

Melbourne Newspapers and Journals 1853-1859
Printed and published by William H. Williams (1831-1910)

The Diggers' Advocate, Printed and Published Hough, Heath & Williams – November 10, 1853.

Cassell's Illustrated Family Paper, Vol. 1 No. 14, London, Saturday April, 1 1854. First Australian edition Printed and Published by Slater, Williams & Hodgson – September 23, 1854.

Collingwood and Richmond Observer, printed and published by William H. Williams – Saturday
September 12, 1857.

A Journal of Australasia, including 'What I saw at Snaggerack'. Made in Melbourne, George Slater, 94
Bourke St East, Melbourne; and Pall Mall, Sandhurst – June to December, 1856.

The News Letter of Australasia or Narrative of Events: A Letter to send to Friends. George Slater, 94
Bourke St East, Melbourne; and Pall Mall, Sandhurst – Number VI, December, 1856.

The News Letter of Australasia or Narrative of Events: A Letter to send to Friends. George Slater, 94
Bourke St East, Melbourne; and Pall Mall, Sandhurst – Number VIII, February, 1857.

The News Letter of Australasia or Narrative of Events: A Letter to send to Friends. George Slater,
Publisher, 94 Bourke St East, Melbourne – Number XIII, July, 1857. (W.H. Williams, Printer, Melbourne)

The News Letter of Australasia or Narrative of Events: A Letter to send to Friends. Melbourne: Published
for the Proprietors by John P. Brown, 120, Elizabeth Street – Number XXIII, May, 1858.

The News Letter of Australasia or Narrative of Events: A Letter to send to Friends: Melbourne: Published
for the Proprietors by John P. Brown, 120, Elizabeth Street – Number XXI, March, 1858.
(Walker May & Co, Printers)

The News Letter of Australasia, George Slater, Publisher, Melbourne and Sandhurst. W.H. William,
Printer, 94 Bourke St East, Melbourne – January 1857.

The News Letter of Australasia. A Narrative to send to Friends. Printed and Published for the
Proprietors, at "The Herald" Office, 9 Bourke Street East, Melbourne. No. 39, Nov., 1859.

Large collection of historical Australian Books in Lounge Room Cedar Bookcases,
c1860, including:

Last Days of Hitler – Hugh Trevor-Roper, 1947

Memoir of Mrs Eliza Fox – Edited and Published by Franklin Fox, Florance Fox & Eliza Bridell Fox,
née Eliza Florance Fox, 1869

An Historical Journal on Port Jackson and Norfolk Island – Post Captain John Hunter, 1793

The Voyage of Governor Phillip, Port Jackson & Norfolk Island – 1799

The Chronicles of Early Melbourne 1835-1852 – Garryown by Edmund Finn 1888

His Natural Life – Marcus Clarke, 1886

Victoria and Its Metropolis, Past and Present – Alexander Sutherland, 1888

The Colonial Journals, Ken Gelder & Michael Weaver, 2014, Pages 354-356 – The Chinese Puzzle,
Melbourne Monthly Magazine, May 1855

Open Council.

(To the Editors of the "Diggers' Advocate.")

Sirs,—Being a new comer into this colony, you will, perhaps, allow me to make a few suggestions to you. You, who have been here some time, are hardly in a position to understand the requirements of a "new chum." Nothing surprised me so much, upon my first arrival in Melbourne, as the ostentatious appearances of the streets. The idea prevalent in England when I left was, that it was necessary, before entering Melbourne, to charge several pistols to the muzzle, and to carry a bowie-knife ground up to a very fine edge. I am happy to say that I find quite a different state of affairs. The climate does not appear to induce a love for man-shooting; nor, as far as I have yet experienced, is there anything in the water consumed by the inhabitants of Melbourne which is likely to produce a desire to cut my neighbour's throat.

Having landed with the intention of proceeding to "the diggings," my first step was to inquire for some *reliable* source of information. By accident I heard of the "Diggers' Advocate;" but I am sorry to say, that what appears to me ought to have been a principal feature in your paper was entirely neglected—I mean information to new comers. I saw a great deal about Bendigo and Forest Creek, and some mysterious allusions to "second bottoms." The paper was evidently written for "old hands." I sought in vain for some indication of the route to the diggings, and for some notion of the expense of the journey. Do you not think, sir, that you would be conferring a great benefit upon those unfortunate who are landed on the wharf amidst bales of luggage, if you were to give a few plain straight-forward directions as to the manner of proceeding to the diggings, and the necessities for the journey? Trusting you will take this suggestion into consideration, I remain yours truly,

H. R. NICHOLS.

[The suggestions made by our new friend shall be in a position to furnish every necessary information to new comers respecting the gold-fields, the best mode of getting there, and what to do when they have reached the "land of tents." We thank our correspondent for the suggestion, and shall feel obliged by any one pointing out what they may think we have forgotten.—EDS. D. A.]

(To the Editors of the "Diggers' Advocate.")

7th White Hill, Bendigo,
Sunday, 7th November.

Gentlemen,—I have just got hold of the first number of the "Diggers' Advocate," and though it is but "small, it is great." It is great, because it is the advocate of a community, who up to this moment was without a voice in this Colony, and a political existence. Your paper gives us both, and we already feel ourselves freer and more independent. Only a few days ago we had no means of bringing our grievances before the authorities, or advocating our rights before the Government. Now, we have all these advantages, and that too by the exertions of yourself; as a digger I feel grateful, and trust that all my fellow workers will do their best for the paper, and think the best work they can do, will be the supporting of the "Diggers' Advocate." Some are sorry it is not larger, but they seem to forget the only way to make it what they would wish it to be, is to put their shoulder to the wheel, for the greatest city in this world was once a village. In conclusion, I, with many of my mates, wish you every success, and what we can do to push your paper we will.

AN OLD FRIEND AND DIGGER.

(To the Editors of the "Diggers' Advocate.")

Sir,—And so you have appeared at last, to use the expression of a very eminent man, "in this superannuous infinite reality of which all phenomena are but the glooms and echoes." And you are actually at the starting post among your brother bloods to run the race of literature on the golden soil of Australia. I fancy you must have a heavy dash of the old Peter Finn blood, to carry you successfully through the dirt and mire of Colonial journalism.

Be that as it may, I congratulate you on your pluck; do not scant, my gentle editors, at the vulgarity of that term, it is strictly Johnstonian, and I am but a dirty gold-digger, a bowler of the earth, a groper among the dark things of to-day and by-gone ages; thank you it is of wisdom, nay, say rather of filthy lucre. Well, I wish you every success, and that I feel you will have at Ballarat.

I am, gentlemen,

ET TU BRUTE,

A Converted Follower.

"DIGGERS' ADVOCATE" OFFICE,

Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.
The Editors of the "Diggers' Advocate" respectfully direct your attention to the following regulations, which they have adopted for the management of their Paper, more especially the Advertising department.

Firstly. All Advertisements will be classified, and printed under separate heads, according to the nature of the business advertised.
Secondly. The Advertiser can choose his own form of advertisement. Illustrations, and large lined type will be charged for according to the space occupied in the column.

Thirdly. For the first and second lines, sixpence each, and threepence per line afterwards. Payment will not be required before the day of publication.

Fourthly. Advertisements to be at the office not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

Fifthly. A discount of 20 per cent. allowed on advertisements continued for a month, and 30 per cent. on those continued for a quarter.

Gentlemen who have stores in town, and business with the gold mines, will find the "Diggers' ADVOCATE," a valuable advertising medium, it being the only newspaper devoted entirely to the social and commercial interests of the digging community. Besides which, it possesses advantages which no other paper has at command, namely, a weekly circulation on all the gold mines of Australia. The Proprietors are able to inform their friends, with much satisfaction, that so soon as the necessary arrangements shall have been completed, the "Diggers' Advocate" will be second to none as a commercial and political organ.

Page 1

We extract the following letter from our friend and best supporter, the "Herald," in speaking of the "mineral leases at the gold fields." The writer says:—

Page 2

IF this should meet the eye of the Rev. EBENEZER SYME, from London, Mr. H. Holyoake would be glad to hear from him. Direct to the Central Office of this Paper at Bendigo, or the "Diggers' Advocate" Box, Post-office, Melbourne.

Page 3

Printed for the Proprietors, by HUGHES and CO., at their Regular Printing Office, 171 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne.
First published October 24, 1853 by Hough & Co.
(Henry Hough, George Heath & William Williams)

Dr. Howlett.

In my next I will give you an accurate account of the defalcation of a government officer to a very serious amount. A warrant has been issued for his apprehension.

The heat, on Wednesday last, was intense. At two o'clock the glass stood at 98 degs. in the shade at Forest Creek. Thursday, 11 a.m., it was 101 degs., and yesterday it was down as low as 52 degs!

The Tarrangower Diggings is spoken of in very flattering terms. The labours of the diggers there are said to be very remunerative, and we now and then hear of large prizes being gained. The roads are constantly filled with drays and other vehicles proceeding there and this place, Forest Creek, seems to bear some resemblance to Goldsmith's Deserted Village in consequence of the rush.

The "new diggings" described by the *Aryus* correspondent as being without shiclers have not yet been discovered, and the statement is altogether a hoax. It would be well if correspondents examined well the evidence upon which their statements are made, for otherwise they may mislead the public fearfully.

The price of gold at Castlemaine is £3 16s.

BENDIGO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Drs Owens and Wall, the late delegates, have now returned to the Bendigo, their mission being fulfilled. The result has been already laid before the public through the public prints. They now retire into their social position, attending to their own private interests. Certainly, we hear rumours of a something in the shape of a public breakfast to the gentlemen for the great interest they have taken in the affairs of the diggers,—but a poor compensation, we must admit, for all they have done; but, as servants of the public, of course they will feel proud of any proper exhibition of gratitude that the public may think fit to afford them. At the same time a question arises in our mind as to whether the matter is to rest here or no, after the remarks of a certain journal on one gentleman who took a lively and disinterested part in this movement, we can well apprehend that both Dr. Owens and Dr. Wall would feel a delicacy in again coming forward to excite the

movements for leaving Sandhurst early in the morning, he should not be able to do himself the pleasure. Private business had called him here, and his legislative and other duties demanded his immediate return. He must express surprise at the flourishing state in which he found this gold field, and that the Government had not done more to assist in establishing a township on so eligible a site as this presented. He promised to give his attention to roads, stating that the road between here and Melbourne would, if not this winter, before the next, be as good as any in England. He should do his best to secure the enfranchisement of the diggers, feeling certain it would be the only means of bringing to a termination the long struggle between the Government and the diggers. After a lengthy speech from Dr. Wall, who returned thanks to all those gentlemen who had voted for Dr. Owens and himself being heard at the bar of the house to enter the diggers' protest against the New Constitution Bill, amongst whom was Mr. Miller, the deputation retired.

PRESBYTERIANS.—Under the energetic care of Dr. Allison, this body is now making amends for its hitherto apathetic character here, and the rapidity of their movements is deserving of notice. Preliminary meetings were called by Dr. Allison in the Hospital and other places, and subscriptions set on foot which have been well responded to; a temporary tent has been obtained for service on Sundays, and funds are fast raising to build a permanent church, on obtaining a grant of land from the Government for that purpose. Dr. Allison holds services twice each Sunday till the arrival of a clergyman from the Melbourne presbytery, and we learn schools are about to be established in connexion with this movement.

THE PRESS.—I see by an advertisement in the *Bendigo Times*, that a press is about to be started in connexion with that paper at Tarrangower, where one of the proprietors of that journal will for the future remain. The *Bendigo Advertiser* is, we hear, hourly expecting the arrival of a press of its own, when we may anticipate seeing that little sheet increase.

CRICKET.—The Albion Cricket Club is, I learn, preparing to play a farewell match with the Bendigo Club, on the occasion of Mr. McPherson leaving here for England. At a meeting held on Saturday night last by

since the robbery seems to warrant his having been apprehended, he was on Saturday remanded till Mr. Howard's return, which took place on Saturday evening.

SANDHURST POLICE COURT.

Monday, 13th February, 1854.

After the usual list of drunkards had been disposed of, Henry Carter was placed at the bar, charged with having used threatening language to one Dr. Caudle with intent to provoke a breach of the peace. It appeared some misunderstanding had arisen between these two parties on account of a cart borrowed by the doctor from the defendant. Complainant being unable, however, to swear to the exact words, His Worship dismissed the case.

Elizabeth Carter, wife of the former defendant, was then brought up, charged with having on Sunday morning last assaulted Dr. Caudle, whilst enjoying a walk in company with his daughter, with stones, threatening to knock his (Dr. Caudle's) brains out. The Bench ordered her to be bound over with her husband—in the sum of £20 to keep the peace for three months.

Tuesday, February 14th.

James Stevens, a policeman, was fined £5, or in default fourteen days imprisonment for drunkenness and neglect of duty.

George Chambers was fined 6s. for being drunk, and £5 or fourteen days for occupying Crown lands without a license.

James McDonald brought up on a charge of firing a gun in the public street, was dismissed with a caution, there not being evidence to prove that he actually discharged the gun found in his possession.

William Hughes was then placed at the bar, charged with cutting and wounding one George Lamput, on the 8th February last, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm. The following are the particulars elicited in this examination. Hughes, Lamput, and a man named Bailey, were mates, digging together in Californian Gully, on the day above-named the two former went together to the store of a person named Phillips, for the purpose of having a glass of beer, when there Mrs. Phillips asked them to drink the health of a friend of hers lately confined, giving them some brandy for that purpose, once commenced they continued to pay attentions to the brandy for some two hours, during which time Mrs. Bailey and another female arrived; Hughes after some conversation made improper overtures to Mrs. Bailey, attempting to drag her to the back part of the tent, not succeeding in this, he gave her a glass of brandy which she handed to

the careful attention of our agents in punctually remitting the proceeds, will make the *Diggers' own Journal* a great fact! I trust that I may venture to appeal to all who know me that nothing shall be wanting on my part, or on the part of those associated with me, to place the journal in the front rank as a journal of character and ability. I may mention to my friends that I have made such arrangements for conducting my business at the Ovens as will enable me to give my undivided attention to the establishment of this paper. With the zealous co-operation of the *Diggers* to support their own journal, its success will be complete.

GEORGE BLACK.

Office of the *Diggers' Advocate*,
Melbourne, Feb. 18, 1854.

THE *Gold Diggers' Advocate*.

"THE ERRORS, IF ANY, ARE MY OWN; I HAVE (AND WILL HAVE) NO MAN'S PROXY."

MELBOURNE, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.

FUEL FOR THE FIRE.

During the last week the Legislative Council has been doing its best to prepare materials for the future agitation of this Colony. Sedulously has it barred up every avenue of escape, and placed all the impediments at its command to prevent the political development of Victoria. "Thus far," it exclaims, "shalt thou go, and no further;" "Your progress shall be bounded by our conception of political rights, and not one step beyond the narrow circle of our philosophy shall the growing Colony of Victoria advance." The Council is rowing hard against the stream of liberalism, and, for a time, appears to hold its own. It has cut out its political garments to fit a child, and has no idea that these garments may be far too narrow for the full-grown man, who (despite the real official cut) may burst them into tatters.

Clause xli of the constitution, which provides that any alteration in the said constitution shall be passed "with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly respectively," has been car-

and in this single clause is contained material sufficient to embroil this colony for years. This legislating for the future, by men who cannot legislate adequately for the present, is a fine example of the vanity of the little who would ape the great. Our Legislative Council counts upon the apathy of the digger, and thinks that he will always be as unwilling to seek his political rights as he is at present. No doubt it is fine fun to provoke the lion, but beware when he is provoked. When the storm of political agitation shall arise, as arise it will, then will there be no hope of escape, for the Council has done its best to stop up every avenue, and to annihilate every means of safety.

The New Constitution has been framed without the consent of the mining population; their delegates have been refused a hearing, and they are delivered over to the tender mercies of men, whose only qualification to legislate is the fact of their possessing so many sheep, or such a portion of land. Let our legislators look to the future. The diggers may seem apathetic for a while, but the progress of this colony will surely develop the political instincts of the Saxon race, and the evils that a wise and liberal course of legislation might have prevented, will be brought to a climax by the narrow and selfish views of a few party-blinded men. They have laid the train, and lighted the match; they have prepared material for the future conflagration; they have forgotten history, and cast aside experience, and in the very edifice which they have been building up with so much care, have they placed the element which, unless it be modified, will, one day, be the destruction of the whole.

"MEN OF THE MILLER STAMP."

The way to make a political reputation is to go to Bendigo and get a public breakfast, luncheon, or dinner from some of the storekeepers or professional gentlemen who there administer the hospitalities and patronage of the diggers. The Colonial Secre-

representatives, in both the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly. Does Mr. Miller believe or advocate this? Does he wish them to have any representatives in the Legislative Council? It is within our knowledge that when Mr Fawkner proposed that the diggers should have a vote for members of the Legislative Council under the New Constitution, Mr. Miller voted against the proposition! The occasion was rather noticeable. The Colonial Secretary proposed that the squatters should have a vote. Mr. Fawkner, thinking that now was his chance, proposed that the diggers also should have a vote. When the House divided on the former, Mr. Miller voted for the squatters. When it divided on the latter, he voted against the diggers! There were but three in favour of the diggers, namely, Messrs Fawkner, Myles, and Charlton. There were twenty-eight against them, and among the twenty-eight was Mr Miller!

Again: when the subject of property qualification for members of the Legislative Assembly was brought up, Mr Miller was in favour of the property qualification. And not only so; but when Mr. Fawkner proposed that it should be fixed at £500 worth of freehold property, and though the Colonial Secretary went no higher than £1000, Mr. Miller moved that it should be £2000. The result was that Mr. Miller's motion was carried. How did this affect the diggers? Did this show a desire to have them represented in either House?

Again: when Mr. O'Shanassy advocated equal Electoral Districts, the "liberal" Mr Miller denounced this as "involving the very worst features of English chartism,"—a charge so offensive to the "liberal" Mr. O'Shanassy that "a regular row" took place between the two gentlemen, which required the Council to take steps to prevent its ending in a duel! On the division about the equal electoral districts, Mr. Miller went with the majority of 22 squatters and nominees against that proposition, which had only 10 votes in favor of it.

We shall not trace his acts of friendship to the diggers farther back, but what we have referred to, is not a month old. In fact, he must have gone to Bendigo and paraded himself as the friend of the diggers the same week that he voted against them in the Council. It is true, as Dr. Wall remarked, that he voted in favor

CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED FAMILY PAPER.



Vol. I.—No. 14.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1854.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

THE ARCTIC CRUISE: A TALE OF THE POLAR SEAS.

BY PERCY B. ST. JOHN,
Author of "Paul Peabody," &c.

BOOK THE THIRD—THE VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY.

CHAPTER IV.

WINTER—THE ESQUIMAUX.

