.

Carpenter's chest; consisting of common, but good, useful tools: I omitted to bring the American screw auger, a most useful tool in fencing; of these, six assorted will be the least number.

House ironmongery; locks and hinges of different kinds: bolts and fastenings, thumb-latches, padlocks, assorted; screws, assorted; grates, which will burn wood, and do not require setting. There are some excellent kinds of these at the Carron foundry.

Domestic ironmongery; all useful cooking utensils of the same kinds as are common in England: do not be tempted to bring out gim-cracks in the shape of portable kitchens, warranted to do every thing; they generally do nothing. Cast-iron three-legged pots are much used in out-of-doors cookery in these colonies: they should be provided with a bale and cover; and on first settling in the bush a triangle and rack to support the pot is found convenient. Frying-pans and gridirons for cooking in the open air upon wood-fires should have handles four feet long. Scotch emigrants will not forget to bring out a girdle for baking cakes or bannocks, and Englishmen would do well to follow the example.

An iron portable oven is a most useful thing; a camp-oven will, however, answer tolerably well if the double wrought-iron oven should be thought too expensive.

A portable copper, in iron frame, is also useful;

a sufficient quantity of iron-piping, or plates for making it, should, however, be brought with it.

Among miscellaneous articles are a grindstone and spindle, knobs for cow-horns, sheep-bells and straps, iron wheels and axle-trees for wheel-barrows made broad (say two inches) at the part which comes in contact with the ground, and a portable truck. I found this last article most valuable; it was very well made, did a great deal of work for myself and my neighbours, and when I left the close it sold for its original cost.

I bought my ironmongery of Messrs. Richards, Wood & Co., 117, Bishopsgate Street Within, and upon comparison of invoices with some of my friends in the colony I found I had been well used, and the quality of the things furnished me was excellent. They have been for years in the Australian trade, and understand the kind of article required in these colonies.

There has been a general want of coarse crockery in the colony. Dinner and breakfast services most colonists have remembered, but almost all have forgotten milk-pans, covered jars and pans, and things of that kind. You will find it expedient to purchase jugs and vessels in which liquids and stores are kept, *with covers* to them; the number of flies which seem to claim a right to every thing consumable by man is extraordinary, and not only economy, but common cleanliness requires protection from the persecution of these marauders. The

large meat-fly of Australia, be it known to you, instead of depositing the germ of maggots, deposits them *actually living*; in order to preserve meat therefore hot, cold, cooked or uncooked for a single day, go to a wireworkers and purchase some wire-gauze dish-covers, and some pieces of strong but close wire-work, sufficiently large for the manufacture of a commodious safe on arrival out.

To prevent breakages in a place where crockery is so valuable, and the consequent "pain in the temper" which sometimes ensues, it is desirable to substitute tin or japanned articles for crockery in all cases where such substitution is practicable, and the mere mention of tin will lead you to think of those articles in common kitchen use in England, which would also be useful in South Australia. As, however, it should be a rule with you to use tin instead of crockery wherever it is available, so with a view to economy substitute iron goods for tin where the exchange can be conveniently effected. Tin saucepans on a large wood fire very soon burn out.

Though bread of an excellent quality can now be had at Adelaide, I intend taking out as before some best white biscuit. I get this from Domett & Co., and had it packed in large japanned tin boxes with locks: after being emptied, these cases protected from flies and white ants my stock of tea and other grocery—this is a hint you will not regret taking.

A small stock of Gamble's preserved provisions

I found very useful, and a supply of sago, arrow-root, and groats in case of illness should not be omitted. These stores should be packed so that access can be had to them on board ship, if necessary.

As I occupied an office which prevented my increasing my income by trading, with a view to making my salary go as far as possible, I ordered supplies of all kinds to be sent me half-yearly from those countries whence they could be best procured; thus from Messrs. Borradailes, at the Cape of Good Hope, I got half-yearly a supply of wine for my servants, (beer being too expensive, and not choosing to give spirits,) butter, dried fruits such as peaches, apricots, apples, &c., salted tongues and beef. With all due respect for the profits of my friends the merchants of South Australia, I recommend all persons, especially those who have not the opportunity of asking as well as of paying a considerable profit, to make similar arrangements for the periodical supply of all consumable commodities. Nothing is easier than to do this, and where economy is an object, it is a matter of some importance.

You will do well to bring out a sufficient supply of furniture for your present use. Chests of drawers form a good package for things to be used in the colony, and chairs and tables are to be got there only by paying a very high price. Chairs, of course, should be brought out, but partially glued up; the backs and seats might be complete,

but to save freight, the legs and cross-pieces should be glued in after arrival. The legs of tables should be made to unscrew.

