THE NEWS LETTER OF AUSTRALASIA
December 1856 to November 1859


7. The News Letter of Australasia. Number XXIII – May 1858. Bridge of the Yarra at Richmond.) (Wood illustration and engraving attributed to Nicholas Chevalier.)

WILLIAM CLARK HAINES

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

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE SLATER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE; AND FALL MALL, LONDON.
JOURNAL OF POLITICS.

PARLIAMENTARY usage is the catchword of the day. Our Parliament has consented to set out in the case 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 incapable of our wants and conditions: or because bad rules once made are then peremptorily to be followed, and rightness of wearing kats in a assembly is tolerated because it has descended from days when the early English assemblies met in places where the practice of sitting covered was unknown to the architect. The election of a Chairman of Committees cannot be conducted in a decent manner, because the election of a gentleman is a show; and the differences 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 the nation desires, without a constant recurrence to the ways of action 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 rating power of each of which was to cause the other from office. The most disastrous consequences have resulted from this antagonism. Yet a system, fraught with evil, and all 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." They have nothing to offer: they afford a place of resort for the men who feel that they are there to discuss measures without regard to their origins. Yet the Minister of the Crown does not always, nor the twelve or three interested voices be better than the pertinacity of a predetermined opposition.

Mr. Sladen, in a long and comprehensive speech on the introduction of the estimates, set forth some of the projects of the Government. He then said 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 would be a surplus of about $25,000. On a large number of articles, the duties received during the eleven months ending 30th November have greatly exceeded the amounts calculated under these heads for the whole year: the revenue for 1856 having exceeded the estimated income by no less than $130,000. The land revenue, the gold duty, the license, postpay, 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 unmortgagable securities, 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 will receive all money deposited, issuing its notes in exchange. Half of the capital 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 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 intitiate to the house 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 5d. per acre, and this source of revenue alone is estimated at $300,000 for the year. The total expenditure for the year 1857, even allowing for the increase on loans and the repayment of a part of the capital borrowed on the debentures for the sewerage and water Commission, with a very sure and certain revenue for public works, will not, at least according to the estimates, exceed the income calculated at a moderate rate.

JOURNAL OF SOCIAL PROGRESS.

We are truly an unexceptionable people. Assuming as we do to be a sort of Englishmen, we steadily preserve in the perpetuation of British foibles. Cold, unapproachable, egotistical, in our habits, utterly innocent of the art of making ourselves agreeable to our neighbors, we nevertheless keep up the semblance of sociability, and a distant air, instead of a warm and refined, it would be both difficult and impossible to remove incomprehensively 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, 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 constantly 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, among the thousands, who have visions of a social gathering in a "tea-meeting," a slow and dismal affair, composed of long forms, weak tea, rude banter, and languid 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 success; the visitors were few and formal: people that belonged together kept to themselves: the objects 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 conversations 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 enthusiasm,
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 return from the Gold fields 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 grotto. Improvement commences with the demand thus created appears in the new markets, and the subordinate arms. 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.

The discovery of gold by the Surveyor lately made the following statement to the House of Assembly:—"The only available coal-field known in the colony was the one at Western Port, and to work this very heavy outlay in trams and breakwaters would be required. Then, again, it was very difficult to transport the coal, and there was no market for it. The Government had been supplied by several private 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 1838 the very spot on which the Assembly stood had been declared to be coaliferous. The Government therefore endeavored to ascertain whether these reports had any foundation; and, two years ago, the geological surveyor having reported the blight of the coast towards the west was instructed to have the coal examined. 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 Warranree to the Burrow Hills. It would be many years, he feared, before the Warranbee 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 returns 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 with which to wash the sand. The yields from the Warranbee coal-field is given at about 10 per cent. of the output of the various business people at the quartz reef, by which the value of the neighboring country as an alluvial coal field will be thoroughly tested. Ten diggers have joined with ten others, the latter to be paid by the proprietors of the undertakings, for the purpose of purchasing with the view of discovering a valuable alluvial digging 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. Fear has been entertained for the grain crops, but we believe they are now dispelled, and that the internal supply of bread stuffs will for 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, and engravings, of the highest order; the whole having been brought together in a most almost deserted, building. First in order of merit must be named M. Coareau's views of Mount Aver, of the Plains near the Pyrenees, and of Hobart Town. These are distinguished at once by their general finishliness to nature, by a fine skill and delicacy in execution. Although every detail is wrought up with remarkable exactness, the effect is in no wise subordinated to this minuteness. Mr. Gill's two large figures, drawn from New Zealand, have been before exhibited, so that a special examination of them now may be made. The reply to some of the questions which have been thrown out on this most novel idea. Mr. Davies is singularly fictitious in his interpretations of local scenery. Without regarding details, and without the precision which characterizes many of the landscapes exhibited, he succeeds in catching the spirit of the scenes he portray. His moonlit landscapes have been much admired, and his exhibition is an opportunity of seeing for the first time 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 understand the school of Corot; yet, the school to which he belongs is characterized by a fond Soil Pen of ‘hardness,’ which, in some subjects, gives a flaccidity to the view, as who should say, ‘This is a drawing in which art has improved nature, rather than a mere copy.’ We believe that artists, especially of the present day, are too prone to believe in the power 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 have been presented to our view, and the depiction of them under the most favorable circumstances. Some of the hardness of which we refer is noticeable in Moore’s ‘Summer Evening. Borrowdale.’ No. 148, 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 a few portraits which are very fine, and one in particular, of Mr. Fawcett, by Simmers, is perhaps the best; but the artist has, as it were, idealized the subject and made it a portrait of what he thinks Mr. Fawcett 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 great ones of views in Paris and Rome call for especial notice; some of them are the largest we have ever seen, and their delivery of detail is remarkable. Several specimens of colonial engraving by Messrs. Grosse, Sadler, Calvert, and Mason, testify to our progress in reproductive art. One of them, the portrait of Mr. Flinders, 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 approval. The reports of various companies are, however, placed in the spirit of the original sketches are so entirely lost, that they are now hardly recognizable.