THE long and dazzling day, which with little intermission had now lasted three months—I find from habit I often use the words day and night, though night really did not exist—was just over, and this warned us to be ready for the winter season, when we should have a night to counterbalance this long light, even more wearisome with its continual darkness than the unchanging brightness of the sun. We had, however, some little time to prepare for this, as the long night lasts from November to February, and we now wanted nearly six weeks of that time.

Snow began to fall, the sea began to lose its waving motion, and with extraordinary rapidity the winter came upon us. We were pretty well prepared for the severe season, both as to provisions, fuel, and lodging.

During the leisure hours which we could spare from hunting, fishing, and laying in coals and wood, we had prepared the cave for our reception. The fissure in the roof had been partly closed

up, and the rest built over, so that the snow might not come in, and yet that the smoke might escape that way.

The birds soon began flying over our island from the north, but without stopping, as if they had been too far behindhand to have a minute to waste. It was painful to see those happy creatures flying away from this cold and inhospitable region toward the pleasant south, where sun and food awaited them, while we were bound to burrow in a hole in the earth, uncertain as to the possibility of our passing through the rigours and difficulties of an Arctic winter.

"Don't be down now, gov'ner," would Stop say; "it's nothing. Them birds is lucky, I know. But cheer up, captain, we ain't going to lay our bones here neither. We ain't no Robinson Crusoes to stop thirty years in this blessed place. No. We'll start in the spring, that we will."

"I hope so, Stop; your courage and hope is equal to your devotion and generosity; and I should not murmur when I have been so inexpressibly blessed. But 'tis sad to feel that for so many months we shall be utterly shut up in that cave."

"Not shut up. I expect we'll have a run or two on the snow, and perhaps we'll have a bear-hunt to make us lively."

"I don't fancy you want any more bear hunting," said I, laughing.

"Don't I though; let 'em come. With this place for a fort. I don't care for the biggest among 'em. We'd outflank him."

And let it not be supposed that, while we thus talked, we wasted

our time. We were busily engaged in filling up our winter quarters all the while.

In our interior cave we had placed the deer, though we already began to fear that we should be unable to support them through the winter. We had laid in a very large stock of hay, considering the difficulties of the labour, and we had left the animals to shift for themselves until the very last moment. But now they were driven into winter quarters like ourselves.

They were wonderfully tame in a very short time, and this made us very unwilling to put one of them to death, as we originally proposed.

"No, I can't do it, gov'ner," said Stop; "that brute looks at me so knowing—it does—as much as to say, 'Old fellow, you've took me, and you must keep me'—so we must let them live as long as we can."

"With all my heart," said I.

Our temperate and humane conduct in this particular was amply rewarded by the companionship they afterwards proved to us. We found in them a constant and everlasting amusement, simply because they were a change from the monotony of the life we were compelled to live. Other considerations, however, drove these thoughts from our mind for the present.

There were many things to be thought of, besides amusement, by two such hermits as we were, with such a prospect as we had before us.

It was quite possible that, when once the whole sea was frozen



HENRY READING HIS NEWLY-DISCOVERED BIBLE.

A VISIT TO MADAME TUSSAUD'S.

DURING a late sojourn in London, one of my first expeditions was to Madame Tussaud's, a place that everybody sees, or has seen, but which, nevertheless, is the fashion in London to laugh at, as being the delight and resort of all the wonder-seeing, horror-loving country bumpkins who visit town.

Many years have elapsed since I, a little girl fresh from the solitudes of —shire, whose ideas of wax figures were entirely limited to personages of the size and appearance of my great doll, was taken for the first time to Madame Tussaud's.

Now, having, unlike most children, a sovereign contempt for dolls of all sorts, wax, wooden, or jointed, my expectations of pleasure from what I supposed to be a collection of them, was anything but great; and I remember looking upon the proposed visit as rather an insult, as treating me too much like a baby. Even at this lapse of time I recall perfectly the feeling of suppressed indignation with which I descended the step of my grandfather's carriage, and followed him upstairs to the exhibition. I was a very little child—little I mean of my age—and no surer way to affront me could be found than for people to judge me by my height, and adapt their conversation and ideas of my tastes to it. What throes, therefore, my dignity suffered that day, when my aunt proposed “to take the child to see the wax-work,” may be imagined. I remember them now.

As stately as my insignificance would permit, I marched after my grandfather, and stood magnificently indifferent, while, with the high-bred courtesy of the old school, he addressed some graceful words of compliment to Madame herself, who, according to her custom, sat near the entrance.

A minute after I stood bewildered, almost frightened, within the saloon, gazing from side to side in utter perplexity—wondering where I was, who were all those magnificent people, and by what mistake I had got among them.

Amused at my puzzlement, which they had purposely drawn aside to watch, my companions separated, and mingled with the figures, so that I, looking eagerly round, could see none but strangers.

Never before was I so impressed with a sense of my littleness; among those tall stately people I felt utterly lost, as if I could willingly creep into a corner, and hide myself; and when at last I ventured to speak to a mild-featured old gentleman, who, with snuff-box in hand, and hat on head, sat looking at a party of grandees before him, I was profoundly humbled by the reproving gesture with which he turned his head aside.

Nervous and abashed, I crept away, and directly after, to my intense delight, met my grandfather, whose proud soldierly bearing and aristocratic figure, always objects of my great admiration, were just now especially valuable, because under his wing I felt that I might venture to look about boldly, and that, as belonging to him, I need not feel ashamed.

“Well, my dear,” said he, smiling, “how do you like the wax-work?”

My first impulse was to say that I had not seen it; the next, caused by my grandfather's peculiar smile, to glance eagerly at the face of the grandly robed lady beside us, and to discover, to my complete mortification, that she and all her companions, of whom I had felt such awe, were the identical wax-figures I had come so contemptuously to see.

Since that day I have often visited the exhibition; but even now, accustomed as I have become to the figures, and knowing their positions almost well enough to find my way to any individual I may wish to see, I never enter the room without something of my childish feeling coming over me.

Nothing that art and taste can do to heighten the illusion of the scene is omitted. The lofty, well-proportioned saloon is draped with rich crimson hangings, which entirely clothe the walls, and form a most artistic background for the figures. Daylight is admitted by means of a very large and handsome skylight, and in the evening the rooms are illuminated by beautiful gas chandeliers. Over the entrance is the music gallery, where some of the most popular airs of the day are being continually played.

The centre of the great room is occupied with groups, representing Henry the Eighth, his children, wives, and court; her present Majesty, Prince Albert, the royal family, and principal officers of the state and household. At the head of the first group stands burly Harry, in a suit of armour, the girdle part of which must have been especially uncomfortable. At his left is his gentle son, the good young Edward, whose face is too expressionless for his character. Below him is Elizabeth—opposite to her Mary. Right and left are the six unhappy ladies upon whom the blight of Henry's love (?) fell. Of these certainly the most ill-looking is not Anne of Cleves. The dresses of all are extremely handsome, although the graceless peculiarities of the age are carefully preserved.

But first in attraction, as it should have been in position, is the group of Queen Victoria, her husband, and children. Of the latter the Prince of Wales is by far the handsomest; about his quick, intelligent countenance, there is something singularly attractive, and one loves to dwell on the calm penetrating eyes of him who at some far-distant day may be our ruler. The figure of her Majesty is the least happy of the group; the face is sweet, but lacks the dignity of the beloved original.

Prince Albert is very like; so is Lord Hardinge. Not far from this group, upon the right side of the saloon, is another, before which my companion and I stood long. It consists of Napoleon, Murat, Ney, and the Mameluke on one side—the Emperors of Russia and Austria, King of Prussia, and Blucher on the other.

On the extreme left of the platform stands Alexander, with his round good-tempered face; slightly in advance is seated Francis of Austria, looking meagre, worn, and undignified; behind are Blucher and Frederick William of Prussia. Opposite, his right arm extended to the eagle, the left resting upon his sword-hilt, gray-coated and covered, his falcon-eye flashing, every inch of his frame instinct with life, is Napoleon. The figure almost seems to speak, and, speaking, to say those words, the bold fulfilment of which rocked Europe to its centre.

To the emperor's right is the handsome Murat; behind stands Ney, and near to him the faithful Mameluke. Contrasting the chief figures of the group, legitimacy shows but meanly.

On the other side of the saloon, nearly at the top, are Louis Napoleon and his empress. The beauty of the lady's dress is, I think, her only claim to admiration.

At the right hand of the entrance into the second room stands an inimitable figure of Liston, as Paul Pry—one equally bad of Lord Byron fronts it; while between the two (on the other side of the passage) is an immense figure of the Russian giant, whose good-humoured face somewhat relieves one from the terror a glimpse of his huge frame would inspire.

But I have run on too fast, and arrived at the top of the room before describing all the attractions of the bottom. First of these is a figure of the late Madame Tussaud herself, so exactly alike, that, although one might come straight to it from talking to her in the lobby, it always seemed impossible not to believe that somehow she had contrived to enter first, and, in her veritable black silk cloak and bonnet, stood there to play the credulous a trick.

This representation of Madame Tussaud stands at the head of the sleeping figure of the beautiful Madame St. Amaranthe, one of Robespierre's victims; she is represented lying asleep upon a couch, with one graceful arm thrown over her head; her calm breathing is admirably simulated by some internal machinery, which causes the chest to heave as in life, and adds considerably to the deception.

Behind, in the left corner, is Jenny Lind in her “Rataplan” attire. Higher up, on the same side, are Komble Mrs. Siddons;

a touching group of poor Mary of Scots and her unmanly persecutors; Commissioner Lin and his tiny-footed wife; Abd-el-Kader, a remarkably handsome, intelligent-looking little man, with nothing Eastern about him except his complexion and his fez; Louis Napoleon and his bride; and sundry other notoriety.

The next room is dignified by the name of the Hall of Kings, and contains a representation of the Queen's coronation, and figures of George the Third, his wife, and most of their children and consorts. On each side of the entrance are the models of two pretty infants, protected by glass cases. One is a child which, rescued from a flood caused by the overflow of the Seine, became the protégée of Napoleon. The other is a baby of Madame Tussaud's.

The Robe Room is devoted to a figure of “the first gentleman in Europe” and his belongings; the former looking so coarse, so ungraceful, and, moreover, so ugly, that one cannot help marveling at the excess of loyalty which could see anything worthy of admiration in so bulky and conceited a personage. Time, however, certainly does wonders, and George the Fourth may have been an Adonis in the remote period of his infancy. It is difficult now to believe that the cumbersome velvet robes worn by the “first gentleman” at his coronation, with their tarnished embroidery and dirty ermine, could ever, even in those extravagant times, have deserved the enormous price they are said to have cost. The chair of state is the original used at the Abbey during the ceremony of coronation.

After all these lesser sights comes the greatest of all, the Napoleon Rooms, which are filled with relics.

In the first is the Emperor lying in state upon the little camp bed in which he died; the mattress and pillow are the same upon which his last breath was drawn, and covering him is thrown the cloak he wore at Marengo. To me there is something inexpressibly painful and affecting in this solemn representation. The calm, stern face, from which even death has not stolen the impress of its wonderful majesty and intellect—the rigid figure, once so instinct with energy and resolution, surrounded as they are with the speechless, though eloquent, memorials of former greatness and subsequent ill-treatment, send a strange thrill through me. Gazing on the solemn deathbed, I feel as if I had been a sharer in the petty wrongs which fretted that great life away, and with leaping pulses and a burning brain I turn aside.

In this room, too, are coronation robes and regalia; but the dead face of the hero comes between them and the beholder, and he passes on. All that seems to bring Napoleon's glory more vividly before the mind adds to a true heart's shame and mortification. In this room, however, are many objects of interest, the principal of which is the sword worn by the emperor during the Egyptian campaign. Round the apartment are several pictures of value, portraits, and busts, as well as glass cases containing relics, among which are some articles of wearing apparel, and a counterpane, said to be stained with Napoleon's blood.

Near the entrance is Isabey's celebrated porcelain table of the French marshals.

In an adjoining chamber are the carriages, conspicuous among which is, of course, the famous Berlin, used by Napoleon during the Russian campaign, and captured at Waterloo. It is a heavy, dingy affair, but not nearly so large or so cumbersome as might be expected, remembering its contents. Near to it are two other equipages—one the state carriage, built for the emperor's coronation at Milan, and the second that used by him during his exile at St. Helena, and the last he ever entered.

There are also chairs and other articles of furniture from Longwood; miniatures; a case with the hair of the emperor and his son; and a curious dressing-box, given to her husband by Marie Louise, and plundered by the Prussians at Waterloo when they seized the carriage. Here also, protected by glass, is the celebrated tri-colour flag, which the emperor presented to the National Guard of Elba, and which afterwards accompanied him on his return to Paris, subsequently it was presented by him to the French guard at the important meeting which took place a short time before Waterloo, and, being used by them there, was captured by the Prussians.

Next to the figure of Napoleon on his bed of death, this flag is the greatest object of interest in the collection. Could it speak, recount all the stirring scenes in which it has taken part, all the burning fateful words which have been spoken under its shadow, what a solemn tale would be unfolded, and how the listeners' hearts would throb with sensations, of which nearly forty years of peace have almost extinguished the memory.

Out of the Napoleon Rooms proceeds that popularly known as the “Chamber of Horrors.” I am told that this apartment has an extraordinary power of attraction, and that at certain times it is thronged with visitors; but what particular abominations lend their charms to the scene I do not know. I have a great aversion to revolting sights under any circumstances, and I do not think that, after a long contemplation of such a countenance as Napoleon's, one's mind is at all likely to be in a fit mood for enjoying (?) such objects as the “Chamber of Horrors” presents.

With hasty steps, therefore, I passed through it on my way to the guillotine and Count de Lorge's dungeon in the Bastille. Both are melancholy sights, and the poor little mouse on the prisoner's table adds to the gloom and sense of solitude.

Returning through the exhibition, we were shown into a small chamber near the entrance, where a figure of Wellington, habited in a field-marshal's uniform, and wearing the cloak of the garter, lies under a handsome canopy. Upon the walls are shields bearing the names of his battles. There are also two glass cases, one containing articles of wearing apparel, an umbrella, &c., and the other fac-similes of his various orders and badges.

E. J. B.

MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP.

The Spaniards talked of an El Dorado, and the ancients dreamed of a lost Atlantis; and when Columbus discovered America it seemed as if the anticipations of the world were about to be realised, and the new land to be all that the enthusiast could desire, or the wildest imagination conceive. But although America answered to a very great extent the requirements of the time, yet there remained another El Dorado still to be found out, a land of greater wealth than ever Peru boasted or Mexico contained. The great island continent of Australia was as yet unknown. At a very early period, the Chinese were acquainted with the existence of northern Australia. Between 1620 and 1600, the Spaniards discovered several islands of the Australian group. In 1605, Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, and Luis Vaez de Torres touched at a point they called Terra del Esperito Santa, now known as the New Hebrides. The Dutch made several voyages to the “great south land,” but none of their explorations led to any permanent settlement—England reaped the fruit of their enterprise and industry. Between 1772 and 1777 the west line of the continent was further explored, and New South Wales was formally taken possession of by Captain Cook. But as late as the year 1834, Victoria or Port Phillip—now one of the most important parts in all Australia—was a desert barely known to Europeans. Sealers and whalers talked about the spot, but it was reckoned of no moment, as a stony, arid region which would never be of much account. People thought not of the gold in its mountain ridges and river sands—thought not of the worth of those sheep whose feet, according to the Spanish proverb, “turn all the earth they touch to gold;” that nearly two hundred thousand inhabitants would there find comfortable homes, that ships of every nation would crowd its ports, and that a city furnished with all the luxuries of civilised life would arise within its valley. All this, undreamed of twenty years ago, has come to pass, attesting the colonising vigour of the English people.

In 1798 Bass visited Western Port, one of the harbours of

Port Phillip; in 1802 Flinders sailed into Port Phillip Bay. In 1803 Lieutenant-Governor Collins was sent out with a number of free settlers, several hundred prisoners, and a body of Royal Marines, to found a colony at Port Phillip. But Colonel Collins had no desire to form the colony, seeking rather to settle in Van Dieman's Land; so the design was abandoned. The Colonel notes that the officers of his ship found on the eastern shore a stream of water, “the bed of the stream covered with foliaceous mica, which the people at first conceived to be gold-dust.” Perhaps it was gold-dust after all; at the present day we cannot be so sure it was mica. At various intervals attempts were made—all of which failed—to found a colony. In 1831 Messrs. Henty, engaged in the whaling trade at Launceston, Van Dieman's Land, formed a branch establishment at Portland Bay; in the same year flock-owners from Van Dieman's Land crossed the strait to Port Phillip.

In the following year a party of settlers formed themselves into an association, for the purpose of taking possession of an estate in Port Phillip; this was not done, however, without some high disputing with a Mr. John Batman, who, for “a consideration,” namely, blankets and tomahawks, had induced the aborigines to consign to him half a million of acres. But all the disputes, and threats, and appeals to law-courts, were as useless as Mother Partridge's mop in sweeping back the Atlantic; on rolled the tide of emigrating adventurers to fill timber and build houses, and on the swamp and desert land rear up the new and splendid city of Melbourne, a city which in 1842 obtained a municipal corporation.

In April, 1837, Sir Richard Bourke visited the colony of Port Phillip, and gave directions for laying out the town of Melbourne on two hills, East and West Hill, sloping down to the banks of the Yarra Yarra (ever-flowing water). Although the port of Melbourne is by some considered inferior in accommodation and picturesque beauty to Sydney, it has the advantage of being in the midst of productive corn-fields, gardens, vineyards, and pastures. “From the summit of either East or West Hill, by which the valley of Melbourne is formed, may be seen Mount Macedon, the crowning mountain of a range of the same name, thirty-five miles from the city, 3,000 feet in height, covered with open forests, and the richest vegetation of Australia. Thence may be viewed the richest mountain in the world, the Mount Byng of its discoverer Mitchell, the Mount Alexander in gold-digging records.” To the north of Mount Alexander is Mount Hope, from the summit of which the eye is gladdened by all the sylvan glories of Australia Felix.

One thing which strikes the stranger in Port Phillip more than the rest is the vast number of houses which are continually being erected. They never seem to leave off building in Melbourne: houses just completed, half completed, scarcely begun, here with only the foundations laid, there waiting only for a finishing coat of paint, are there constructing; on every hand increasing dwellings, giving an air of business to the place which is quite surprising; and then in the port, vessels are constantly arriving conveying people from all parts of the world, and giving to the mind an idea of vast commercial importance. The new emigrants disgorged from the weather-beaten ships, crowd and hustle on the wharfs and quays, putting one in mind of Hungerford-pier and the pony boats. There is an European cast over everything; the houses, the people, the ships, are all suggestive of the old country; and though the palm and the oak, the potato and the yam, the orange and the apple, the wheat and the Indian corn—the products of the southern and temperate latitudes—grow side by side, there is something which reminds one of “home, sweet home.”