Brass and iron bedsteads are by far better than wood, and musquito-curtains will assuredly be required by all new-comers. Good mattresses cannot be had in the colony; you will not be sorry, I think, if you brought out a bale of curled horse-hair, and the tick to put it into; there are persons who understand upholstering resident in the colony.

If it is intended to build a permanent house immediately after arrival, it would be expedient to take out windows ready framed and glazed, and doors either second-hand or new, but if the latter, they should be made of well-seasoned wood and of narrow pannels to prevent injury from shrinking. I took out, and they arrived in excellent condition, ten pairs of French windows, seven feet high, made by Manning of Holborn, but for these I adopted a new and very profitable mode of packing. Instead of protecting them by pieces of wood roughly nailed together, I ordered cases to be made in the soundest and best manner, well dove-tailed together with pannelled and moulded doors. On the voyage the fronts of the doors were placed inside; and on arrival in the colony the cases being emptied, the doors properly fixed, and the whole painted, they formed a convenient and rather good-looking winged wardrobe, which being valued on my leaving the colony, I sold for three times its original cost. By a little prudent forethought, packing-cases, which are generally useless, can

thus be rendered really valuable pieces of furniture; sideboard-cupboards and closets for servants' or kitchen use might thus be provided almost without expense.

Having made all the arrangements in your opinion necessary for your establishment in the province, the next thing to be thought of is the ship. Who is the owner? Who is the captain? What is the size and character of the ship? It is necessary to get satisfactory information upon these questions:—the wealth of the owner should not decide you; he may be rich, but very illiberal in supplying stores both for the cabin and for the ship itself: the captain may, from his style of conduct, make the voyage either pleasant or otherwise: learn, if you can, what his passengers on former voyages have said of him. At Lloyd's, of some practised underwriter you can learn all about the ship; and a shipbroker *disinterested* in the ship, may be able to inform you all you wish to know upon the other points. In all cases, however, the *larger* the ship the more comfort.

By all means, if you can manage it, get a stern-cabin, it is a refuge from most of the annoyances which occur on ship-board. If your fellow-passengers be never so delightful and amiable, at times you may yourself be bilious and unfit to enjoy their society; to the stern-cabin you can retire, and there—sulk alone; if, on the contrary, your companions should be disagreeable to you, you need not be annoyed by their whimsies, the stern-

cabin receives you, and you are again your own master. This state of things cannot occur if you are the occupant of any other cabin: in every other you can hear the conversation in the cuddy, and neither reading nor writing can then amuse you.

Again, the space a stern-cabin affords gives you opportunity for little comforts you cannot so well enjoy elsewhere. For instance, a swinging cot is far superior to a fixed bed-place, especially during heavy weather, and for this there is seldom room in a side-cabin.

Do not purchase any of those portable prettily finished mahogany multum-in-parvo washing and dressing-tables; they are all trumpery and disappointing. The hot weather disunites the joints, the water from the wash-hand basin gets into the drawers containing your razors, which are some day found rusty, your brushes wet, and the whole thing a mess. All such ingenious things cause a waste of money and loss of patience. A filter is a great convenience in the cabin: on a long voyage it is seldom you get very good water, and there is no reason why your quantum should not be purified before you use it.—The best candlestick is one with an universal joint and spring inside, by means of which the candle is pressed against a shoulder at the top, and the light kept continually at the same height. It is perfectly safe, and no captain that I have heard of objects to its being burned all night by a careful person, if required. If you should be an invalid, or one of your party an infant, you will find a swinging

nursery-lamp a great convenience; this, again, being protected by a wire-gauze is quite safe.

If you have been fortunate enough to fall into the hands of gentlemen, in the persons of the owners and captain, you will require no private stock, by way of stores; every thing is found by the ship that can reasonably be desired: if, however, you have any pet taste which you think it important to gratify, you will probably do well to provide accordingly: but wine, beer, and spirits of excellent quality, and a good table, are always provided if you have agreed for your passage with men of honour. A small assortment of common medicines, and a quantity of seidlitz, soda, and ginger-beer powders will be found agreeable under the line.