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 I remember. With evident language, dictated by an intelligent and liberal spirit, the writer on once a week and satirizes prominent events and prominent men. We shall be glad to see the work meet with the success it deserves.

The familiar name of Bannard is borrowed for a title to a réchaud of the Argus reports of proceedings in Parliament. It may be useful to remember an appropriate name would not have done: the same spirit which gives us Richards, News, and Brightons, instead of the more euphonious and characteristic native appellatives, demands the employment of names like Bannard and Fawcett. Apart from this, the reports are useful, and I think, fair, notwithstanding the Jades of Mr. Duffy, who was chiefe in the ministerial budget was noticed at greater length than his lecture on forms and wages. The price of the work appears to be rather high.

The Annual General Communication, held 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 satirist in the suggestions. The enterprizes for public amusement are busy in cultivating the flavor of holiday mowers. Although there is not in this country a single atmosphere analogous to those which have given its festive character to a northern Christmas, there seems to be a fixed intention to make it a season of jollity as far as means exist. The Theatre Royal promises a splendid season, and Mr. Khurram, who seems to possess a kind of paten for those things that enjoyed by Nelson Lee at home. Cremer is the scene of fêtes which appear to prove sufficiently attractive.

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

The Philharmonic Society has lately performed with success the overture, “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. Macartney is giving a half-conscious, 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 whole-hearted rivalry will keep them all active, while they work together for good.

We lately mentioned the existence of a Photographic Magazine, which circulates, in manuscript, among those who delight in Mr. Pfitzner’s barbarous style. It appears, from an announcement before us, that the conductors of the work are about to rush into ventriloquism, and make a monthly song in the Haymow. 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. Marigo 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 very practicable. They were indeed at first so far from being satisfactory, and turned upon another one. Yet, the spirit of the people was the same, and the ascent commenced in the form of a balloon, the ascent commenced with the projector of the balloon. Mr. Daniel New, the new speaker, whose call is said to contain a large part of his qualifications, has commenced the erection of a new mansion, of which the Governor

held the first stone. After the ceremony was over the insurgents adjourned to a public meeting, the success of which was 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 affidavits to increase the heads. Mr. Weeks’ endeavor to obtain a more satisfactory adjustment of salaries, by raising reductions proportionate throughout all the grades, was unsuccessful. Present rates are authorized for the present quarter. Mr. Parke 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 20th of December. The estimates for connecting the Gawler town railway with the Bar and the Murray are £7,000,000 per mile, as the total cost; but this is considered low. The Bill for establishing a monthly mail connection with Britain was thrown out on the second reading. A single day is fixed for all the harvests. The harvest is progressing very slowly, owing to the backwardness of the season.