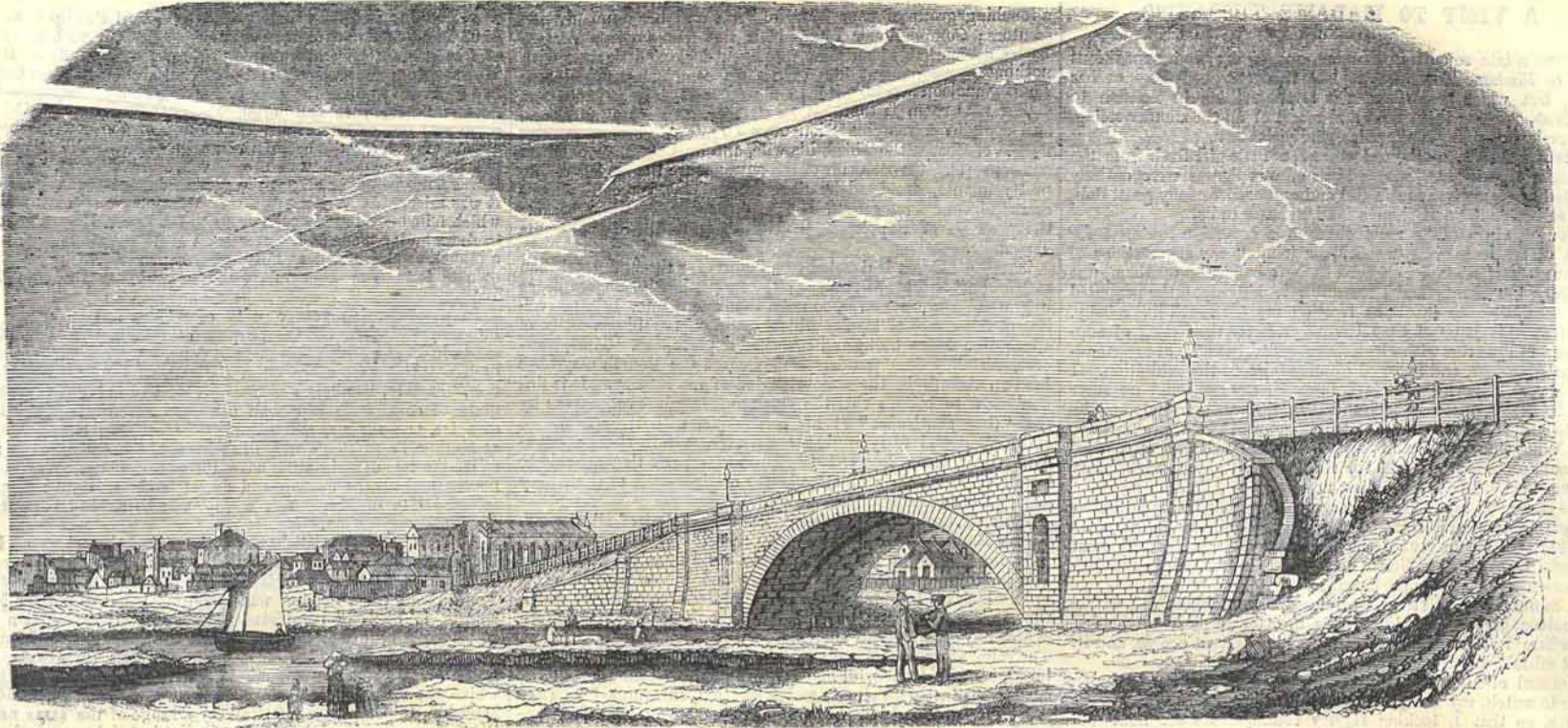
There are two modes of getting to Melbourne, the first by water, the second by land. Every day a steamer goes up the river from the port, but the banks of the stream present no picturesque objects on which the eye may rest—nothing but miserable, squalid huts—the air is infected with noxious gases; and from its Dan to its Beersheba, it seems all barren. The route by land is far more preferable, giving a pleasing variety of hill and dale, and conveying a far better notion of the resources of the colonies than the settlers' huts, or the recking factories on the river can possibly present.

You enter Melbourne by crossing a stone bridge—the lion of the city—called Prince's Bridge (See Engraving, p. 116). One arch, of the same size as the centre arch at London Bridge, spans the stream, and cost an enormous sum of money. The principal street is a mile long, crossed at right angles by other streets of half that length; a macadamised causeway runs down the middle. The foot-paths are, in general, gravel, with kirb-stones. Here and there are great gaps of building-land, where are to be found representative investments made years ago by speculators who have gone to the diggings; and here and there are patches of a canvas city hastily run-up for gold-diggers returned. Public edifices are numerous: independently of a little Catholic Chapel, a synagogue, several chapels belonging to different sects of Protestant dissenters, there are two handsome churches, one at the entrance of the city near the bridge, and dedicated to St. Peter; the other called St. James's, is situated near the Market-square. Some idea of the general appearance of this Market-square may be obtained by a glance at our engraving (p. 116). Another church is in course of erection. Besides these edifices, there are several other public buildings, a custom-house, two banks, a post-office, a court-house, a college, a hospital, and a mad-house.

The population of Melbourne consists of two distinct classes. First, the regular, industrious, commercial settlers, who abide in the city, and transact their daily business, as if there were no such things as gold mines and gold diggings in either the old country or the new. And, second, there is that numerous class who have come from the east, and the west, and the north, and the south, to play at the old game of Tom Tiddler's Ground, and to pick up gold and silver. Most of the first class are people from old England, who have made Melbourne as much like “home” as they can, and are striving every day to make it more and more English; and the second belong everywhere and nowhere—birds of passage, exhibiting a magnificent collection of heads for the study of the ethnologist. Here you have the Indian, the Negro, the Malay, the Siamese, and the habitant of the Celestial Empire; throngs of Americans, shoals of Germans, French, and Italians—all brought together, hustling, pushing, driving, brawling, rocking cradles, dyking, and sifting, to find the precious metal, and to call it their own.

It would require more than a volume to convey an idea of the curious manners of this conglomeration of men, made up of elements the most heterogeneous. But one point there is on which men of all nations in Australia agree—one element they have in common, namely, egotism—egotism without limit, but egotism which is open and above-board, and never hides itself beneath smooth affectations of philanthropical hypocrisy. Every man for himself is the one great motto of the colony, the beginning and the ending of the settler's creed—to this he is always faithful. When the emigrant lands, whether he intends to settle in town, or, with “a wash-bowl on his knee,” equat at the diggings, he has only himself to rely upon, nothing but his own energy and intelligence to trust to. He will appeal in vain to the benevolent or generous feelings of others—those old-world notions are forgotten in the thirst for gain, the *auri sacra fames* of the poet. This passion is extended at Melbourne to its utmost limits. Everybody has imbibed it; there seems a gold-loving infection in the very air of the city, and the thriving tradesman, the man of refinement, the rough boor with his wash-bowl, the dwellers in stately houses, and the inhabitants of the dog-kennels in the back slums of Melbourne, are all alike in this.

Formerly Melbourne was a dangerous place at night; when the sun set, out came bands of rascals with other birds of prey, and quiet folk had need to keep at home if they sought to be out of harm's way. To meet these gangs the traveller had need to be well armed, armed to the very teeth; and when they came up to about “keep off, please,” accompanying the polite indimation with the click of a pistol. This was the only safety for the passenger. Now, however, things are better managed, and the



THE PRINCE'S BRIDGE, CITY OF MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP.

hazard of a night promenade is sensibly diminished. This desirable consummation has been brought about by the establishment of an efficient body of policemen, foot and horse. The first strongly resemble their English colleagues, but the others wear a costume more special and more elegant. This body of men have been found immensely useful in the local government of the colony.

The hot-beds of vice, immorality, and crime are the public-houses—wine-booths and beer-shops are starting up in every direction and doing a roaring trade. They are the great curse of Melbourne. In them nearly all the gold found by successful diggers is prodigally spent, and there nine-tenths of the crime of the city is committed. Returning from Mount Alexander or Forest Creek, with lumps or nuggets of precious metal, the miner betakes himself to one of these dens. Nothing else has a charm for him. There he spends what it has cost him so much bodily exertion to obtain—puts an enemy into his mouth to steal away his brains—tipples pale ale, and English porter, and French wine, and American cobbler, till—paying of course a most extravagant price for everything—he has not a penny left, and with an empty pouch and an aching head, resorts to the hardest labour in the city, or wends his way once more to the diggings, to delve, and wash, and sift, and spend the second harvest as he spent the first.

The environs of the town of Melbourne are covered with tents, which look like the encampment of an hostile army. In this city of canvas the newly-arrived emigrants generally find shelter. The city is crowded, glutted with people—sometimes six thousand arrive in a week.

In March, 1851, the population of Melbourne was estimated at 23,000; at the present moment that city and its outskirts cannot contain fewer than 85,000 inhabitants. Two years since the town of Geelong numbered about 8,000 souls; at present it cannot, certainly, have less than 20,000. The shipping entered inwards to the colony of Victoria, in 1851, comprised 669 vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 126,000 tons; in 1852 the number of vessels had increased to 1,667, with an aggregate tonnage of 408,000 tons—an increase of about 325 per cent. in a single year! In the same period the value and extent of the imports and exports to and from Victoria had increased in like proportion. In 1851 the imports were valued at £1,056,000; in 1852 they had increased to £4,044,000. The exports for the same years were—in 1851, £1,424,000; in 1852, £7,452,000! But in regard to this latter item, the exports for the year 1852 may be considered as greatly understated when given as £7,500,000; for, large as the sum may appear, it has been ascertained to be very far short of the actual truth. Gold is the principal article of export from the colony of Victoria; and the probability is, that almost every person who left the diggings for Europe or America took with him a large quantity of the

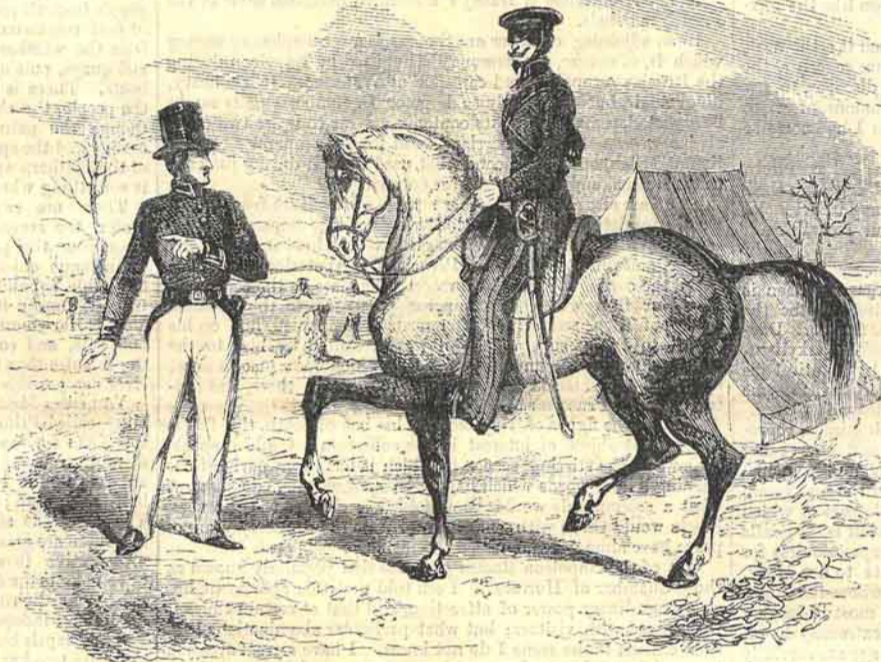
precious metal, which would not necessarily come into the official records. In 1852 the customs returns gave 1,975,000 ounces as the quantity exported; but 1,600,000 ounces, in addition have been traced as having been exported from the neighbouring colonies, or otherwise brought from Australia without official cognisance. Taking these circumstances into consideration, and valuing the precious metal at its now ascertainable worth, it appears that gold to the value of upwards of £15,000,000 sterling—twice the amount given in the customs returns—has been dug from the bowels of the earth, washed from the sands of the rivers, or discovered by fortunate "prospectors," in various parts of Australia in a single year!

"The country round Melbourne," says a recent writer, "is pleasant. The town stands on a fine eminence, around a good part of which the Yarra winds. At this time of the year the grass is green, and the gum-trees scattered over it give it a park-like appearance. All the trees are evergreens. Some of these trees are covered with bunches of small white blossoms, while the shiack, with its broom-like foliage, and the yellow mimosa, now in full blossom, vary in some degree the monotony, but do not present the vivid and tender variety of verdure of an English spring. All the swamps and watery river-flats are filled with mimosa and tea-scrub, green and olive; they are like low woods of cyprus, arbor vitae, and juniper, with here and there a tall naked stem, with a round head, standing up above them.

"I have taken some short walks about the neighbourhood. Everywhere there is the same park-like look, the same erection of houses of all kinds, from the gentleman's country-villa—differing in no respect from the same class of houses in England—down to the little wooden hut, with tents pitched round for accommodation which the house is so small to afford.

"About a mile from the town, in the vale of the Yarra, is a most singular scene. You pass over the hills under those scattered, dusky trees, and a fine valley lies open at your feet; the opposite side of it is covered with wood which conceals the river, and these masses of trees appear mountain ranges. But the scene that demands your attention lies in the valley, under your feet. It is that of little tenements, chiefly of wood, and all of

only one story high; these extend as far as the eye can command the vale, which is for about two miles. Here is a population equal to that of Melbourne itself. The place is called Collingwood, and has sprung up from the rapid influx of immigrants, and from the prohibition by the town council of wooden buildings in the city. It is one of the first things which has impressed on me the rapidly running stream of immigration. Here is a new settlement in all its newness! The houses are some of them complete, others are just erecting. Wood and rubbish are lying about—with pigs, hens, geese, and goats, but not a trace of—or even the idea of—a garden amongst the whole of them. No! this is too busy, too excited a generation to have any time for gardens."



UNIFORM OF THE MELBOURNE POLICEMEN.



MARKET SQUARE, MELBOURNE.

A
JOURNAL
OF
AUSTRALASIA,

INCLUDING

WHAT I SAW AT SNAGGERACK.

MADE IN MELBOURNE,

JUNE TO DECEMBER, 1856.

GEORGE SLATER,
94, BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

PRICE SIX SHILLINGS.

Tom Jones 1857

A

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AND PALL MALL, SANDHURST.

INDEX.

	PAGE
ADMINISTRATIVE TALENT	147
ART IN VICTORIA	223
BAYMAN'S JOURNAL	1, 52
BRATTLES, MRS. A Sketch	160
BUILDINGS, OUR	49
CHESS PROBLEMS	143, 191, 240, 283
CHINESE LITERATURE	264
CHORAL SINGING	155
CLAIMS OF MIND	117
DECORATION OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT	145
DREAM OF TRAVEL	125
EDUCATION FALLACIES OF	166
FACT OFFICE, OUR	73
FICTION FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA	99, 199
FLOWER GARDEN, COMPANION TO THE	39, 79, 132, 181, 229, 272
JOURNAL OF CURRENT EVENTS	40, 89, 135, 183, 232, 275
LETTERS FROM HOME	208
LIBRARY, OUR	242
LITERATURE AND ART, JOURNAL OF	47, 94, 141, 189, 238, 281
LONGFELLOW AND HIS WORKS	251
LOST. A Tale.	65, 114, 176
LOVE STORY, EPISODE IN A	151
MACAULAY, EARLY WRITINGS OF	67
MARRIAGE A LOTTERY. A Tale	22
METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS	88, 134, 182, 231, 274
MY LITTLE BOY, LINES TO	226
NATURAL HISTORY, PURSUIT OF	32
NOTES FOR A NEW SCIENCE	105
NOTES AND QUERIES	48, 96, 143, 191, 240, 283
NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS	96, 144, 192, 240, 284
ORPHAN AND INDUSTRIAL HOMES	68
OLD SCENES	275

THE
JOURNAL OF AUSTRALASIA.

THE SETTLEMENT OF JOHN BATMAN IN PORT PHILLIP.
FROM HIS OWN JOURNAL.

1835.

MAY 10.—Sunday. Arrived aboard of the "Rebecca" at half-past twelve, noon, in company with Mr. Sands, who remained on board for half an hour. The "Rebecca" had made about four miles down the river Tamar when that gentleman took his departure. We passed the "Jeannette" aground, and this tide reached Roserears, where I went on shore for the space of an hour.

The "Rebecca" was again got under weigh at 11 p. m., and the tide took us down to Middle Island. My Sydney natives have behaved handsomely, and worked well; indeed, it was greatly owing to their cheerful and willingly-offered services that we have succeeded in reaching this distance: their behaviour on this occasion was gratifying, as a good augury of their future services during the continuance of the object which I have in view, viz.: that of secretly ascertaining the general character and capabilities of Port Phillip, as a grazing and agricultural district.

May 11.—The anchor was heaved by 9 a. m., and a light, agreeable breeze carried us into a small, well-sheltered bay, near George Town. The banks of the country in the vicinity abounded in wood, of which a quantity was collected and taken aboard, for the purpose of fuel for the ship's use.

Captain Harwood and I walked over the narrow neck of land to George Town. At the time of our leaving the vessel (12 o'clock) the wind was fair, and it was our intention to have been again under weigh without loss of time, but, about 2 p. m., the wind veered to due west, and a violent hurricane, accompanied with large hailstones and rain, took place.

Fortunately, the vessel weathered the point, and, eventually, although with difficulty, found safe anchorage in the cove of George Town, where she was, shortly afterwards, joined by the government sloop, "Opossum." That vessel had started for the heads, but was compelled to retreat to the cove, for shelter, in consequence of the fury of the storm of wind, rain, and hail. Our crew, both whites and blacks, got thoroughly wet through. I took up my quarters at Wilson's Inn.

May 12.—The heavy storm of the preceding evening continued to rage throughout the night. By 9 a. m. the weather cleared up, and there

NOTES AND QUERIES.

A PORTION of the Journal will be devoted to the purpose of facilitating inquiry into all branches of knowledge, by means of Queries and Memoranda on all subjects likely to be useful or interesting to our readers. We shall, with pleasure, endeavour to answer, or procure answers to all questions of a rational nature, suitably enunciated; and hope that our readers will themselves both test and contribute to this portion of the work.

PLATINUM.—As far as we are aware, the metal platinum has not yet been found in Victoria. We have seen many minerals mistaken by the finders for this interesting metal, but they were, for the most part, either varieties of iron pyrites, specular iron, or a native alloy of gold and silver. Platinum, although scarce and valuable, is by no means so costly as many persons imagine. Its value in London, when wrought, is about 25s. to 30s. per ounce. The crude metal is worth less than half that price. The cost of platinum vessels is due to the difficulty of working, as the metal resists all ordinary means of fusion, and is only wrought by being pressed into a mould when in the state of a moist powder and forged at a red heat.

LOCUST.—This insect, popularly so called, is not a locust, but a cicada. The true locust is of the grasshopper family, and may frequently be seen during the summer months.