Every one has a remedy for sea-sickness, and I shall give you mine, preventive and curative. Be moderate in eating and drinking for some days before departure, and, by way of making assurance doubly sure, take some blue pill and colocynth two days before you embark: do not be afraid of eating on board, but drink little, either of tea or any thing else. By no means let sea-sickness prevent your appearing at meals, as much is to be done by a strong determination to conquer the inconvenience. Directly after sickness wash the mouth with carbonate of soda and water, and as acidity always accompanies sea-sickness, neutralize the acid by swallowing now and then, but especially after sea-sickness, a tea-spoonful of carbonate of

soda in water. If this draught should be too cold on the stomach, put into it about forty drops of Oxley's essence of ginger. Do not go to bed and persuade yourself you are ill, but lie on deck or walk as you best may. In each of my voyages I have found this course restore me in a very short time; and on neither of them, though not without some struggle, have I once missed attending at the usual meal-times from sea-sickness.

The clothing required in South Australia is just what you have been in the habit of wearing in England, but add thereto some blue camlet or light white jackets, to be worn during the summer-season instead of a cloth coat. A supply of leather gaiters and strong gardening gloves will be found very useful; and you will in general find high-shoes or half-boots the best protection for the feet. There is a kind of spear-grass bearing a bearded seed, which much inconveniences pedestrians during half the year, and for protection against which gaiters or half-boots are required. The seed is very sharp, and sticks into the feet and ankles with great pertinacity unless they are well protected from it. Do not, however, fancy by my mentioning only common articles of dress that you will have no occasion for apparel of higher pretensions. Believe me, the merits of Nugee and Hoby are as well understood and as highly appreciated in South Australia as in St. James's; you will, therefore, do well to provide accordingly.

In order that you may not forget any thing

which you ought to take out, it may be as well to call upon the tradesman you intend to deal with, and ask them for lists of their commodities; but as a general rule, let me recommend you to purchase nothing that you can do without, and whatever you do purchase let it be of the best and most substantial quality. Ironmongery, furniture, articles of dress and haberdashery are all very dear in the colony; do not, therefore, hesitate to take out with you a sufficient supply of these really useful commodities.

You will probably call at the Cape of Good Hope on the voyage out, if so, do not be induced to bring over any Cape bullocks or other stock of any kind. Draught bullocks from Van Dieman's Land are both cheaper and better than those procurable at the Cape; cheaper, that is, when the cost of freight and quality is reckoned. Nor do I think it expedient to import choice sheep yet from England; excellent breeds can now be got in Van Dieman's Land, and at a much lower rate than that at which it would be possible to import them from Europe.

POSTSCRIPT AS TO 1838.

SINCE my return to England some important news has arrived from the province. The preliminary sections of land which I have said in Letter V. would possibly be appropriated in the middle of this year, were selected by their respective owners or their representatives on May 12, immediately after which those who had, subsequently to these purchases, bought land in England, would be able to take their locations. Thus not only would those persons who had agreed to become tenants to the Company or to individuals begin their operations without loss of time, but those who had just arrived would have the power immediately to select their land. All complaints about delay of survey then, must now cease.

Another important fact has also to be related. Some enterprising settlers of New South Wales have driven over from that colony to Adelaide a herd of oxen: three hundred and fifty head of cattle arrived safely without the loss on the road of one animal. The road thus discovered will now speedily become the track of flocks of sheep and herds

of cattle from the overstocked market of Sydney to South Australia; and the consequence will be, that animals for the knife will be provided at low cost, while fine-wooled sheep will easily be brought to the colony at low prices.

Again; in the harbour of Port Adelaide, which was not known to exist three years ago, there were riding at one time, thirteen colonial ships trading to the colony! Those who have opposite interests to the colony, may perhaps continue, anonymously, to revile it; an honest, straightforward Englishman will, however, at once determine that there must be something attractive in it, or thirteen colonial vessels would not have been anchored there at one time, for the purpose of trading with its inhabitants.

I cannot conclude this little volume without expressing the high satisfaction I feel on looking around upon the class of persons who are proceeding to the colony. I have had the pleasure since my arrival in July, (I am writing this postscript in October,) of forming the acquaintance of numerous individuals, distinguished from the general mass of mankind by their intellectual attainments, gentlemanly bearing, wealth, and religious principles, who have gone, or are preparing to go to South Australia. Though the great natural advantages of very fertile soil, fine climate, and plentiful supply of excellent water were not to be found in the high degree in which they exist in South Australia, the mere gratification

of being connected with such society would be a great inducement to any one who has had the benefit of such intercourse in England; but seeing that these advantages are about to be so fully combined, I congratulate my fellow-colonists upon the prospect before them, and rejoice that it has fallen to my lot to make that country my future permanent abode.

ADDENDUM

TO THE

S E C O N D E D I T I O N .