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 complete with the capital and credit of the larger firms; and it is indeed desirable that the manufacturers shall again find 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 exports. It is announced that not less than two millions of 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 will be 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 probably be noticed that a cargo of guaranteed Californian flour failed to find purchasers by auction this week at $12 10s. per ton. Wheat, 8s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per bushel of sixty pounds; Colman’s, fls. to 7s. 6d. per bushel of forty pounds; Scotch toasted, 30s. per hundred-weight; York, Cumberland, or Whitley house, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 1d. Cheese, all kinds, 1s. per pound; best Cork butter, 1s. 6d; Rice, Patna, £19 per ton. Sugars, crushed, 4½d. to 5d. Pampas, per ton, £30 to £40; crystallized, 4½d. per hundred-weight. Tea, duty paid: Fine Congou, per chest, 84 pounds nett, £20 6s. 6d. Coffee, duty paid: Ceylon plantation, 1s.; Java, 4½d. to 1s.; Tobacco, Barrett’s Negrohead, 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. Cigars: Havana, Medio Regalas, per thousand, £10 to £15. Wines: Hunt and Offer’s, per pipe, £60 to £64; Fine Diamond, per pipe, £50; pale Sherry, per pipe, £70; Madeira, per cask, £80; Port, per cask, £120; Rum, per hogshead, £50; Gold, £150; Lead, 2s. 6d. per cwt.; Gunpowder, per lb., £1 2s. 6d.; upstairs to 1s. 6d. per lb.; Bone charcoal, per lb., £1 1s. 3d.; Eggs, per dozen, 3½d. to 4d.; Milk, per quart, 1½d.

GOLD.

The amount of gold brought down by the last week was 67,202 ounces, and, for the year to date, 2,584,502 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 £40 to £45 per acre; at Prahan, £21 per acre; at Kangaroo county of Mornington, 3s. to 3s. per acre; at Eumemmerring, same county, from 20s. to 35s. per acre.

AVERAGE PRICE OF PROVISIONS AT

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[3. R. Wilson, Printer, 70 Flinders Street East, Melbourne]
A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.

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.
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 suburb Collingwood and Borroondara, 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. Helens and Abbotsford in the present view.

GEORGE SLATER, PUBLISHER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE.
sentence for the murder of his mate, whom he killed and decapitated with an axe, afterwards burning the body. Terrible 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 for the sufferings of animals than for those of man. More than one instance has occurred lately of mutilation of game birds on the estate of Lord Derby's, in the act of breaking into premises. A female ruffe for Magalades has lately been established in Padua. 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. At the same time, young squires are plaguing the farmers with extra milk, and in the most wanton and inoffensive manner.

The plot of the Gastronomic Institute has been purchased by the Juvenile Traders' Society, and the use of it is thrown open to schoolmasters during certain hours.

A law has been passed for the punishment of witnesses at the Courts. The following legal words are to be pronounced by all witnesses in their presence to all the residents within three miles, 26. 4d. per day of actual attendance; within five miles, 26. 6d. per day; beyond this distance, 5s. 6d. per day; for traversing expenses, the same rate is paid, not exceeding 26. 6d. per day for the first five miles, with 26. 6d. per day for each additional five miles, 26. 6d. per day for attendance. The receipt to be attended with an ingeniously contrived amount of treacle and delay. Can it be wondered that people will suffer injury rather than seek redress, and will withhold from assisting in the prosecution of a just cause?

A. R. of the business transacted in the Court of Justice at Bath. The quarter just ended shows that 569 cases, including 257.260, have been brought during that time.

The motion of some who really desired to see some good done; but we fear that both titles and the public will be disappointed, for both titles areominous, and the design is to make the public pay for the work. 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 for Government for land between Brindisi and Cilento, and for the purpose of the object in the pursuit of zoological science shall 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 is strongly recommending the further extension of the railway system. Nothing more has yet been done toward the formation of a company to promote the coal sinking in the Gippsland district. More than 5000 acres have been purchased, and the whole is expected to be completed by the end of the current session. The Geelong Railway is 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. Do that as you may, the line is defective from one end to the other, and blunders are rampant throughout the company. The Melbourne Chamber of Commerce has resolved to build a new Exchange building. The last report takes cognizance of the following subjects: Internal Commercial.
lighterage, the discharging of vessels, and harbor trust, &c. It also adopted a petition for a maritime observatory, which the corporation deems to be in the interest of the progress of the 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 Albion was fixed for 1st June, 1885, and the work is progressing satisfactorily to call for the special attention of the Department of Land and Works.

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

- Geelong to Ballarat: £23,500,023
- Castlemaine to Harefield: £7,900,594
- Geelong to Sandhurst: £899,189

The line from Melbourne to Ballarat direct would cost £26,545,045, and would simplify the waste of a large agricultural district. Work on the line is progressing favorably, and the following notes concern the progress of the work in 1885. The yield of the last quarter has exceeded that of the first of 1885, by sixty thousand ounces.

At Ballarat the work is being actively prosecuted, and yielding promising results. The quartz reefs in the immediate vicinity of the town are actually being developed. Large numbers are settling down at New Town, at the head of the William Hill branch, and many are settling with considerable success. The reports from the mining works in the district are favorable, without presenting any new features.

The new field at Booligat is of considerable extent, and the quartz reefs are being developed. The new field has been opened up at Koroony, near Darcy's Station. There have been several movements in the northern district.