FUNAMBULE.—The French theatre, Le Funambule, takes its name from the latin word *funambulus* (*funis, ambulus*), a rope dancer. Terence makes frequent reference to this kind of amusement.

THEATRE.—Etymologically, the accentuation of this word is on the *â*, théâtre, from its derivation (*theatron*, Greek). This word affords a singular example of a corruption, now a vulgarism, being a return to the correct pronunciation, or perhaps a perpetuation of it unaltered by the changes of fashion.

COMMA.—This useful point is so far misused, that the liberal manner in which some writers and printers employ it is frequently fatal to sense. As a general rule, it always indicates parenthetical or elliptical construction; and the correctness of punctuation may be frequently tested by removing the parenthesis, or filling up the ellipse. The common use of a comma after the subject to a verb is barbarous in the extreme.

"FINE by degrees and beautifully less" is from Prior, and occurs in his poem, "Henry and Emma." The word *small* is often erroneously substituted for *fine*.

IODINE COLORS.—The fugitive character of the pigments into which iodine enters as a component is owing to the feeble affinity of that metal for the bases with which it combines. The iodides of mercury and lead form a brilliant scarlet and yellow respectively, but they soon become decomposed.

ZOOPHYTES.—The best monograph on this subject is Johnston's History of the British Zoophytes, published by Highley, London, £1 10s. The same writer has published works on the allied branches of natural history, as the sponge and lithophytes, &c.

RUSH GRUB.—The rush grub (*sphaeria*) is not, as many have supposed, a link between the animal and vegetable kingdoms. This natural curiosity arises from the insect, the larva of a kind of sphynx, taking the spores of the fungus with its food. The spores then germinate, and, by their growth kill the animal, whose body affords genial soil for the root, and, when dried, in which state it is generally found, the grub presents very much the appearance of a part of the plant. Dissection and microscopic examination readily render apparent the distinction between the animal and vegetable organisms.

THE
JOURNAL OF AUSTRALASIA.

OUR BUILDINGS.

WE are a practical people; and we make it our boast that we are so. We have little affection for the ideal and the imaginative; and we are also rather proud of this defect in our national character. It results from these two facts that we are the most zealous believers in, and the most orthodox worshippers of ugliness, of any race in the civilized world. It is the only creed for which we are content to suffer martyrdom; it is the only institution which appears to be incapable of change. Our affection for it accompanies us into new lands; it experiences no diminution by the lapse of time; is not modified by change of climate; and is not affected by the death of an individual or of a generation. Your true Briton—who has drawn his infant breath in the ugliest of cradles; sat upon the ugliest of chairs, at the ugliest of tables, in a room decorated with the ugliest of papers and the ugliest of hangings; who has taken his daily meals off the ugliest of plates, and imbibed his post-prandial wine out of the ugliest of glasses; who has clothed himself in the ugliest of garments, and crowned his head with the ugliest of hats; who has offered up his Sunday prayers in the ugliest of pews; and who has spent the greater part of his existence surrounded by the ugliest of inanimate objects—is consistent to the last. He departs out of this world upon the ugliest of bedsteads; is screwed down in the ugliest of coffins; and his last resting place is surmounted by the ugliest of monuments.

Will it not, therefore, be reputed a heresy, if I own my disbelief in ugliness? And may I hope for an audience for anything so audacious, as a protest against the universal application of this principle to the Architecture of Victoria, and more particularly to that of its chief city?

Under shelter of my anonym, I will take courage and promulgate my heretical opinions, even though I should stand in a non-conforming minority of one.

I will suppose that I have just landed in the Colony—that I am fresh from the continental cities of Europe; and that, with recollections of these still lingering in my mind, and connecting themselves with powerful impressions of the wealth of Victoria, I traverse the city of Melbourne from end to end. I am neither an architect nor an artist: I simply regard what I see with an eye that has been educated by observation, and a mind that instinctively revolts against ugliness; and what do I find? "A city of magnificent intentions," so far as its site is concerned; but upon which every man has erected a temple to ugliness, after the devices of his own

THE
NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA,
 OR
 NARRATIVE OF EVENTS:
 A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.

WILLIAM CLARK HAINES is among the oldest members of the Victorian Legislature, having been appointed to a nominee seat in November, 1851. Dissatisfied with this dubious position, he resigned this post in October, 1852, not, however, before he had manifested the ability and straightforwardness which at once gained him a seat as a representative of the County of Grant, and which have always procured for him, even through ministerial unpopularity, the good feeling and respect of the House. On the abdication of Mr. Foster, in December, 1854, he was appointed by Sir Charles Hotham to the office of Colonial Secretary. In the skirmishing on the ballot question, which measure was strongly opposed by the official members, he thought proper to accept a release from office: only, however, to resume it when the pen-



WILLIAM CLARK HAINES.

(FROM A DAGUERRETYPE, BY T. A. HILL.)

sion question had been adjusted, and when Mr. Nicholson, his opponent, had given up in despair the task of forming a ministry. In the new Parliament Mr. Haines occupies a seat in the Legislative Assembly for South Grant, where he is a large landholder, and has been long engaged in agriculture. Mr. Haines is an Englishman, of middle age and robust figure, attached to the Anglican Church, and upholds the principle that it is obligatory on the state to aid in the support of religious institutions. His motions and votes have generally been of an enlightened and progressive character, save when he was hampered by his connexion with an arbitrary government. From this difficulty he is now liberated, being the responsible premier: an office which, as far as we are enabled to augur, he is likely long to hold.

THE
NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA,
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VIEW ON THE YARRA.—THE WILLOWS.

To the WILLOWS many a pleasure party has been indebted for friendly shade from the noonday sun; and none can have at any time passed the place without being struck by the scene. Opposite a rugged bank, clothed with tangled verdure, and shaded by gum trees that have escaped the woodman's axe, a long group of drooping Willows bends gracefully over the river, while their slender branches dip into the mid-stream, and wave gracefully with every ripple. A full view of these trees, which are on the estate of E. B. Norton, Esq., is gained by the pedestrian, as, having crossed Hodgson's punt from Melbourne, he walks over the opposite hill, and descends toward the adjacent bend, which, owing to the sinuosities of the Yarra, is immediately opposite to the ferry he has but just left. M. Chevalier has selected this point of view in the above picture, which Mr. Grosse's burin has rendered with remarkable delicacy.

THE
NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA;
 OR
 NARRATIVE OF EVENTS: A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.



VIEW ON THE YARRA.—HODGSON'S PUNT.

THE subject of our illustration this month is the long-established crossing of the Yarra, Hodgson's Punt, communicating between the suburbs of Collingwood and Boroondara, about two and a-half miles from the city. It is situated at a most picturesque part of the river, where a high rugged bank on one side fronts richly stocked gardens on the other. "The Willows," which formed the subject of an engraving in a recent "News Letter," are about a mile lower down, on the same side as those of St. Heliers and Abbotsford in the present view.

GEORGE SLATER, PUBLISHER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

COUNTRY AGENTS.—Ballarat, Humphrey, Brewin, Huxtable; Beechworth, Ingram; Castlemaine, Vale, Sandifer; Dunolly, Divers & Co.; Geelong, Franks and Jackson, Brown; Maryborough, Divers & Co.; Spouer; Sandhurst, Sparks; Warrnambool, Klason. Additional Agents wanted.

sentence for the murder of his mate, whom he killed and decapitated with an axe, afterwards burning the body. Horrible as the crime is, it is difficult to account for the fact that the mutilation of the dead body excites more public indignation than the murder itself, and that in all such cases there appears to be more sympathy with the treatment of a corpse than with the sufferings of many a living being. More than one instance has occurred lately of burglars being shot in the act of breaking into premises. A female refuge for Magdalenes has lately been established in Prabrau. Some brutes lately made three small boys drunk with rum by way of amusement, and afterwards left them to their fate in a gutter, where they were found in an insensible state. A few philanthropists are projecting an industrial institution for outcast children. The plant of the Gymnastic Institution has been purchased by the Juvenile Traders' Society, and the use of it is thrown open to subscribers during certain hours.

A new order in Council has just been issued for the payment of witnesses at the Courts. The following liberal scale is awarded to non-official witnesses:—to those resident within three miles, 2s. 6d. per day of actual attendance; within five miles, 8s. 6d. per day; beyond that distance, 5s. per day; for travelling expenses, the sum actually paid, not exceeding 1s. 6d. per mile, with 7s. 6d. per day for necessary absence from home prior to attendance at the court; to medical witnesses, £1 per day for attendance. The receipt to be attended with an ingeniously contrived amount of trouble and delay. Can it be wondered that people will suffer injury rather than seek redress, and will withhold from assisting in the prosecution of justice? A return of the business transacted in the County Court of Bourke during the quarter just ended shows that 505 actions, involving £21,250, have been brought during that time. Less than half of these were defended; the rest may be presumed to be, for the most part, cases in which wrong has been attempted in the hope that the injured party would put up with the loss rather than go to law to seek redress. Perhaps it is not too much to say that we have hardly another institution of so great public utility, and but few so well administered as this County Court.

The Mayor of Melbourne, Mr. Davis, has just got himself into a rather awkward hobble. Referring to a witness before him at the Police Court, he said, "Oh, no one would believe that Jew fellow." As the magistrate sitting next him, to whom the remark was half addressed, was himself a Jew, the matter has been much canvassed, and Mr. Davis has lost the fraction of popularity that was left to him after his proceedings at the Licensing meetings, especially as the City Council is now half composed of publicans. The Corporation has spent all its funds, and is in debt £11,000, besides the Gabriell loan, having contrived to spend no less than £55,000 during the half-year, including the suburban quota of interest on bonds. Of this sum about £12,000 is for interest of the Gabriell loan, and only £30,000 for public works. Everything is wanting, and the general answer to every inquiry about an unsupplied want or a defective work is, "Oh, it's a corporation affair." "When things come to the worst they must mend," has been often enough quoted; the question now to be solved is, "when the worst is arrived at." "It's awfully a muddle," as Stephen Blackpool would say.

There are ten enclosures of park lands, covering an area of 8123 acres. Most of them are in a state of nature, or rather in such a state as they had been reduced to by traffic and rubbish shooting before they were enclosed, but efforts have been lately made to commence the improvement of some of them. The number of buildings in Melbourne is 10,273, assessed at £891,188; in 1843 there were only 1095, with an assessment of £36,847; the latter quotation includes the suburbs, which are now detached from the city.

Several new churches have lately been founded in various parts, some of them accepting the aid of public funds, and others relying entirely on private subscription; and some have held their customary anniversary and other meetings. The ceremony of admitting a novice among the Sisters of Mercy was lately performed at the Roman Catholic Church.

Two balls have been held at the Exhibition Building, one by the Masonic body, and the other by subscription; both were in aid of public charities.

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

THE interesting subject of an Exposition of Colonial Art and Industry has just been brought before the public by Mr. J. G. Knight, the architect of the Houses of Parliament, &c., and President of the Institute of Architects. As he justly remarks, "In this stage of our colony's comparative infancy, our progressive improvement cannot be too forcibly illustrated. The past three years have an important history, and the changes effected in that interval are, in many respects, greater than occur to some countries in the course of a whole generation." The collection displayed at the usual exhibition of societies addressing themselves to special branches of industry have shown that the influx of population during the last three or four years introduced to us men of science and handicraftsmen whose skill cannot but reflect credit on the colony and add in its further progress. It is for the common good that the existence in our midst of such aids be made known, and in no better way can this be accomplished than by the exhibition not merely of their ordinary work, but of what they are able to do when called on. The circumstance of such an opportunity occurring naturally stimulates manufacturers and artisans to display to the best advantage their skill and the appliances at their command. Moreover, valuable natural products have lately been found in various parts of the colony, and unless they be manifested to the public there is risk that longer time may be suffered to elapse before they are rendered available for purposes of general utility. Branches of industry new to the colony are springing up on every side, and need to be brought into notice; the refined wants excited by our advance in the ways of civilization need to be encouraged and supplied, and new sources of profit to all need to be opened. The advantage that must accrue from industrial expositions of a more extended, permanent, and generally attractive character, than can be got up for a single day's show, defy enumeration; and we heartily trust that the proposition thrown out will meet with support. We hoped that some kind of permanence would have been given to the Exhibition of 1854 by the allotment of space for all

such articles as would have been left by their owners as contributions toward an Industrial Museum, and we believe that, if such an invitation had been made, it would have met with ready response. Something of the kind may be done now.

The Institute of Architects held a very pleasant conversation at St. Patrick's Hall. There was a goodly show of interesting objects, chiefly of a professional character, and several useful papers on the allied arts were read. Of the latter there was an *embarras*, and the thing was overdone, but the assembly, which was numerous, and at once intellectual and fashionable, was highly gratified.

The Show of the Horticultural Society was not as extensive in its choice as might have been expected. There was a fine display of flowers, but the fruit and vegetables were few and of no note, and the accommodation was very defective. It was arranged that none of the committee should compete for prizes.

At the last meetings of the Philosophical Society, Mr. Verdon's useful motion for a committee to organise combined action among scientific societies and mechanics' institutions throughout the colony was carried; some, however, of the members appear, from their speeches, to have been unable to see the real good it was designed to effect, and only to have been actuated by the sordid motive of wishing to cheapen lectures. It was resolved to apply to the Government for the establishment of an Observatory, on an extensive scale, and to the University for the use of specimens to illustrate papers. Dr. Mueller read a paper on "The introduction of useful plants into the colony," Mr. Stanbridge on the "Mythology of the Aborigines," and Mr. Jackson on "Railway Construction."

A meeting was lately convened for the purpose of forming what its projectors called an Ornithological Society, and the title Zoological was afterwards adopted on the motion of some who really desired to see some good done; but we fear that both they and the public will be disappointed, for both titles are misnomers, as the design of the promoters was merely to put up poultry shows, to which object the introduction of song birds is now to be added. The assumption, then, of the title, Zoological Society is an injury to science, and an affront to those who would otherwise have helped the movement. It is intended to apply to Government for land between Prince's Bridge and the Botanical Gardens; if this be obtained, and those members who are in earnest in the pursuit of zoological science will exert themselves, much may be done; otherwise a pseudo-zoological society will only stand in the way of a real one.

The Victorian Industrial Society announces an Exhibition of Live Stock, Implements, and Produce, to be held at the Junction of the St. Kilda and Gardiner's Creek Roads, on the 10th and 11th of November. The Builders and Contractors' Association is addressing itself to the remedy of the evils caused by operative strikes.

The Parliamentary Committee on Coal-Fields strongly recommends the further exploration of the field already discovered at Cape Patterson, having arrived at the conclusion that no other has yet been found which holds out such encouraging prospects. Borings at Lake Connewarre are also recommenced.

Galena has been found at Boggy Creek, in Gipps Land. It is said to occur in a sandstone formation not far from limestone, with iron and coal at no great distance. Nothing more has yet been done toward the formation of a company to prosecute the coal sinkings in Mrs. Thomas's estate on the Barrabool Hills. The shaft has already been sunk to a depth of between 400 and 500 feet, and has cost Mrs. Thomas more than £7000. Roofing slate found at Bendigo is being brought into use in that locality. We have before us a sample of capital flagstone from Castlemaine.

The old Post-Office is in course of demolition, a temporary building having been erected for the transaction of business. Competition designs are to be invited for the new structure. Mr. Lanktree, the secretary to the Water Commission, has been dismissed for 'irregularities.' Mr. F. J. Bery is appointed to the post. In consequence of the wasteful expenditure of water from the spouts in front of public-houses, the supply to them has been cut off. The Board will not undertake the watering of the streets until the communication with Yan Yean is complete, the present works being inadequate for the purpose.

The Geelong Railway stands a monument of mismanagement. It is thought by many that the guarantee of five per cent., which the Government made the mistake of giving, makes the directors careless. Be that as it may, the line is defective from one end to the other, and blunders appear throughout. Accidents are of almost daily occurrence. In one serious case the directors endeavored to insinuate that an obstruction had been placed upon the line, although none was found. The Government is going to interfere in the matter; and people do not choose to risk their lives unnecessarily. The coaches to Ballarat have been resumed, and steamers continue to run between Melbourne and Geelong. The direct route to Ballarat (78 miles) is performed in the same time as, if not in less than, the round about journey via Geelong railway (107 miles); yet, if the new railway plans be carried out, the adoption of the latter route will be compulsory on travellers. The Hobson's Bay Company lately met to arrange for raising £150,000, partly by shares and partly by loan. The people of Dandenong are agitating for a line to their district. The Suburban Railway project is *statu quo*, we may add *ante bellum*; for there is an interested opposition.

The whole of Cobb and Co.'s stud, consisting of 600 horses, is said to be under offer to Col. Robins, the agent of the Indian Government. It is also in contemplation to send all the coaches, &c., for transit purposes. The Government has, it is reported, expressed willingness to spare all the horses belonging to the mounted police for the equipment of the Indian army; this is, after all, only robbing Peter to pay Paul; life and property are quite unsafe enough already; of course the bushrangers like the prospect very well. Cobb's line, on which almost all the inland traffic of the colony depends, has lately changed hands, having been purchased from the trustees of Messrs Davies and Co. by Messrs. Watson and Hewitt. The bridge over the Yarra, between Richmond and Prabrau, is finished, as far as regards the building itself, and an ugly clumsy affair it is; but it is inaccessible for want of approaches; in fact, it is impregnable; being securely fortified by precipitous cuttings on each side.

The Melbourne Chamber of Commerce has removed to the New Exchange building. The last report takes cognizance of the following subjects:—Internal communication,

lighterage, the discharging of vessels, postage, harbor trust, &c.; it also adopted a petition for a magnetic observatory. From the same document we gain information as to the progress of the telegraph lines in New South Wales. The work between Sydney and Liverpool is progressing favorably, and is expected to be completed shortly. The completion of the line between Liverpool and Albury was fixed for 1st June, 1858, but the progress of this part of the work was considered to be so unsatisfactory as to call for the especial attention of the Department of Land and Works.

The following are the official estimates of the projected trunk railways:—

Geelong to Ballarat	£1,580,325
Melbourne to Castlemaine	2,903,364
Castlemaine to Harcourt	287,705
Harcourt to Sandhurst	850,162

The line from Melbourne to Ballarat direct would cost £2,545,645, and would supply the wants of a large agricultural district.

We gather from our daily contemporaries the following notes concerning the progress of the Gold-Fields. The yield of the last quarter has exceeded that of the corresponding quarter, 1856, by sixty thousand ounces.