SINCE the publication of the first edition of this book, some very important news has arrived from the colony. The newspaper referred to in Letter VII. has appeared under the title of "The South Australian," and the opinions of the colonists will thus, it is to be hoped, be represented fairly and impartially. From this journal are to be gathered many highly interesting facts, not otherwise communicated.

Mr. Hawdon, the gentleman who undertook and so successfully conducted the management of the transport of cattle from New South Wales to South Australia, at a public dinner which was given to him by the colonists, in consequence of the benefit the province derived from his skill and intrepidity, spoke most warmly in praise of the country over which he had passed, and in describing that part included within the boundaries of South Australia, he said, "The character of the country embraced between the Murray, Lake

Alexandrina, and Adelaide, is equal to any thing I have seen ; and I cannot give a better pledge of my sincerity in making this declaration, than by now publicly announcing my intention of returning to settle amongst you with all the force I can gather ;” and he continues, “ my impression is, that South Australia, with her natural advantages of excellent arable soil, plenty of water, secure harbour, and fine geographical position, with Adelaide as her capital, will soon vie in point of importance, with her elder sisters ; more especially when the novel and excellent principles upon which this interesting colony is founded are better understood ; and it is evident the tone of her society, in conjunction with the many other solid recommendations she possesses, cannot fail to attract a plentiful stream of emigration, and that too of the most respectable and useful character.”

The number of different kinds of stock in the colony are quoted in the paper of June 30th, and are as follows :—

Horses and mares	127
Cattle	156
Sheep	18,910
Pigs	210

To this number a large addition has doubtless been made, as a report of a second over-land herd having arrived in the colony has been received ; and it was said that a third, under the orders of Captain Sturt, was then on the way. The price of stock has much decreased, heifers of a good quality having been

sold for £14. 14s. and oxen even less. A joint-stock cattle company has been formed in the colony, on the direction of which are some leading names, with a capital of £2000.

The value of land, both rural and town, appears to be fast rising. Two sections of rural land, the original possessor of which became fortunately entitled to the right of an early selection, have been sold for £1000 each; they were situated close to the town, and had therefore the character of accommodation land. Half-an-acre of town-land, in a favourable position has been sold by auction in the colony for £250, and for number 40, in South Adelaide, £174 were paid. These facts show the correctness of Colonel Light's judgment as to the fixation of Adelaide; and in proof of the estimation in which this is held in the colony, as well as the colonists' personal attachment to him, a public dinner has been given to him, and a subscription for a piece of plate commemorative of their feeling has been commenced.

Several public-houses and hotels appear to have been opened in Adelaide since my departure from it. I nevertheless persevere in recommending all emigrants who can afford it, especially those with families, not to depend upon the accommodation thus offered them, but to take out Manning's portable houses.

Some useful institutions, showing that the South Australians are not inattentive to the pleasures of cultivated society, have lately been founded. A Mechanic's Institution has been proposed, meetings

for it have been held, and a committee has been appointed. The school-society mentioned in Letter VII. has also began work; a committee has been formed for its management, and their first establishment was opened in June last, for children above the age of five years. This commencement of good works indicates clearly the kind of persons of whom the general society of South Australia is composed. May they go on and prosper!

But their efforts do not stop at the improvement of the mind merely; other and more important considerations are not forgotten. The editor of "The South Australian," speaks of the means of religious instruction open to the settler, and I cannot do better than to quote his own words:—

“Amid the busy scenes of commerce, the excitement of political strife, and the constant and varying engagements of every-day business, how careful ought we to be that higher, and nobler, and better things are not forgotten or neglected. It should be impressed upon us that the first founders of our province, and those that had the larger stake in its soil, felt a deep anxiety, not only that our colony should be based upon broad and enlightened principles, not only that these beautiful hills and valleys should be peopled with the industrious and free sons of Britain, not only that where the dark and ignorant savage had roamed for ages, untutored and unknown, the enterprise and activity of man should introduce and disseminate the arts of civilization and refinement, but above all, that where *we* went our *religion* should go with us, where *we* civilized we should attempt to *Christianize* also; and that amidst our early struggles for the foundation of a free and happy state, the glorious principles of our pure and holy religion should animate us in all our exertions. How gratifying,

then, to observe the progress that is making amongst various sects of Christians, for the continuance in this new world of those religious principles, to which they have long been accustomed in the land of their fathers. We may be considered, perhaps, as prematurely drawing the attention of our readers to this subject, but to us it is one of deep and important interest, and we cannot help adverting to the state of the various religious societies amongst us, not only as a proof of the general high character and intelligence of our population, but as indicating also a rapid advancement towards a most healthy and *English* state of society.