A rush in the neighborhood of the Nine-Mile has taken out over, and another at the Woolshed. The El Dorado Field is the scene of renewed activity, A new field has been opened up at the El Dorado Field, and the new field has been opened up at Koroony, near Darcy's Station. There have been several movements in the northern district.

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At Mt. Bolivar, always famous for nuggets, an extensive flat-topped hill, situated near the mouth of the creek, is new field has been opened up at Koroony, near Darcy's Station. There have been several movements in the northern district. At Ararat, the new field has been opened up at the El Dorado Field, and the new field has been opened up at Koroony, near Darcy's Station. There have been several movements in the northern district.

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The following are the most important changes in the state properties:

- Thirty-eight feet, eight inches to Bourke street, Melbourne, one hundred and twenty feet, and premises erected thereon, comprising two first-class stores and two brick and stone houses, at £2,000,000.
- A piece of land at Barnard's Bridge, known as Cooper's Bridge, for £2,000; two half-acre allotments at Kew, parish of Borroodara, for £200; seventy-two feet from frontage to Church street, Richmond, by one hundred and twenty feet, for £1,000; half an acre, corner allotment, Spencer and Little Lonsdale streets, for £600.

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- A piece of land at Barnard's Bridge, known as Cooper's Bridge, for £2,000; two half-acre allotments at Kew, parish of Borroodara, for £200; seventy-two feet from frontage to Church street, Richmond, by one hundred and twenty feet, for £1,000; half an acre, corner allotment, Spencer and Little Lonsdale streets, for £600.

The state has leased to the miners who have been working on the mountainous land, close to the summit of the Snowy Mountains, for a term of years.
The new Administration met Parliament on the 31st. The Customs duties on spirits show a decrease of more than $15,000, but this is compensated by an increase of the duties paid on sugar and molasses, much of which has been imported as a substitute for the East Indian sugar.

New Zealand. — The Wellington papers record further gold discoveries in the colony, and although the quantities are not very great, they are sufficient to be a remunerative employment for the numbers engaged in it. The accounts from the Aorere gold-field, in the province of Nelson, are comparatively small, but the good news received by the colonists is that new deposits are being discovered in that province, and that the richness of some of them is very great. The gold is of a fine quality, and is in large pieces. The new discoveries are on the west coast of the island, and are said to be worked by the natives. The government has already made arrangements for the establishment of a mint, and is about to send out a force of miners to work the new finds. The government hopes to be able to supply the colonies with gold bullion at a reasonable price, and to make the country self-supporting in this respect.

New South Wales. — The Sydney papers state that the government has decided to establish a mint in the colony, and to issue gold coins. The new mint will be situated at Sydney, and will be under the superintendence of a director appointed by the government. The government has also decided to issue gold and silver coins at a standard of 840 parts of fine silver to 1 part of fine gold. The government hopes to be able to supply the colonies with gold and silver bullion at a reasonable price, and to make the country self-supporting in this respect.

Trade and Labor. — The money market is still remarkably active. The importation of specie has continued, and the federal government has decided to issue gold and silver coins at a standard of 840 parts of fine silver to 1 part of fine gold. The government hopes to be able to supply the colonies with gold and silver bullion at a reasonable price, and to make the country self-supporting in this respect.

AVERAGE PRICES OF ARTICLES OF GENERAL CONSUMPTION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Average Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bread (4 lb.)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, fresh (lb.)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes (per cwt.)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabbage (each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eggs (per dozen)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milk (per quart)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Gas (per 1000 feet)</td>
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[The following rates are nominally quoted.]

Married Couples (with families) | $80 to $70 per annum.
Female Servants (good ones in demand) | $40 to $50.
Gardener | $50 to $60.
Masons and Bricklayers | $50 to $60.
Road-makers | $50 to $60.
Ditto, if new arrivals | $30 to $40 per annum.

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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 dorns only the male bird, the hen having instead a rich tuft of a blackish rousa color. These adornments are not developed until the birds arrive at 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 imitator.

THE MALE LYRE BIRD, WITH NEST AND EGG.
GOLD Diggers' Puddling Machine.

Our sketch illustrates the Gold-washing process, commonly known as Puddling. The machine, if such a simple arrangement can be so called, consists of a large circular, or rather annular trough, in which are two or more heavily loaded harrows. These are dragged round by a beam to which a horse is harnessed. The washing stuff is thrown into the trough, and then worked up with water into a state of coarse pulp. It is then removed to the long ton or other apparatus to be washed, by being thoroughly agitated with water until the clay has been washed away, and the gold left with the other heavy substances at the bottom. The deposit is then removed for final washing.
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.

MELBOURNE: PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETORS BY JOHN P. BROWN, 120, ELIZABETH STREET.
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:


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.

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
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 prose 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
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


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.)