At Ballarat the works are being actively prosecuted, and yielding paying quantities, but the rich gutters and leads of the olden time are for the present wanting. A new quartz reef has been discovered, but the locality is not yet disclosed. The publication of the report of the discovery of silver ore on the banks of the Leigh has brought forward several parties with specimens. The place at which these were discovered is near to the Black Lead, and a vigorous search is now being made for a paying silver-mine: Maryborough is gradually increasing in population, and the miners appear to be doing well. Large numbers are settling down at New Town, at the White Hill end of the lead, close to the Carrisbrook road, and many have met with considerable success. The reports from the Alma, Sandy Creek, Back Creek, and the other smaller fields in this neighborhood, are favorable, without presenting any new features. The wet lead at Duntully is creating much attention, and a very rich result is expected. At Moliqul a new gully has been opened. The older Bendigo gold districts are very quiet just now. A new reef has been struck about 200 yards from the old Nelson reef, and a good surface-working is being prosecuted in the same neighborhood. The new workings on Myrtle Creek, near the Coliban, are being worked in earnest; and, in addition to the alluvial sinkings, a quartz reef has been discovered. The Kilmore diggings are now thoroughly established; one quartz-crushing machine is already in operation, and arrangements are being made for others. Some gold and black sand have been taken out in encouraging quantities on the Goulburn, near Darcy's Station. There have been several movements on the Ovens district. A rush in the neighborhood of the Nine-Mile has turned out well, and another at the Woolshed. The El Dorado Flat is the scene of renewed activity. At Yackandandah the whole of the creek for fifteen miles is being worked, and some new ground has been opened up on Kirby's Flat, which is yielding well. There is nothing new from the Omeo. Ararat contributed the extraordinary quantity of 32,043 ounces in one fortnight. Washing is being actively pushed both at Ararat and Pleasant Creek, and the next-escort is likely to be a very valuable one. A new field has been opened up in this district, at Phillips' Flat, about half-way between Mount Ararat and Mount William, and the reports thence are very favorable as to the probable yield. The new reef at Steiglitz is turning out richer than at first anticipated. Two nuggets, of 370 ounces and 71 ounces respectively, have been taken out at Kingower. The late rains have set the miners busily to work on the Whipstick, washing up. At M'Ivor, always famous for nuggets, an extensive flat, hitherto untried, has been taken up by the miners, in consequence of a 75 ounce nugget having rewarded the proprietors. At Tarrengower, on the Mia Mia, and the Porcupine Flat, there has been great activity lately, notwithstanding that many have left this field for the foot of the Snowy Mountains.

The following are among the town properties that have been lately sold:—Thirty-eight feet eight inches to Bourke street, Melbourne, by one hundred and twenty feet, together with the building erected thereon, comprising two first-class three-story brick and stone houses, let at £800 per annum, for £6350; nineteen feet four inches to Bourke street, Melbourne, by one hundred and twenty feet, and premises erected thereon, let at £180 per annum, for £2087 10s.; twenty-six feet frontage to William street, Melbourne, by one hundred feet, having erected thereon the building known as Cooper's Bonded Stores, for £1004; two half-acre allotments at Kew, parish of Boroondara, for £200; seventy-two feet frontage to Church street, Richmond, by one hundred and twenty feet, for £144; half an acre, being corner allotment, Spencer and Little Lonsdale streets, for £6000.

With reference to the dredging of the Yarra, we learn that, since the commencement of the work in December last, a channel has been formed on the middle bar of 100 feet in width, the depth of which is increased from 7 feet to 9 feet at low water. At Raleigh's bar, where the dredge is now working, a channel has been formed 85 feet wide, for a distance of 11 chains, which has been deepened from 7 feet to 9½ feet at low water, leaving about 5 chains to cut through before opening into the same depth of water on the other side of the bar.

A commission has been appointed to select a site for the proposed suites of Government Offices. The new Audit Board consists of Messrs. Symons, Jones, and Agg, with £1,000 a-year each for life.

During four days' land sales just held in Melbourne, 8339 acres have been alienated from the Crown, producing to the revenue the sum of £18,886. We quote a few average prices:—Emerald Hill, 20 perches for £310; Frankston, Mount Eliza, two rods for £10; Schnapper Point, about £6 per rod; North Melbourne, from £500 to £810 per rod; Northcote, £30 per rod; Footscray, £18 per rod; near Bacchus Marsh, £3 19s. per acre; Osborne, Port Phillip Bay, about £10 per rod; Werribee River, near the railway, £1 5s. to £3 per acre; Caulfield, £30 per acre; Dandenong, £3 to £10 per rod. These quotations can only give a rough idea of the prices of the land, as differences of position of course modified the rates, so that scarcely three lots in the same sale realised the same amount. The following sales are announced for the month of November:—At Avoca, on the 24th and 25th, 68

country lots at Bung Bong; at Ballarat, on the 20th, 10 town lots at Skipton, and 29 country lots at the same place; at Beechworth, on the 24th and 25th, 54 town and 27 country lots; at Geelong, on the 20th, 43 country lots, at Struan, Ettrick, and Gnarket; at Sandhurst, on the 20th, six town and seven suburban lots, at White Hills, Lockwood, and Nerring; at Wangaratta, Ovens River, on the 27th and 28th, 77 town and three suburban lots, at Ovens River and South Wangaratta; at Warrnambool, on the 24th and 25th, 56 country lots at Tandaroo, Ettrick, etc.; at Melbourne on the 25th, 26th, and 27th, 147 town lots, at North Melbourne; at Hamilton, Grange Burn, on the 24th, 29 town and five suburban lots; at the same place, on the 25th, 20 suburban and 18 country lots.

There is little doing in flour, the tendency being rather downward. Horse feed still rules high, and hay is scarce; though prices cannot long be maintained, as the crops, which are heavy, will soon be brought to market. Much more land is under corn and oats than last season, and the reports are generally favorable. The Farmers' Society offers a premium for an essay on the introduction of clovers and ryegrasses. This society had an excellent show last month of cattle, implements, and produce. A similar show was held by the Geelong Agricultural Society. The Industrial Society held a ploughing match on the Moonee Ponds, at which 29 ploughs were produced.

JOURNAL OF LITERATURE AND ART.

The oratorio 'Elijah,' announced by the Philharmonic Society, is indefinitely postponed, a difficulty having been found in filling the principal parts, those singers who were engaged being unable to attend. A miscellaneous concert, in which Mr. Farquharson will assist, is announced for the 3rd November. The Messiah will be produced about Christmas. Mr. Siede, the flautist, assisted by the German Liedertafel, gave a successful concert at the Criterion. The North Melbourne Choral Society performed a selection of vocal music under the direction of Mr. G. L. Allan. The band of the 40th regiment performs in the Botanical Gardens on Saturday afternoon. In addition to these musical entertainments our streets are enlivened by several German bands, two of which deserve especial praise for the taste and accuracy of their performance.

The Princess' Theatre Company has been reorganised, the Misses Gougenheim having retired, we hope, only for a time. They have succeeded where every one else failed, in establishing a second theatre in Melbourne, and have produced a class of pieces, viz., comedy and burlesque, for which, their talents alone would almost guarantee success. Their concluding benefit was a decided ovation; and this was the more to be remarked, as the play they selected, "The Court and Stage," was that in which they were said to have failed when they appeared surrounded by every adverse circumstance, some months since. Miss Mary Provost is now the star at the house, but she has not yet appeared, having unfortunately been attacked by serious illness at the very time she was to have made her debut. The great attraction at the Royal is 'Sardanapalus,' which is very credibly produced, except as regards the acting, when we consider that the short run of a piece here will not justify, even if means at command admitted it, the outlay and labor of preparation which might be expended in an old country.

The Lectures at the Mechanics' Institution have not of late been successful; this is partly due to the weather, but errors of mismanagement are apparent, not the least of which is the practice of laboriously puffing one or two star lecturers, to the disparagement of others: another fault is the attempt to raise funds by gratuitous lecturing, which is always unsatisfactory, alike to lecturers, audiences, and directors.

The Geelong Times has failed through lack of support, and this, too, in a place which, while it claims to be the commercial metropolis, has only one daily paper, and has always been crying out for some one to start another. The Courier of the Mines is for sale under an insolvency. A new advertising sheet for gratuitous distribution is announced at Beechworth.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—There is little or no political intelligence of any interest from Sydney. Mr. Martin, the new attorney, has walked over the course for Cook and Westmoreland. From one of his speeches we gather the policy of the new administration with reference to the lands: a bill will be brought in with the following principal features:—

"The maximum quantity of land put up for sale in one lot to be 640 acres. Every squatter or occupier of Crown lands, who may wish to do so, may restore such lands, or any part thereof, to the Government, on conditions to be stated. Then, with regard to the sale of Crown lands, we propose the lands to be classified and a minimum price fixed on each. Thus, the very fertile lands of the colony, the rich alluvial soils on or near the banks of the navigable rivers, which can convey their produce to available markets, will have their price fixed. The second class will be lands fit for agricultural purposes, but not to the same extent, or not possessing the same local advantages as the previous class, and these will be fixed at a lower rate. The third class will consist of lands entirely unfitted for agriculture, and which, in many instances, might be worth little or nothing, and the price of these lands might be fixed at five shillings, perhaps at less. There will also be a class of suburban lands, fit for the occupation of the market gardener, and perhaps on these the highest price of all will be fixed."

The revenue returns for the quarter, ended the 30th September, show that the receipts for that period, on account of ordinary revenue, were £337,915.

The aggregate of the items of decrease is £80,345 2s. 3d., but, as this is more than counterbalanced by an increase of £89,731 10s. on other accounts, there is a clear increase on the whole of £59,386 7s. 9d. for the quarter.

The gold revenue shows an increase of about £2000. The escort returns show a yield of about 35,000 ounces for the quarter just ended, as against 25,000 ounces for the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The license fees at £1 a head yielded little more than £7000 for the quarter, while the miner's rights, at 28s. shillings a head, yielded nearly £35,000.

The new Administration met Parliament on the 31st.

The Customs duties on spirits show a decrease of more than £13,000, but this is compensated by an increase of the duties paid on sugar and molasses, much of which has been used for distillation.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—On the afternoon of the 29th ult. the following list of another new Cabinet was submitted to His Excellency the Governor, and approved by him:—Mr. Hanson, Attorney-General and Premier; Mr. Youngusband, Chief Secretary; Mr. Hart, Treasurer; Mr. Reynolds, Commissioner of Public Works; Mr. Dutton, Commissioner of Crown Lands and Immigration. A seat in the Cabinet, without office, will be offered to Mr. Morphett. Mr. Finnis had been named for the office of Chief Secretary, but he voluntarily withdrew from the proposed Ministry, not wishing that its strength might be impaired by any unpopularity that might attach to himself. It is said that it is the intention of the Ministry to introduce a bill for the creation of the office of Solicitor-General, and to offer the appointment to Mr. Gwynne, should he be willing to accept it, so that two responsible Ministers may have seats in the Legislative Council. The Ministry has promise of tolerably general support, the people being tired of the war of faction. It is contemplated to take measures for law reform, for leasing waste lands, for reconstituting the road-board and for pushing on public works, for establishing circuit courts, and for abolishing primogeniture. The distillation laws will not be touched this session. The railway policy of the previous Government is to be carried out. The immigration bill was passed, and the monthly postal bill was under discussion in committee. The Gawler Town railway was opened throughout on the 5th October. This line is twenty-five miles in length, and, as engineering difficulties scarcely existed, the country being naturally almost a dead level, it has been constructed at comparatively a slight cost. The House of Assembly, on the 22nd, agreed to authorise the borrowing of £180,000 for constructing a railway between Gawler Town and Kapunda. In the original clause prepared by the Government the sum of £250,000 was inserted, but of this amount only £180,000 was for the Gawler Extension line, the remainder being wanted for the Port line, and for completing the line between Adelaide and Gawler Town. The Goyder discoveries turn out to be fallacious altogether, the navigable lake proving to be a sheet of water six inches in depth, and the fine country described by that gentleman non-existent—the whole, in fact, *mirage*. Mr. Stephen Haek, another explorer, reports favorably of the results of his expedition to the north, and it is to be hoped that he is not also the dupe of appearances. Dissatisfaction is expressed at the early abandonment of his exploration by Captain Freeling, who had been fully equipped at great expense in the hope of valuable discoveries.

Judge Boothby's disparagement of juries has given rise to a bill for preserving the jury system.

TASMANIA.—The annals of the Tasmanian Legislature present a melancholy picture. Scenes of the most disgraceful character are constantly occurring in the Council, and the papers teem with libels. Parliament was opened on the 13th ult. The leading features of the policy of the new Ministry, as foreshadowed by the opening speech of the Governor, were these:—An equalisation of the revenue and expenditure, the promotion of the exploration and settlement of the waste lands of the colony, the establishment of municipal institutions in the rural districts, an amendment of the electoral act, an improvement in the system of administering justice, the establishment of county courts, and amendment of the law of libel. The object of the framers of the new land bill was stated to be that of "making the lands of the colony available as rapidly as possible, either for occupation as pasture-lands, or for sale in small lots upon conditions favorable to those who desire to become *bona fide* occupiers and cultivators." The Governor's speech at the opening of Parliament has been a good deal criticised and censured on the ground of bombast. The gratifying fact is announced that coal, in quantities amounting to several tons, has recently been dug out of the mine on Mount Nicholas, adjoining Killymoon. The seam is said to be sixteen feet thick.

An extensive bed of lime has been recently discovered on land belonging to Mr. D. L. Murray, contiguous to the Cascades road.

The carpenters, being offered 12s. per day, have struck for 13s.

The Port Cygnet gold turns out to be brass. The line of telegraph between Mount Nelson and Hobart Town is complete. Two committees, appointed at public meetings held in Hobart Town and Launceston respectively, have presented their reports, embodying the systems which they recommend should be adopted in dealing with the waste lands of Tasmania. The Hobart Town committee advocate the division of the lands into first, second, and third class. The first, consisting of town and suburban allotments only, to be sold by auction as heretofore; the second class to be disposed of by section, in sections not exceeding one hundred acres, at five shillings per acre, on ten years' credit without interest; and the third class lands to be let for five years, for grazing purposes only, in blocks not exceeding 5,000 acres, at a rental of £10 per 1,000 acres. The Launceston committee recommend the division of the lands into three classes also: town lands, to be sold by auction as heretofore; country lands, to be sold by private contract at ten shillings per acre, in sections of 50 to 610 acres, and to be leased at twenty shillings for every 100 acres; and unsettled lands, to be leased only at five shillings for every 100 acres, leaseholders having a pre-emptive right over 640 acres, as a homestead, at the upset price of the second-class lands.

The exploded and benighted practice of making dissection a part of a capital sentence was revived in the case of a convicted murderer.

A recent Government land sale realised £6,870.

A challenge has been received from Mr. T. W. Field, of Launceston, in which that gentleman offers to run any horse in Victoria, or New South Wales, three miles, for one thousand against eight hundred pounds. The match to be run on the Launceston race course in the last week of February, 1858, each horse to carry 9st. 5lb., mares and geldings allowed 3lb.

A new and liberal libel law, based on Lord Campbell's Act, is talked of. Its principal feature is, that it makes truth and public benefit the chief tests required to justify a libel, and admits apology and explanation in mitigation of damages.

NEW ZEALAND.—The Wellington papers record further gold discoveries in the colony, and although the quantities which have yet been obtained are comparatively small, still gold-digging seems to be a remunerative employment for the numbers engaged in it. The accounts from the Aorere gold-field, in the province of Nelson, are contradictory, but the good news preponderates over the bad. The natives in the Taranaki district have agreed to sell to the Provincial Government a block of 20,000 acres of land, a fact upon which the local paper congratulates the colonists. In the Canterbury province there has of late been more than usual stir and excitement on account of the opening of the Summer road. The anti-Chinese immigration committee at Nelson have petitioned the Governor and the Superintendent of the Province to prohibit Chinese immigration. Public feeling, at the Bay of Islands, about the sudden withdrawal of the troops, is manifesting itself more and more strongly. Two meetings have been held upon the subject; the first, owing to local jealousies, proved abortive; the second was productive of result. The friendly natives are taking up the question; Waka Nene, we understand, has announced his intention of shortly coming down to Auckland, to urge the propriety of a sufficient force being located in that district.

Hopes are entertained that the native flax problem is approaching towards solution. Baron de Thierry is very confident of the complete success of his system. Mr. Whytlaw has for some months been shipping flax of his manufacture, and, I believe, with very satisfactory results. Other experimenters are not less sanguine.

Cattle shows which for some years past had fallen to the ground in Auckland, are again about to be resuscitated, and under much more hopeful auspices than heretofore. The stock of the country is more numerous, and its agriculture much more extensive. The show is appointed to take place on the 12th November.

New Zealand, at the moment, is without any Judge to attend to the administration of the law. Not long since, owing to the illness of the Judge at Wellington, Mr. Justice Stephen was under the necessity of going the Southern Circuit; and latterly he has been incapacitated from attending to his duties.

A new export, called grass-tree gum, is talked of. It is an aromatic resin, and is recommended for varnishes.

The summary of the census returns taken on the 31st March, states that the European population of the Province of Auckland numbers 15,518 souls, exclusive of the military, being an increase over the total of 1851 of 6038.

The *Gazette* contains a notification of instructions from the Queen, enlarging the Legislative Chamber—the nominee House—from fifteen to twenty. A despatch is also published confirming to the retiring pensions of two-thirds salary, voted on the introduction of responsible government.

TRADE AND LABOR.

THE money market is still remarkably tight. Large imports have necessitated realising in many instances, and even this is difficult. Government debentures, to the amount of £33,000 have been withdrawn from sale for want of bidders. Trade is dull.

The butchers have taken the extraordinary step of forming a society to fix a tariff of very high prices (amounting, as is calculated, to a profit of cent. per cent. on ready money trade), and to compel the adoption of the scale by bouncing all who will not join the union, refusing to deal with slaughterers and cattle brokers who supply the more moderate tradesmen. If this lasts much longer, no doubt the consumers will take the matter into their own hands, and bring the butchers to their senses by forming a company, as was done with the bakers some years ago.

We know instances of needlewomen being engaged, by so-called first-class houses at 8s. and 10s. per week, without meals or lodging. Those who take tea only have to work two hours longer in the day. Sempstresses have been advertised for at 10s. per week!

The labor market presents the anomaly of strikes and union tyranny, while there is distress from want of employment. Under such circumstances a scale of rates can be only approximate, and many of the quotations must be considered nominal.