“*The Established Church*.—The temporary buildings erected for the accommodation of the members of the Establishment, have been uniformly too small for the congregations, and we are much gratified to perceive that a handsome new stone church is in course of erection, and is advancing rapidly towards completion. It is estimated to hold about five hundred persons; and the *whole* of the sittings were taken in one day. A large and beautiful clock is ready for fixing in the spire, and a church-bell has recently been received from England. Our excellent friend, Mr. Howard, is deservedly popular, and his anxiety to get the building finished is beyond all praise. Long has he been labouring *with his own hands* at the work. A Sunday-school is connected with the church, which is under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Howard.

“*The Wesleyan Methodists*.—This body was the first to form an independent society in the colony, and to their zeal and activity they are indebted for a very excellent stone chapel, capable of holding about two hundred persons. It has been recently opened for divine worship, and every sitting is let to respectable and devout worshippers. The society is yet without a resident missionary, though we are glad to hear that the trustees have been in correspondence with the society of Van Dieman’s Land upon the subject, and representations have been made to England. We must confess our surprise that the Missionary Society at home have so long neglected this promising field of usefulness. The public

services are at present conducted by lay-preachers, many of whom are men of no ordinary talent. A Sunday-school is also connected with the society, and the attendance has of late increased almost beyond the limits of the accommodation provided. The quarterly meeting of the society, is, we understand, to be held on Monday next, and we wish them much peace and harmony and usefulness.

“*The Independents.*—The Congregational Colonial Missionary Society have appointed the Rev. Mr. Stow to minister amongst us, and an appointment could not have been made more judiciously. Mr. Stow is a man of eminent talent and deep piety, and is very generally esteemed. His zealous labours have been crowned with much success; a highly respectable and numerous auditory attend upon his ministry; and we hope the time is not far distant when they can enjoy the advantage of a permanent and more commodious chapel than the one in which they at present assemble.*

“*The Baptists.*—We understand it is in contemplation to form a Baptist church in Adelaide; several names have been mentioned as friendly to the cause, and a meeting is to be held on the subject. With the assistance of the able and talented Baptist minister now amongst us, they are sure of enjoying much success. In addition to this brief sketch it may be mentioned that the ministers of the various dissenting denominations alternately visit the port every Sabbath, for the purpose of conducting religious services there.

“*The Roman Catholics* have also met together, to concert

* Advertisements have lately appeared in various papers, asking for subscriptions to aid the colonists in building an Independent chapel in the province: there is thus some reason to hope that the anticipations of the editor of “The South Australian” will be realized. Donations are received by the Rev. A. Wells and the Rev. T. Binney of the Colonial Missionary Society, Bloomfield Street, London.—R. G.

plans for the establishment of a church in the colony, in connexion with that of Sydney and Van Dieman's Land."

I regret to say, that the history of the province has become marked with blood. A man, for having maliciously shot at the sheriff of the province has been hung! he did no actual mischief, but the attempt at mischief was proved. Those who think with me, that "the worst thing the law can do with a man is to hang him," will deeply regret that some means were not devised for preventing this blot on the escutcheon of the province.

A horse and foot police has been established in the colony, and they are found active and efficient.

I have again to express my pleasure at the manifestations of increasing feeling in favour of the colony, which appear around me in England. The number of intelligent and wealthy persons, who are ready to emigrate, is by no means decreased by the departure of those who, when I wrote two months ago, were contemplating the adventure; others have sprung up in their stead, and those who promote the advancement of the colony, but who remain behind, are not less zealous than heretofore.

The plan which was sometime since announced of getting up a joint-stock subscription for the purchase of land, with a view to forming a secondary town or towns, has been adopted; £12000 has been

subscribed for the purpose, and the following gentlemen have become the Directors : —

COL. VANS AGNEW.		W. G. GOVER, ESQ.
EDWD. ENGLISH, ESQ.		THOS. WEEDING, ESQ.
A. L. GOVER, ESQ.		FRANCIS WILSON, ESQ.

The great profits which the proprietors of Adelaide have realized by their acquisition of townlands gave rise to this speculation, and there can be no doubt, that if the site be well chosen, large profits will also attend this investment. I have witnessed the establishment of this association with much interest; every thing which unites the intellectual and powerful in this country with her offspring is important, and I heartily rejoice that, through this little company, another set of persons are linked together to promote the success of the colony.

The bank of Australasia, has given orders that a branch-bank shall be immediately established in South Australia, and at the time I am writing, it is believed the colonists have the advantage of another means of effecting monetary transactions with the mother-country and the adjacent colonies.

THE END.

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