The following rates are nominally quoted:—

	£	s.	d.	per annum.
Married Couples (without families)	£60	to	£70	per annum.
" (with families)	£55	to	£60	"
Female Servants (good ones in demand)	£25	to	£35	"
Gardeners	£55	to	£60	"
Grooms	£50	to	£60	"
Shepherds	£30	to	£35	"
Farm Laborers	15s.	to	20s.	per week.
Compositors	1s.	6d.	per thousand.	
Carpenters	13s.	to	15s.	per day.
Masons and Bricklayers	15s.			"
Road Makers	8s.	to	9s.	"
Ditto, if new arrivals	5s.	to	6s.	"

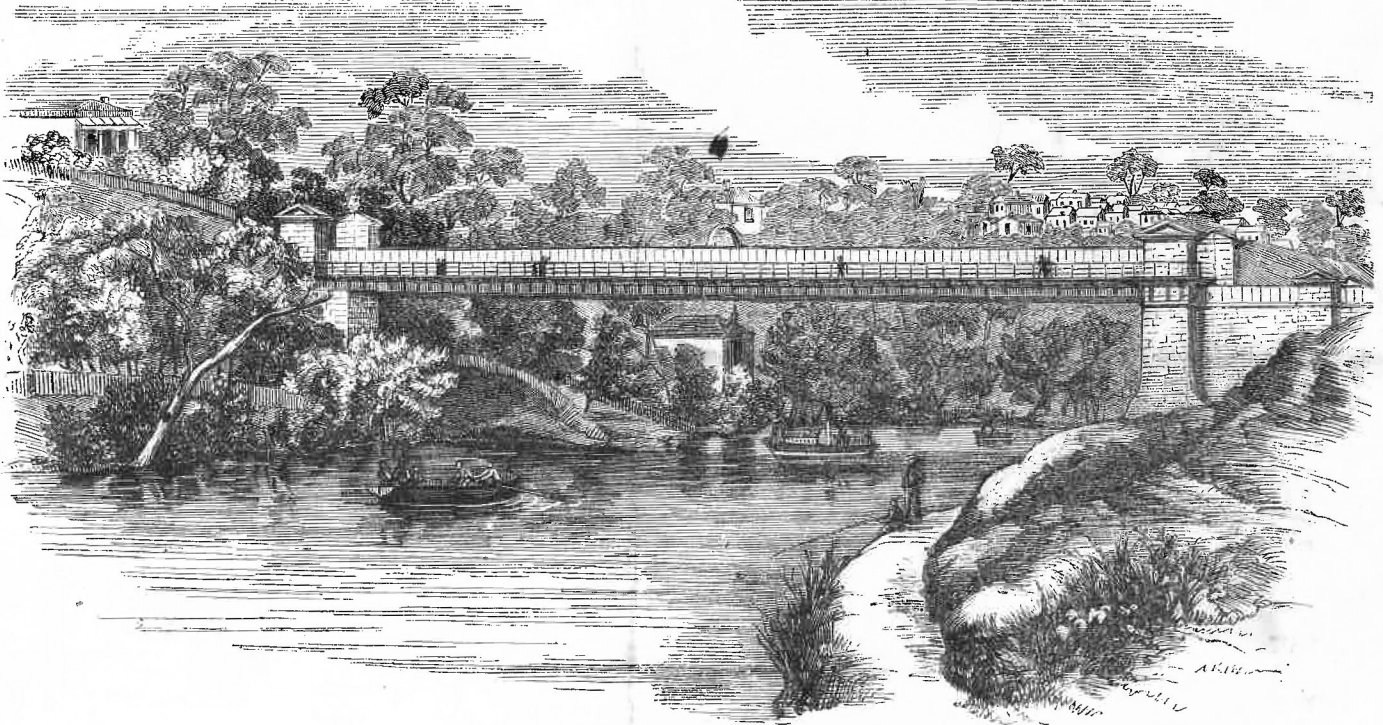
AVERAGE PRICES OF ARTICLES OF GENERAL CONSUMPTION.

	RETAIL.	s.	d.
Bread (4lb. loaf)	1	1
Butter, fresh (per lb.)	2	0
Potatoes (per cwt.) scarce and bad	23	0
Cabbage (each do., do.)	1	6
Beef and Mutton (per lb.)	5d.	to 0 8
Eggs (per dozen)	2	6
Milk (per quart)	1	0
Apples (per lb.)	1	10
Porter and Ale, colonial brewed (per gall.)	2s. 6d.	to 3 0
Firewood (per one-horse load)	20	0
Gas light (per 1000 feet)	22	0
Water (per load of 150 galls.)	3	6

NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA;

OR

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS: A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.



BRIDGE OVER THE YARRA AT RICHMOND.

This Bridge is of iron on the tubular principle, with external balconies for foot passengers. It connects Church-street, Richmond, with Chapel-street, Prahran, in a direct line, thus forming a communication between the suburbs of Collingwood and Richmond on the north, and Prahran, Windsor, and St. Kilda, on the south side of the river.



SKETCH IN A NEW ZEALAND CLEARING.
Burning off Timber.

THE NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA;

OR

NARRATIVE

OF

EVENTS:

LETTER

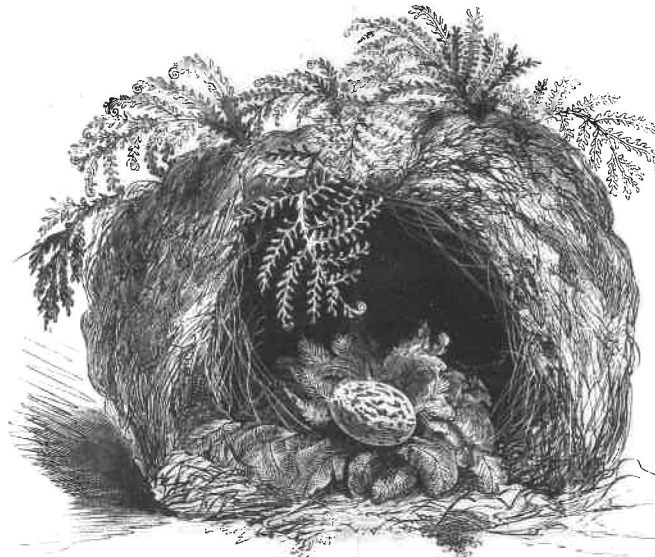
TO SEND

TO FRIENDS.



THE LYRE BIRD.

THE *MENURA SUPERBA* OR LYRE BIRD, as it is popularly known here, is remarkable for the peculiar and elegantly formed tail, whence it derives its name. The bird was at one time thought to be rare, and to be confined to the far interior, or to the Sydney side, but it is now known to inhabit the forests within a short distance of Melbourne. The lyre-formed tail adorns only the male bird, the hen having instead a rich tuft of a blackish ronzé color. These adornments are not developed until the birds arrive at



THE MALE LYRE BIRD, WITH NEST AND EGG.

maturity. The nest is curiously formed of grass roots and small twigs, and is lined with down. The form is such, that the hen sitting in it is sheltered from the weather by the canopy above, constructed of the same material as the nest.

The *MENURA* is also remarkable for being a mocking bird. It imitates with facility and exactness the notes of other birds by which it is surrounded in the forests, and appears to enjoy their discomfiture, when, attracted by its call, they flock to meet their supposed mates, and find none but the mocker.

THE NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA.

JANUARY, 1857.

JOURNAL OF POLITICS.

PARLIAMENTARY usage is the catchword of the day. Our Parliament has consented to set out in the race of progress with its feet tied. "May" is the Alpha and Omega. Hours and days are wasted, confusion allowed to arise, blunders made, and inconveniences tolerated—because the House of Commons has laid down for its own guidance rules inapplicable to our wants and conditions; or because bad rules once made are then persevered in with a conservatism essentially British. The rudeness of wearing hats in an assembly is tolerated because it has descended from days when the early English assemblies met in places where the practice of sitting covered was essential to comfort. The election of a Chairman of Committees cannot be conducted in a decent manner, because balloting papers are not in vogue at St. Stephen's. And confusions and bickerings are the frequent consequence of a slavish adherence to defective but time-honored modes of procedure. When will Englishmen be content to think for themselves, and to act as occasion requires, without a constant recurrence to the ways of their forefathers? We remember the case of a deliberative body here, which, having started by determining to follow "May's Practice," without considering whether it was either necessary or convenient, spent a whole morning in discussing how "the previous question" was to be moved, when a straightforward resolution, fitted to the case, would have settled the matter in three minutes. But Precedent is the Englishman's rule of conduct; and, although collected from all the corners of the earth, we are sufficiently English in the main to inherit the national weakness.

Among the formal practices of Parliament is that of opening proceedings with prayer, which, having been rejected in years past by the old Legislature, and now by the Assembly, has been adopted by the Council on the shallow majority of a casting vote. That it is right and necessary to seek the Divine blessing upon our every act no right-minded man will dispute, and the obligation has increased force when the welfare of a whole people is dependent upon the undertaking in hand. But the reading of a form of prayer and praying have no necessary connection one with the other, and experience teaches us that, in nine cases out of ten, the adherence to a set-form, however good that form may be, sadly weakens the spirit. This we see every day, in secular as well as religious matters. The parallel case of the House of Commons is an example of the disregard into which an intended act of worship falls when it is suffered to become a matter of routine. There but few members enter until prayers are over, and a general listlessness pervades the thin assembly, while the speaker perfunctorily goes through the semblance of a duty. We should rejoice to see a state of things in which true prayer might initiate all our public as well as private proceedings, without fear of irreverence; but are apprehensive that it cannot be done with safety until human nature has sustained a radical change.

One more objection remains to be taken, before we proceed with our chronicle. We wish to register a protest against the prevalent ideas of Party. We can understand two or more groups of men advocating different views of some one question; or even association formed for the purpose of enforcing a particular doctrine, or carrying out a particular system; but for men to make their election at starting whether they will uniformly aid or oppose the plans of a section of their body, professing nearly the same general views, is to us utterly incomprehensible. We know that it has long been so elsewhere; we know that England was distracted for centuries, and that the welfare of the nation was neglected, by this formation of two parties, the ruling passion of each of which was to oust the other from office. The most disastrous consequences have resulted from this antagonism. Yet a system, fraught with evil, and all but abandoned in the old country, must needs be adopted here. We have an Opposition, with nothing to oppose, and nothing to advance, save the notion that nothing good can come out of the Treasury benches, and the declaration that they "will not worship God if the devil bid them." Thanks to the architect, the cross benches afford a place of resort for the men who feel that they are there to discuss measures without regard to their originators. And, if the Pretorian Guard does contain a few place-hunters, the chance of two or three interested votes is better than the certainty of a predetermined opposition.

The Budget, which is the topic of the day, is, on the whole, satisfactory. Without reference to the details, on which there is, of course, room for considerable diversity of opinion, the Government manifests a desire to comply with public requirements, and a consciousness that its tenure of office depends upon its so doing. During the short time the parliament has been sitting, many measures of undeniable public utility have proceeded from the Ministry; and the vice-regal speech, which differed from most precedent types of the kind in containing more enunciations than platitudes, promised many more. Even opposition members have already been surprised to find themselves anticipated in many of their plans for public improvements.

Mr. Sladen, in a long and comprehensive speech, on the introduction of the estimates,

set forth some of the projects of the Government. The following is a brief notice of the leading features of the Budget:—

It appears that the reaction from the recent commercial depression of the colony has been greater than was anticipated, and that, instead of a deficit at the end of the year, there will be a surplus of about £85,000. On a large number of articles, the duties received during the eleven months ending 30th November have greatly exceeded the sums calculated under these heads for the whole year; the revenue for 1856 having exceeded the estimated income by no less than £226,000. The land revenue, the gold duty, the license, postage, and many other sources, has helped to swell the amount. The Government has been thus enabled to effect large reductions, the chief of these being in the item of salaries. It is, moreover, intended to commence a system of administrative reform, by which the expenditure may in future be considerably reduced. The Government contemplates the raising of money on limited or unlimited annuities, so as to enable it to carry on the larger public works of the country; and it is proposed to establish a national bank, and to gradually reduce the private banks. The national bank is to receive all money deposited, issuing its notes in exchange. Half of the capital deposited is to be invested in Government securities, and the remaining half to be retained at the bank to meet the necessary payments. The Executive does not claim to have any control over this institution, for fear of its being made the tool of a party. It is thought by some that the debt incurred by the country may be met at the end of a few years. No material change is proposed in the police expenditure. The sum will therefore remain the same, while the force will be considerably augmented. The police, too, will in future do escort duty, and this will be a great saving to the country. It is contemplated to intimate to the home Government that it is only fair that England should defray some portion of the expenses of her military force in Victoria. A new land system is designed to levy a rate of payment for each run of about 2d. per acre, and this source of revenue alone is estimated at £350,000 for the year. The total expenditure for the year 1857, even allowing for the interest on loans and the repayment of a part of the capital borrowed on the debentures for the Sewerage and Water Commission, with a very large sum for public works, will not, at least according to the estimates, exceed the income calculated at a moderate rate.

Petitions against the return of Messrs. Blair, Syme, Owens, and Bennett, are before the Qualification Committee of the Assembly.

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PROGRESS.

We are truly an unsocial people. Assuming as we do to be a sort of Englishmen, we steadfastly persevere in the perpetuation of British foibles. Cold, unsocial, segregating in our habits, utterly innocent of the art of making ourselves agreeable to our neighbors, we nevertheless keep up the semblance of sociality, and a dismal affair we make of it. It is true that the incongruity of the elements of which Victorian society is composed raises some difficulty in the way of the total abandonment of social distinction, even for the temporary purposes of festive gatherings. We fully admit that, as here intelligence and propriety of conduct are as little tests of success in life, as wealth is of intellect and refinement, it would be both difficult and inadvisable to remove indiscriminately the social barriers. But there are many occasions on which the presence of a person may be fairly taken as an indication of his eligibility for at least the converse of the moment. Besides, people's movements are here so generally known, ay, and often even the history of their career, that at most social meetings at least half will be in some degree acquainted, without the ceremony of an introduction. But, beyond the intercourse commonly called 'mixing in society,' there is a great want of the disposition to make ourselves agreeable. The fact is, we do not understand it. How many thousands of well-meaning people, members of societies, sum up their ideas of a social gathering in a "tea-meeting," a slow and dismal affair, composed of long forms, weak tea, stale buns, and longwinded speeches; the very seats arranged as if with the design of preventing all intercourse between the guests. Or, to take a case when pleasure is the professed object, look at the failure of the late attempts to get up a series of assemblies at Cremorne. Every precaution was taken to ensure respectability and propriety, but there was no unbending; the visitors were few and formal; people that belonged together kept together; the object of the projectors was frustrated, and the scheme fell through. Look at the few meetings of Mechanics' Institutions which ought to be the most delightful gatherings, and what do we find? The same elements re-disposed, set speeches, compliments to and from the chair, and little else. A recent instance is presented by the *conversazione* of the Fine Arts Society, where all the visitors evidenced, by their attendance, some amount of refinement, and to which admission could only be obtained by the introduction of members. Yet there, not the elegant address of Mr. Smith, full of poetry and enthusi-

asm (which, by the way, we are glad to have enjoyed a second time in print), nor the repeated invitation to act as if in a drawing room, could induce the eminently respectable assembly of Englishmen to contribute to each other's enjoyment. Although the ice was broken by a good-natured and politic professional, scarcely anybody ventured to touch the Broadwood, or to open his mouth, or to stir from the bench where he sat as an isolated and expectant listener. Nay, the feeling we deprecate is so general, that many persons of moderate accomplishments who would be very glad to do all in their power for the general gratification, are deterred by a fear that their motive will be misunderstood, and that they will be severely criticised if they fail to excel a Formes or a Kemble. Even in private society, those few who recognise the obligation to exercise whatever talent they may possess for the gratification of their companions have to run the risk of being charged with presumption. The French, for they manage these things better in France, have a very pretty and apt expression, illustrative of the sentiment we desire to inculcate. A visitor at such an assembly is said not to 'attend,' which implies to wait and listen, but to 'assist;' he bears his part according to his ability, and, if he fall short of an imaginary standard of excellence, the attempt is placed to the credit of his good nature. It is in the power of the Fine Arts' Society, which promises a series of *conversaziones*, to do much toward remedying the defects in our social character: we look forward with pleasure to the next reunion.

The people of Williamstown, having been at loggerheads for a couple of months on the question whether the ladies or gentlemen should fix the prices of the tickets, have at last had a meeting in aid of the establishment of a Mechanics' Institution. Exertions for a similar purpose, less the quarrelling, are being made at North Melbourne, where Mr. Justice Barry, to whom the community lies already under large obligations for his labors in the cause of refinement and mental culture, is taking an active part. The St. Kildaites are also forming what in that fashionable suburb is to be called an Athenaeum. The working men in and round Melbourne are making strenuous exertions to raise funds by subscription among themselves toward the enlargement of the Hospital. In older countries such institutions are supported by the wealthy, for the relief of their less prosperous brethren; but here, where the working class are well to do, often more so than those who stand above them in the social scale, the endeavor to help an institution of whose benefits they are the chief recipients is just and honorable. A hundred pounds has been already paid in toward the fund.

The labor market is in a tolerably healthy state; the demand being at least equal to the supply; indeed, just at the present season, when the requirements of the harvest call for a large amount of temporary work, it would appear that there is but little ground for complaint on the part of the laboring classes, especially when we see in the daily papers such an announcement as the following:—"Wanted, reapers. £1 per acre, with three glasses of grog per day, and a good table."—It is but right, however, to remember that this is only occasional. Families are wont to complain of a difficulty in procuring good female servants: servants are in plenty, but many of them are so little fitted for domestic duties, that they are positively a source of trouble and inconvenience. Good general servants have no difficulty in obtaining from £25 to £30 a year, and cooks get rather more. Builders and skilled laborers are in full work, at good wages for short days' work. Trade is now good, confidence is restored, and enterprises of various kinds, many of them new to the place, are progressing all around. Those who regard cheap labor as essential to the prosperity of a country are eager for the resumption of Government immigration: a new scheme for this object forms a part of the ministerial plan. It is proposed to act independently of the British commissioners, and to send home agents, for the purpose of selecting suitable persons. We must confess that we cannot subscribe to the popular views on this subject. We have long thought that the day for assisted immigration is past. The prospects now opened here to the industrious classes should, we think, be sufficient to attract to our shores all the labor we need: if the certainty of good wages and good living will not bring sufficient immigrants, we think that no official interference is likely to accomplish the desired end.

The teachers engaged in the public schools have formed an association for mutual edification, and for the general improvement of their position. Such a union is much needed; we cannot but regret the mistaken step of excluding private teachers. What-over be the objects immediately contemplated, there should be no division; the position of educators is not so strong as that they can afford to create sects among themselves. Besides, speaking *en gros*, a higher order of minds and a higher range of requirements will be found among private teachers, especially if we interpret the term, strictly, to mean tutors. The immediate object which the teachers appear to have now in view is the improvement of their position in relation to the ruling authorities of the Government Schools. At present, the schoolmaster is looked upon as a sort of necessary person to have in a school; but whether he possesses the requisite knowledge, and the ability (a very rare and peculiar one, so rare that it may be considered a gift), is made quite a secondary matter: and the teacher whose heart and head are in the work fares little or no better than the strictly formal abecedarian. Indeed, the zealous and skilled teacher is often at a disadvantage. We once heard a parent say to the instructor of his family, "I perceive that my children are making progress under your care; they evidently *understand* what they learn, and that is all very well, but you should give them plenty of rules to learn by heart: that is the great thing." Parents and patrons too often estimate education by the learning of lessons, and disregard altogether the great end of mental culture, towards which the lessons are but the means. Again, it is essential that the teacher should not be too directly dependent upon local authorities; in all small communities, division of opinion, and even bickerings, will arise, which prejudice the position of the teacher, and weaken his efforts; of all these he should be independent. We are rejoiced to see the teachers associating for the purposes immediately affecting themselves, and calculated to produce, by reaction, so much benefit to society.

Crime is still rife. Several murders have lately been committed, and remains of bodies have been found in different parts of the country. A teller of the Colonial Bank has been

convicted of forgery on a second trial, a former jury having acquitted him on the same evidence. An officer of the Corporation has also been sentenced for embezzlement of the public funds. Some bushrangers have been captured, not, however, without bloodshed.

The question of public baths is again opened, and there is, at last, a faint hope that, something may be done toward the supply of this vital want.

We mentioned last month that public notice was attracted to the Penal establishments in consequence of the allegations of some prisoners that they were ill-treated. We can understand, that what we should call rough usage may sometimes be necessary to the maintenance of discipline among the ruffians confined there, but we do not attach any weight to the statements of the men at whose instance the question has been opened. Let there be the most searching inquiry by all means, but none of that morbid sentimentality, which, gloating on the horrible, will imagine what it cannot find. If there be cruelty let it be thoroughly exposed and the perpetrator punished; but the inquirers must bear in mind that men who have to be ironed for the safety of their keepers' lives, if for no other reason, will not be ruled by a smile or a frown. The report already published certainly has not our confidence.

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

We have little that is new to chronicle under this head. The electric telegraph is now open to Ballarat, and the Sandhurst line is nearly complete, so that there will soon be instantaneous communication between all the more important settlements. Building is going on rapidly, both in Melbourne and the inland townships. Many of the structures are of a high order of merit, though it must be confessed that some border upon the monstrous. Improvement commensurate with the demand thus created appears in building materials, and the subordinate arts. Among other instances is the commencement, at Flemington, on a large scale, of the manufacture of a very superior kind of brick by dry pressure; the enterprise of the versatile A. K. Smith.

In reply to some questions on the subject of the coal-fields of the colony, the Surveyor lately made the following statements to the House of Assembly:—"The only available coal-field known in the colony was the one at Western Port, and to work this a very heavy outlay in tramways and breakwaters would be required. Then, again, it was very distant from any available port. The Government had been applied to by several persons on the matter, and last year a lease was granted to a gentleman named Black, who, however, from want of capital, or some other obstacle, had not made any attempt to work the coal. Coal-field discoveries had often been announced; and in 1839 the very spot on which the Assembly stood had been declared to be carboniferous. The Government always endeavoured to ascertain whether these reports had any foundation; and, two years ago, the geological surveyor having reported the bight of the coast towards Mount Martha to have a carboniferous formation, a surveyor was despatched to examine. The report returned, however, was not of a satisfactory character; but steps had been taken to ensure a most accurate examination of the coast from Brighton to Mount Martha, and from Warrenheep to the Barrabool Hills. It would be many years, he feared, before the Warrnambool coal-field would pay for its working." We have seen samples of excellent coal from other places within the colony, but are not now in a position to speak of the probable supply.

The reports from the Gold fields are all encouraging. The yield is steady, if not increasing. At this season of the year the yield is generally rather higher, as, while the floods of winter have ceased and now permit the working of wet diggings, some of which necessarily stand still during the rainy season, there is plenty of water to wash dry stuff. The *Ovens Constitution* says, "We are informed that an arrangement has been made by some of the business people at the quartz reef, by which the value of the neighboring country as an alluvial gold-field will be thoroughly tested. Ten diggers have joined with ten others, the latter to be paid by the proprietors of the undertaking, for the purpose of prospecting, with the view of discovering payable alluvial diggings adjacent to the reef." There has hitherto been too little co-operation. Everybody has been working for himself and too often in opposition to his neighbor.

Fears have been entertained for the grain crops, but we believe they are now dispelled, and that the internal supply of bread stuffs will far exceed that of previous years. The cabbages have suffered so much from aphides as to be almost all destroyed, and the potatoes have in some places been attacked by blight.

JOURNAL OF LITERATURE AND ART.

A very gratifying evidence of the talent which exists in this dull and money-seeking community is the Fine Art Exhibition now open in the Exhibition Building. The undertaking was projected and is carried out by Mr. Frank Newton, and the result is as creditable to his zeal as it is to the artists who have contributed their works. The collection includes works in every branch of art: paintings in oil and water colors, drawings, prints, photographs, sculpture, and decoration, grace the walls of the elegant, but of late almost deserted, building. First in order of merit must be named M. Genard's views of Mount Abrupt, of the Plains near the Pyrenees, and of Hobart Town. These are distinguished at once by their general faithfulness to nature, and by skill and delicacy in execution. Although every detail is wrought up with remarkable exactness, the general effect is in no way subordinated to this minuteness. Mr. Gilfillan's two large pictures, drawn from New Zealand, have been before exhibited, so that a special examination of their merits is not now necessary; and we need only express regret that his pencil is now idle. Mr. Davies is singularly felicitous in his interpretations of local scenery. Without regarding details, and without the precision which characterises many of the landscapes exhibited, he succeeds in catching the spirit of the scenes he portrays. His views are full of life; the observer is transported to them, and can enjoy the scenery at the same time that he admires the drawing: which indicates, in our judgment, a very

high order of merit. M. Chevalier's water-color landscapes claim our admiration for their beauty and delicacy: we recognise the art and the skill; yet, the school to which he belongs is characterised by a *tant soit peu* of 'hardness,' which, in some subjects, gives a flatness to the view, as who should say, "This is a drawing in which art has improved upon nature, rather than a *cera effigies*." We believe that artists, especially of the French and German schools, are too much influenced with an idea of the importance of what is called 'treatment,' by which term is sometimes understood a certain modification or adaptation of nature to some ideal standard of beauty. According to our doctrine, true artistic treatment consists in the selection of the most pleasing forms which nature presents to our view, and the depiction of them under the most favorable circumstances. Somewhat of the hardness to which we refer is noticeable in Moore's 'Summer Evening, Borrowdale,' No. 143, a picture which commands our admiration.

There is little in the Sculpture department to excite our admiration, but much to call for encouragement. There are two or three very fair busts and as many bad ones. That of Mr. Fawcner, by Summers, is perhaps the best; but the artist has, as artists will, idealised the subject and made it a portrait of what he thinks Mr. Fawcner ought to be rather than what he is. Mr. Strutt, in his oil portrait of the Father of the Colony, has succeeded very happily in hitting the mean between a too slavish and literal interpretation of nature, and the total substitution of the ideal for the real. The expression is very happy and the execution good. Photographs are in abundance, and are all good. The large ones of views in Paris and Rome call for especial notice; some of them are the largest we have ever seen, and their delicacy of detail is remarkable. Several specimens of colonial engraving by Messrs. Grosse, Saddy, Calvert, and Mason, testify to our progress in reproductive art. One of them, the portrait of Mr. Haines, by M.M. Chevalier and Grosse, graces number seven of the *Journal*. The views of the Council Chambers, drawn on stone by M. Chevalier, and now being published by Messrs. Calvert, are interesting; they will serve admirably well to convey to friends at home an idea of what we can do here. The new work, *Victoria Illustrated*, does not excite our approbation. The engravings are, for the most part, very inferior, and the spirit of the original sketches is so entirely lost, that they are now hardly recognisable.

A new weekly publication, called *My Note Book*, deserves particular notice. It is different to anything else that has before been published here, and superior to most that it resembles. With excellent language, dictated by an intelligent and liberal spirit, the writer at once chronicles and satirises prominent events and prominent men. We shall be glad to see the work meet with the success it deserves.

The familiar name of *Hansard* is borrowed for a title to a *réchauffé* of the *Argus* reports of proceedings in Parliament. Of course a new and appropriate name would not have done: the same spirit which gives us Richmonds, Kews, and Brightons, instead of the more euphonious and characteristic native appellatives, demands the employment of names like Bradshaw and Hansard. Apart from this, the reports are useful and, we think, fair, notwithstanding the tirades of Mr. Duffy, who was chafed because the ministerial budget was noticed at greater length than his lecture on forms and usages. The price of the work appears to be rather high.

The essays on Internal Communication, laid before the Chamber of Commerce, are now published. A hint has been thrown out for the collection of municipal reports in a kind of magazine. There would seem to be a lurking satire in the suggestion.

The caterers for public amusement are busy in cultivating the favor of holiday makers. Although there is not in this country a single circumstance analogous to those which have given its festive character to a northern Christmas, there seems to be a fixed determination to make it a season of jollity as far as means exist. The Theatre Royal presents a pantomime by Mr. Akhurst, who seems to possess a kind of patent for those things like that enjoyed by Nelson Lee at home. Cremorne is the scene of fetes which appear to prove sufficiently attractive.

A good map of Melbourne and its suburbs has been engraved by Messrs. Tulloch and Brown for the Government.

The Philharmonic Society has lately performed with success the oratorio, "The Messiah." The concert was held in the Exhibition Building, and was well attended. The principal singers were the so called English Opera Company. A Mr. Massett is giving a half-musical, half-polyphonic entertainment, which appears to be attractive. We must confess that it is not to our taste. It is worthy of note that societies for the encouragement of art (we hear nothing of literature) have just been founded in the neighbouring colonies of New South Wales and South Australia. We hope that a wholesome rivalry will keep them all active, while they work together for good.

We lately mentioned the existence of a Phonographic Magazine, which circulates, in manuscript, among those who delight in Mr. Pitman's cabalistic symbols. It appears, from an announcement before us, that the conductors of the work are about to rush into print, and issue a monthly periodical with the title of the Southern Phonographic Harmonia. If the boy who delivers our copy is able to read it to us, it shall have our careful notice; otherwise we can only offer our best wishes for its success.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A serious riot lately occurred in Sydney, in which one or two lives were lost. A M. Marige advertised a balloon ascent, and, having obtained the use of the Domain for the purpose, succeeded in collecting a large concourse of persons. The ascent did not take place, nor were the arrangements such as to render it likely or even possible. The mob became infuriated, and, having destroyed all the apparatus turned upon one another. Yet, strange to say, none of the ruffians were captured, and the inquest contented itself with censuring the projector of the bubble.

Mr. Daniel Cooper, the new Speaker, whose cellar is said to contain a large part of his qualification, has commenced the erection of a new mansion, of which the Governor

laid the first stone. After the ceremony was over the august party adjourned to a game at leapfrog. The recreative part of the performance is all very well, but to bring gubernatorial pomp to bear upon the building of a private house is simply ridiculous.

The usual difficulties appear to have arisen with respect to official salaries. The working clerks narrowly escaped being reduced to afford an increase to the heads. Mr. Weekes' endeavor to obtain a more satisfactory adjustment of salaries, by making reductions proportional throughout all the grades, was unsuccessful. Present rates are authorized for the present quarter. Mr. Parkes has retired from Parliament.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Judge Cooper, who has been Chief Justice for eighteen years, has gone to England for a holiday. The Governor's health is improving, and he was expected to open the railway on the 29th of December. The estimates for connecting the Gawlertown railway with the Burra and the Murray is £7,089 per mile, as the total cost; but this is considered low. The Bill for establishing a monthly mail communication with Britain was thrown out on the second reading. A single day is fixed for all the new elections. The harvest is progressing very slowly, owing to the backwardness of the season.

MELBOURNE.

WHOLESALE TRADE REPORT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the few failures which have occurred during the past week, and which may ultimately prove a loss of about £15,000 altogether, we may confidently describe the state of trade as sound, and generally remunerative. There can be no doubt that we have still in the city a number of small merchants and traders who will find it impossible to compete with the capital and credit of the larger firms; and it is indeed desirable that the number of persons employed in the distribution of imports and exports should bear a more just proportion to the wants of the colony.

Our general prospects are thought encouraging. We must expect heavy imports, but, on the other hand, arrangements are already made which will ensure additional immigrants. It is announced that not less than two millions sterling will be expended on public works during 1857. This, with the high wages attainable in every branch of industry, will probably bring our weekly arrivals up to one thousand persons, and increase our consuming power fully one-eighth by the end of twelve months. The price of labor, it is predicted, will advance before the arrival of any considerable number of competitors for employment.

The principal feature in our market is the further decline of flour. First Adelaide is selling at £18 per ton, and it will scarcely be credited that a cargo of guaranteed Californian flour failed to find purchasers by auction this week at £12 10s. per ton. Wheat, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per bushel of sixty pounds; Colonial oats, 6s. to 7s. 6d. per bushel of forty pounds; Scotch oatmeal, 20s. per hundred-weight; York, Cumberland, or Wiltshire hams, 1s. to 1s. 1d. Cheese, all kinds, 1s. per pound; best Cork butter, 1s. 1d. Rice, Patna, £19 per ton. Sugars, crushed, 4½d. to 5d. Pampigua, per ton, £35 to £36; crystallised, 4½s. per hundred-weight. Tea, duty paid: fine Congou, per chest, 84 pounds nett, £6 2s. 6d. Coffee, duty paid: Ceylon plantation, 1s.; Java, 11d. to 1s. Tobacco, Barrett's Negrohead, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Cigars: Havana, Medio Regalias, per thousand, duty paid, £9 to £10; Havana Regalias, per thousand, £10 to £11. Wines: Hunt and Offler's, per pipe, £62 to £64; Fine Diamond, per pipe, £75; pale Sherry, per butt, £48 to £52; in case, per dozen, 24s. to 36s. Timber has declined since the arrival of several vessels from the Baltic. Red deals, 9 x 3, on Wharf, 6d. American lumber, per 1,000 feet, tongued and grooved, £15.

GOLD.

The amount of gold brought down the last week was 67,202 ounces, and, for the year to this date, 2,594,502 ounces.

LAND.

Both city and suburban land are advancing in price. The following quotations will indicate the average prices:—At Northcote, near Merri Creek, at from £70 to £80 per acre; at Prahran, £21 per acre; at Kangerong, county of Mornington, 25s. to 30s. per acre; at Eumemening, same county, from 20s. to 37s. per acre.

AVERAGE PRICE OF PROVISIONS AT

	Melbourne.		Sydney.		Adelaide.		Launceston.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Bread, (4lb. loaf)	1	0	0	10	0	10	0	9
Butter, (per lb.) fresh	2	3	0	9	1	2	2	0
Potatoes, (per lb.)	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1
Cabbages, (dozen)	6	0	1	0	4	0	2	6
Beef and Mutton (per lb.)	0	6	0	3	0	4	0	6
Eggs, (per doz.)	3	0	1	6	1	10	2	6
Milk (per quart)	1	0	0	6

THE

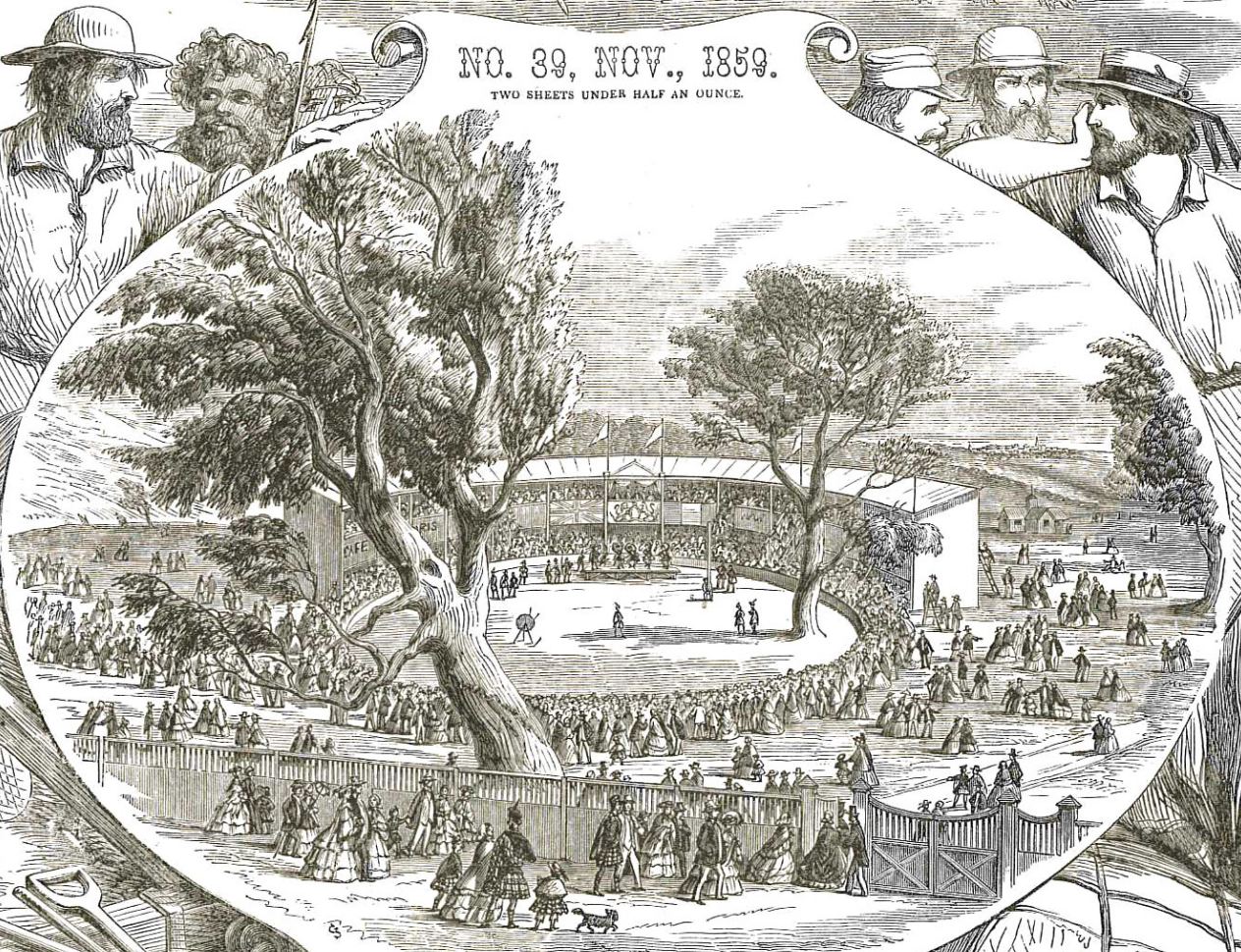
NEWS LETTER

OF AUSTRALASIA.

A NARRATIVE TO SEND TO FRIENDS.

NO. 39, NOV., 1859.

TWO SHEETS UNDER HALF AN OUNCE.



CALEDONIAN GATHERING.

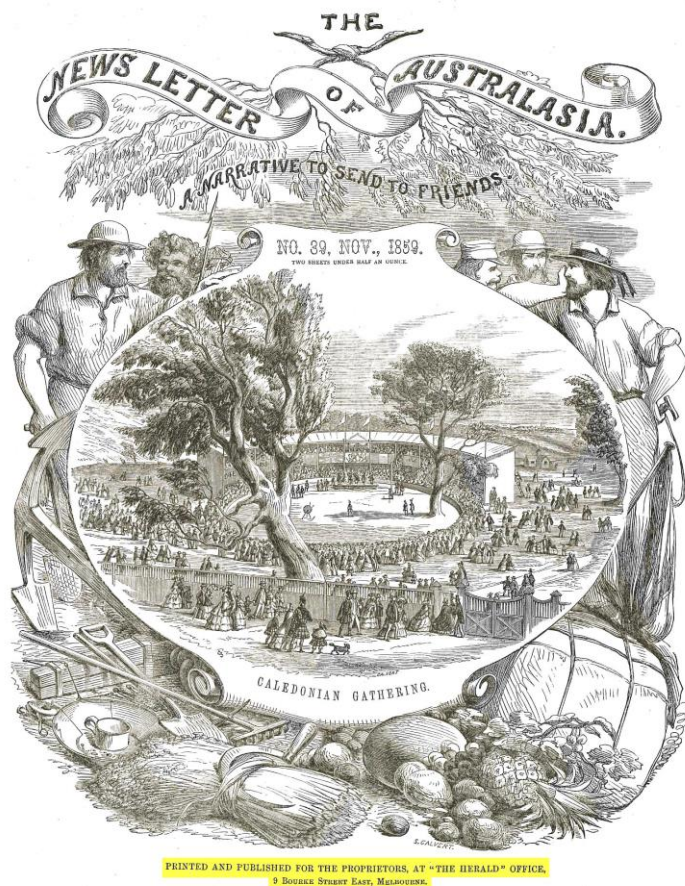
S. CALVERT.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS, AT "THE HERALD" OFFICE,
9 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.

The News Letter of Australasia.

A Narrative to send to Friends. No. 39, November, 1859.

CALVERT, Samuel (illustrator); SLATER, George



Two sheets under half an ounce.

Melbourne:

Printed & published for the proprietors at "The Herald" Office,

9 Bourke Street East, Melbourne.

Published by George Slater,

Printed by W. H. Williams,

94 Bourke Street East, Melbourne.

Cover sheet. 260 x 410 mm, thin writing paper, folded into 4 pp quarto, the front with an engraving by Samuel Calvert depicting the Caledonian Gathering at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, surmounted by a decorative masthead and surrounded by an illustrated border featuring sailors and ship's anchor, an Aborigine, agricultural implements and produce; the remaining three sides blank; near fine with original folds and the expected amount of very mild creasing to the thin paper; lacking the second printed sheet.

The first issue of *The News Letter of Australasia* was published by George Slater in July 1856.

The following notice regarding this new and innovative publication appeared in *The Argus*, Page 6, 23 June, 1856:

On July 2nd will be Published, No. 1, price 6d., "THE NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA," an Impartial Summary. "The News Letter of Australasia." printed on superfine thin letter paper, with pages three and four blank for private correspondence. Price 6d. Sold by all booksellers and newsagents.

Letters are not so liable to be lost as newspapers in transmission by post.

Send to friends at home "The News Letter of Australasia," a monthly record and bird's eye view of the events and state of these countries.

"The News Letter of Australasia" will contain a narrative without comment, most emphatically indicating and marking the spirit of progress of the times, and the natural characteristics of these countries.

"The Newsletter of Australasia" printed (by W. H. Williams) on superfine thin letter paper.

Sold by all booksellers. Price 6d.

Published by GEORGE SLATER, 94 Bourke-street east.

Sold by booksellers and news agents.

History of W. H. Williams, <http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A53219>

The printing, publishing and bookselling firm W. H. Williams operated in Melbourne for most of the second half of the nineteenth century. The founder, William H. Williams, arrived in Melbourne in October 1852, and was employed for a period as an overseer on the Melbourne *Herald*. In 1853 he bought the business of Connebee and Mould, who had been printers at 79 Elizabeth Street since 1850. William Williams was initially in a partnership as Hough, Heath and Williams (in 1853 published *The Diggers Advocate*) and by December 1855 was sole proprietor. In 1856 the firm moved to 94 Bourke Street East, where it shared premises with bookseller and publisher George Slater who undertook a number of publishing projects with Williams including *'Language of the Aborigines'* and *'The Settlement of John Batman in Port Philip from his own Journal'*. In November 1856 Williams acquired Slater's business and founded W. H. Williams which was later located in 23 Little Burke Street East (Post Office Place), then Elizabeth Street, Little Collins Street West, and 83 Queen Street.

W. H. Williams printed, published and owned a range of periodicals and newspapers in Melbourne, many of which had literary content, such as *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine* (1857-58) and *The Australian Monthly Magazine* (1865-67), of which William Williams was printer, publisher, owner, and initially editor. The illustrations were woodcut prints of drawings and paintings of scenes and portraits. Williams was one of the first printers in the colony to type-set musical notation, and was known as 'Musical Williams'. (See page 12)






Williams' son, also William H. Williams, trained as a compositor and entered the business, printing and publishing with his father as Williams & Williams in the 1890s, and eventually operating in his own right, as W. H. Williams Jnr.

Works by W. H. Williams

1.  [Dimples; A Daughter of Vice](#) Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1939-1959 single work novella romance
2.  [The Musical Millionaire, or, Love and L.S.D.: a comic opera in two acts Ivan Archer Rosenblum , Ivan Archer Rosenblum](#) (composer), Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1905 single work musical theatre opera humour
3.  [The Swag : the unofficial flute of the sundowners and other colonial vagrants; with which is enfurcated the Bush Marconi and the Whaler's Telegraph, by Scotty the Wrinkler Philip Mowbray ,](#) Melbourne s.n., 1900 selected work short story
4.  [The Centennial Garland: An Australian Gift-Book and Souvenir to Friends Across the Seas A. F. Gardner](#) [Melbourne]: 1888 selected work poetry
5.  [Australian Chimes and Rhymes William H. Williams](#) (editor), Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1884 anthology novella poetry prose short story
6.  [Australian Christmas Chimes for Old and Young William H. Williams](#) (editor), Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1881 anthology poetry short story
7.  [Vercingetorix, or, Love and Patriotism Joshua Lake , Henri Kowalski](#) (composer), Melbourne : W. H. Williams, 1881 single work musical theatre Abstract

Lyric drama in three acts.

Translated into English (and possibly adapted) from the original French version by M Maniel.

1.  [Proi ; Or, At the Dawning \[cantata\] Marcus Clarke , Paolo Giorza](#) (composer), Melbourne : Marcus Clarke, 1881 single work lyric/song
2.  [Checkmated T. P. \(Mrs\) Hill](#) Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1878 single work novel
3.  ['Boot and Saddle!' : Bits of South African Life in Bush and Barracks H. Morin Humphreys ,](#) Melbourne: George Robertson , 1875 selected work prose
4.  [Memories of the Past A Lady in Australia](#) Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1873 single work autobiography
5.  [Australian Stories Round the Camp Fire Robert P. Whitworth](#) Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1872 selected work short story
6.  [Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual, for the Holiday Season \[1870-71\]](#) Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1870 periodical issue

7. [📖 Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual for Christmas and the New Year 1869-1870: Second Year of Publication](#) *Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual* Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1869 periodical issue
8. [📖 Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual](#) *Williams's Australian Annual*; Printable version *Williams's Illustrated Australian Annual for Christmas and the New Year* [Henry Kendall](#) (editor), Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1868 periodical (3 issues)
9. [📖 The Australian Monthly Magazine](#) Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1865-1867 periodical (27 issues)
10. [📖 Francesca Vasari : A Tragedy in Five Acts John Finnamore](#) , Melbourne : John Finnamore , 1865 single work drama
11. [📖 Follow the Track 'Twig'](#) , Melbourne: W. H. Williams, 1861 single work novella
12. [📖 The Illustrated Journal of Australasia](#) *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine* combining *The Monthly Magazine* (William Williams) and *A Journal of Australasia, Made in Melbourne*: George Slater, 1856-1857 periodical (8 issues)

History of George Slater, <http://www.austlit.edu.au/austlit/page/A37997>

The business George Slater operated at various times in the second half of the nineteenth century in Melbourne and in Brisbane, and in country Victoria and Queensland, as a bookseller, publisher, printer, stationer, newsagent, library, and dealer in homeopathic medicines. George Slater opened a bookshop in Wellington Street in Collingwood, Melbourne, soon after his arrival from London in 1853 (sometimes advertised as the 'Wellington Library'), but soon moved to 94 Bourke Street East, where the business developed into a leading Melbourne bookseller, which also **published in association with William Williams, and also traded as Slater, Williams and Hodgson**. During the 1850s George Slater published *A Journal of Australasia* (later *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine*), which contained some of the earliest criticism of Australian literature. Another publication was the periodical *The News Letter from Australasia*, a compendium of information intended to be sent to relatives and friends in Britain. This publication featured a woodcut print on the cover, and Slater also published and sold individual prints of scenes of Melbourne and the gold diggings. Slater operated as a wholesale bookseller at 120 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne then opened branches in Castlemaine and Bendigo, but the business failed and was sold around 1858. From 1859 to 1861 George Slater operated a library in High Street, St Kilda.

In 1864 George Slater moved to Brisbane where he opened a small bookshop and stationery in the Kingsford Building in Queen Street. The business opened branches in Rockhampton and Gympie, and expanded into printing, producing maps and woodcut and lithographic prints and photographs of Queensland scenes. It also operated a subscription library, which had a list of 15,000 books in 1869. From 1867 the firm published *Slater's Queensland Almanac*, and in 1873 moved into a new warehouse and workshop in Edward Street. This business was sold around 1876 to Gordon and Gotch, who continued *Slater's Queensland Almanac* into the twentieth century.

George Slater is listed in the 1882 *Queensland Post Office Directory* as a bookseller and publisher at the New Church Book Depot. Slater purchased an interest in a homeopathic pharmacy in Edward Street in 1882, which he sold in 1885.

Works by George Slater some with William Williams

1. [📖 The Illustrated Journal of Australasia](#) *The Illustrated Journal of Australasia and Monthly Magazine* combining *The Monthly Magazine* (William Williams) and *A Journal of Australasia, Made in Melbourne*: George Slater, 1856-1857 periodical (8 issues)
2. [📖 The Illustrated Melbourne News](#) Melbourne: George Slater, 1858 periodical
3. [📖 Arabin, or, The Adventures of a Colonist in New South Wales; with an Essay on the Aborigines of Australia](#) [Thomas McCombie](#) London : Simmonds and Ward, 1845 single work novel
4. [📖 The Settlement of John Batman in Port Phillip : From His Own Journal \[John Batman\]](#) Melbourne : George Slater, 1856 selected work diary Abstract 'Batman's crucial first expedition to Port Phillip in May-June 1835. Based on historical events rather than on Batman's actual journal and written to reinforce his claim to be the founder of Melbourne, this embellished account of the expedition has been attributed by Henry Gyles Turner to Joseph Tice Gellibrand and a prominent member of the Port Phillip Association.' (National Library of Australia catalogue.)
5. [📖 Rebel Convicts : An Australian Novel \[R. H. Horne\]](#) Melbourne: George Slater, 1858 single work novel

THE COLONIAL AND THE EMERGENCE OF AUSTRALIAN LITERARY CULTURE

JOURNALS

KEN
GELDER
&
RACHAEL
WEAVER



'THE CHINESE PUZZLE'

Melbourne Monthly Magazine

May 1855

The Vandemonian alarm having died away, and the State Trials being now absolutely a bore, a new excitement has opportunely sprung up—a trial to Mayoral jurisprudence, an exercise for Young Collingwood oratory—the Chinese puzzle.

It has, of course, been our lot to witness the commencement of that terrible irruption of Pagans (as they are now invariably called) which threatens the Christianity (and the diggings) of Victoria. With horror we have heard of the barbarian hordes about to be poured into this happy land, and of their obvious intention of exterminating the British—and indeed, (in



spite of Colonel Vern) the whole European population. With horror we have read those foul and wicked prints which, when exposed in the police-court, brought the blush of shame and indignation into the cheek of His Worship, and sent a highly respectable lady of the name of Bridget (we believe from Sligo) into fits.

These things are, at first sight, horrible, we must admit; but let us look at them again, to be quite sure whether they are as monstrous as they appear.

No doubt, to get over the preliminary objection which has brought up *Paterfamilies* in his wrath, certain pictures, said—by undoubted judges—to be of an immoral tendency, have been sold by certain Pagans to certain Christians; and no doubt more—we are not told how many—have been fished up by our vigilant and intelligent police. Very well: the Collector of Customs should have stopped these in the Bay; but the offenders, either by way of sale or publication, may be punished when they get on shore. They have adopted this country, and they must, with it, take its laws. We believe they do, most submissively. Some individuals, out of an immigration said to amount to very many thousands, have then been detected in an offence and punished for it. Is their sin to be visited on their country-men? And shall we, in common justice, hang simultaneously a few of our leading booksellers in consideration of the vice of Holywell Street? “Down they shall be put,” said Sir Charles Hotham, rather too aristocratically, of foreigners in general, the other day. “Down they shall be put,” say many wise people, of the Chinese now. But why, and how?

For our part, we doubt the policy as well as the legality of any such proceedings as our intensely European fellow-citizens are calling for, against the Pagans from the land of tea. We think it would be at least wise to reflect a little before setting out on so eminently unchristian a crusade, as Peter—beg pardon, John Thomas—the hermit is getting up at this crisis.

Look at John Chinaman as you see him in Collins Street, with his happy and intelligent—and, we ought to add, clean—face, and compare him with a few of our fellow-countrymen as they first appear in the colony. If he is not a Christian, this is your opportunity to make him one; if he is, so much the better. But, as a citizen, how is he objectionable? Nobody seems willing to answer that.

We submit then, in the first place, that we want colonists, and that till there is a clear case against John Chinaman, we want *him*. We see him marching through the street in European dress, and we are much obliged to him for his custom; we see him consuming European food, and we admire his appetite. (We only hope he has imported his taste for little dogs, and will consume the few thousand useless curs which the government *won't* tax.) We see him refusing European drink, and we respect his sobriety! There he is, a Victorian from Asia—a Pagan, certainly, but ready to be converted, reverend and dear sir, whenever you like to begin! There he is, we say, a Victorian, who has brought his speciality of industry, whatever it may be, and his producing power, to add to the real wealth of the colony. A Victorian, obedient to our laws,

RACE AND THE FRONTIER

and likely to be more useful to us in many ways than many of our importations from home, however meritorious and well-meaning they may be. If he be an inferior animal, as we are informed the intellectual Brown believes, let him do inferior animals' work, of which there is plenty required; if this be an error on the part of Brown, why then let the Chinaman improve us; let him be Lieutenant-Governor, if the post will fit him; let us do anything, in fact, except declare war upon a friend—against a visitor, at any rate—in whom we see a good servant to begin with, and possibly a good customer into the bargain.

As to any danger to our laws from Chinamen, we confess our fears lie in a different direction. We look with some alarm at the habits of despotism likely to be engendered amongst our small authorities, by the too ready submission of the thousands of Celestials whom they will now have the opportunity of bullying to the top of their bent. "The Chinaman," says an undisputed authority, "is bred up to civil obedience *tenero ab ungui*, with every chance of proving a quiet subject at least. Such institutions certainly do not denote the existence of much liberty; but, if peaceful obedience and universal order be the sole objects in view, they argue, on the part of the governors, some knowledge of human nature, and an adaptation of the means to the end." So John Chinaman would be peaceful—even at Ballaarat [sic]. One question: Was Peter Lalor, late Commander-in-Chief of the Insurgents, a Chinaman?

To our minds there is something contemptible in the rush from panic to panic for which Melbourne is so sadly distinguished. The Russians have not invaded us; the *Great Britain*, spite of her cannonading, has left of us safe; special constables have been sworn in to save us from Ballaarat: Ballaarat stands where it did, and so does Melbourne—not a constable being required. And now, at length, there being nothing left of our Rifle Brigades and our Sepoys to talk valorously about, we have a chattering of Tartar domination and anti-Celestial morals; we are to exclude industry and energy from the colony, on the plea that it is not European; and with a shout of "China for the Chinese," we are to shut ourselves within such lands as our own wise system allows us, to despise foreigners, and to be the laughing-stock of all sensible mankind, in all quarters of the world.

If anybody could tell us what we were afraid of; if we were not mere children, seeing ghosts in the dark, and only in the dark, our terrors would be respectable; but, really, our present condition is absurd. Take any British citizen aside and ask him what he is afraid of—why he wishes to exclude the Chinese—and whether he is sure that he wishes to exclude them at all. His answer is terribly confused. "Morals, sir, morals, must be attended to. Pagans, you know Pagans. No Mrs. Chisholm at the Chinese ports—no distressed needlewomen—no wives for Pagans, sir. Prints, sir, improper prints. Very proper observation of Mayor. Pagans' wives—prints—pictures—mayor—inferior race—Asiatic Tartar.—Must be put a stop to!"

This is all we can learn against the Chinese, an intelligent, educated, and industrious class of immigrants who, we think, may be made immensely serviceable to us (the English) in the



development of the industrial resources of this colony. A prejudice has been got up against them, and that prejudice has sought every possible pretext for doing them wrong. It has sought to make our little Legislature exclude the Chinese, assuming an imperial right, and pretending that we are an independent state with a voice in the matter. It has sometimes called itself by sacred names, and sometimes announced itself in a mere political character; but it is a prejudice, and worse, it is a panic. We are afraid of the Chinese, and we have not the moral courage to say so. They have not a weapon amongst them; nevertheless they have terrified us. And the Attorney-General is preparing a bill to relieve our minds—a bill for the exclusion of skilled artisans and admirable agriculturists, a bill to cause a further delay in the cultivation of our lands. That is Mr. Stawell's present amusement and occupation, since, without the assistance of Mr. Molesworth, he acquitted all the state prisoners. But let us wait a little. Let us do nothing in haste. Let us give Chinese colonists a chance, and not commence legislating against them till we know the reason why. And even then let us consider whether we wish to exclude them from the colony or only from the diggings, and whether, by cutting them off from the gold-fields and opening the land, we could not make their industry of vast value to ourselves. In short, let us look at this question as selfishly as possible. Let us assure the Chinese that they are Pagans and our inferiors, and let us bastinado them from time to time, if that oriental mode of punishment be thought desirable; but if we can get anything out of them let us do so, and unless we are a perfectly irrational people, let us stay Mr. Stawell's hand till we see whether he is about to slay an Asiatic goose come here to lay golden eggs.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Chisholm is requested to smuggle us a few China women, and, by all means, to let those she brings be young. It is, we believe, a melancholy truism, applicable to the whole people, "that with the progress of age, the old men come very ugly, and the old women, if possible, more so." (*Vide Penny Cyclopædia*, article China.)

Such being the case, perhaps some of the Pagans will unite themselves to more durable British spinsters, and, attaching themselves to the soil of Victoria, found a new family upon the face of the earth.

We say nothing of the expediency of such marriages, except that in no case, we trust, will the lady find that by any accident she has "caught a Tartar!"