

Perils, pastimes, and pleasures of an emigrant in Australia, Vancouver's Island and California.

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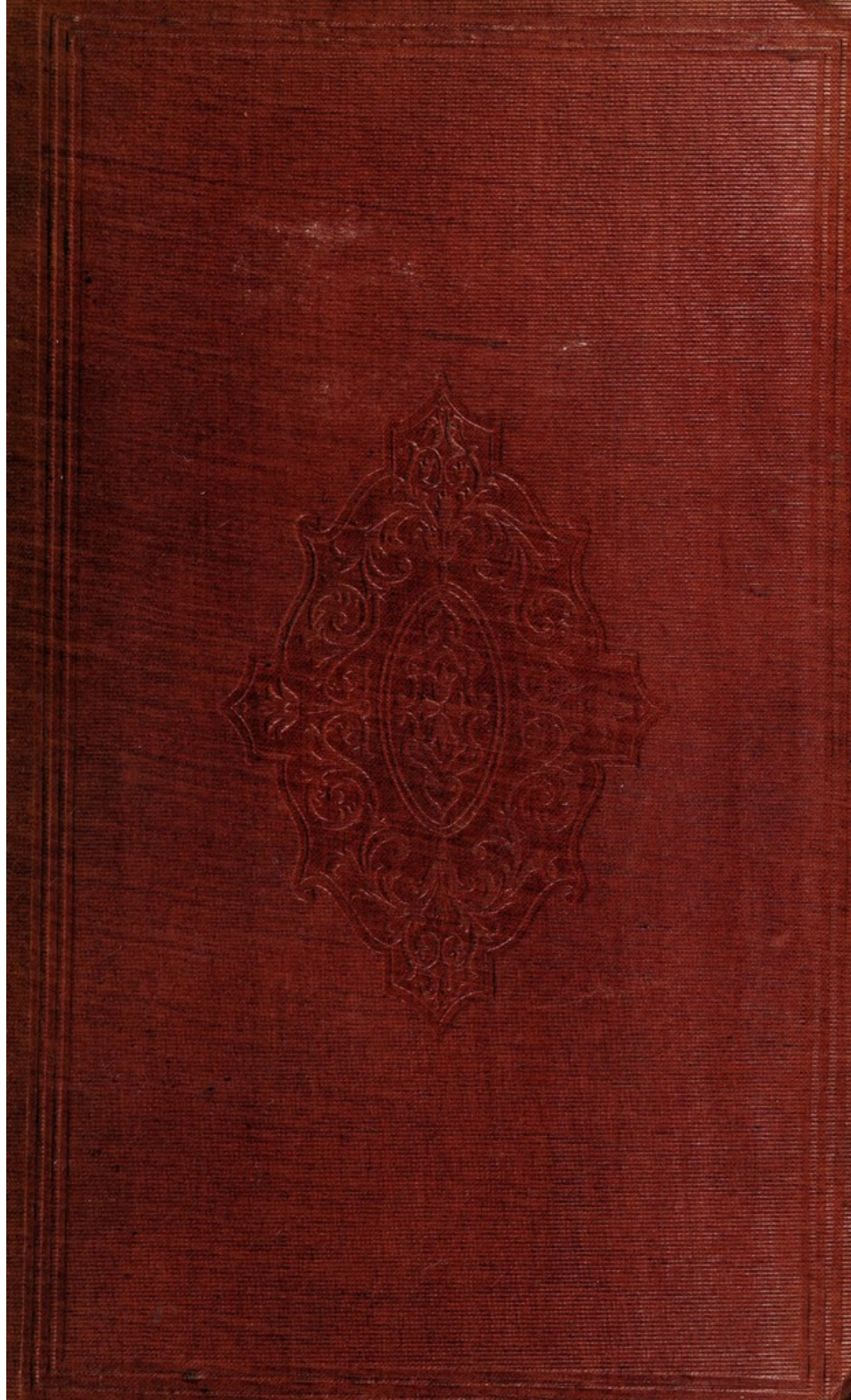
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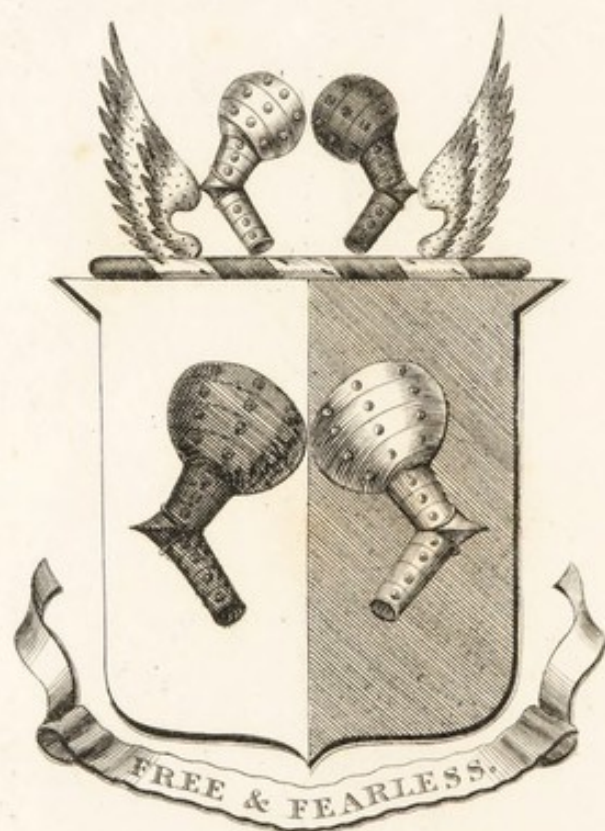
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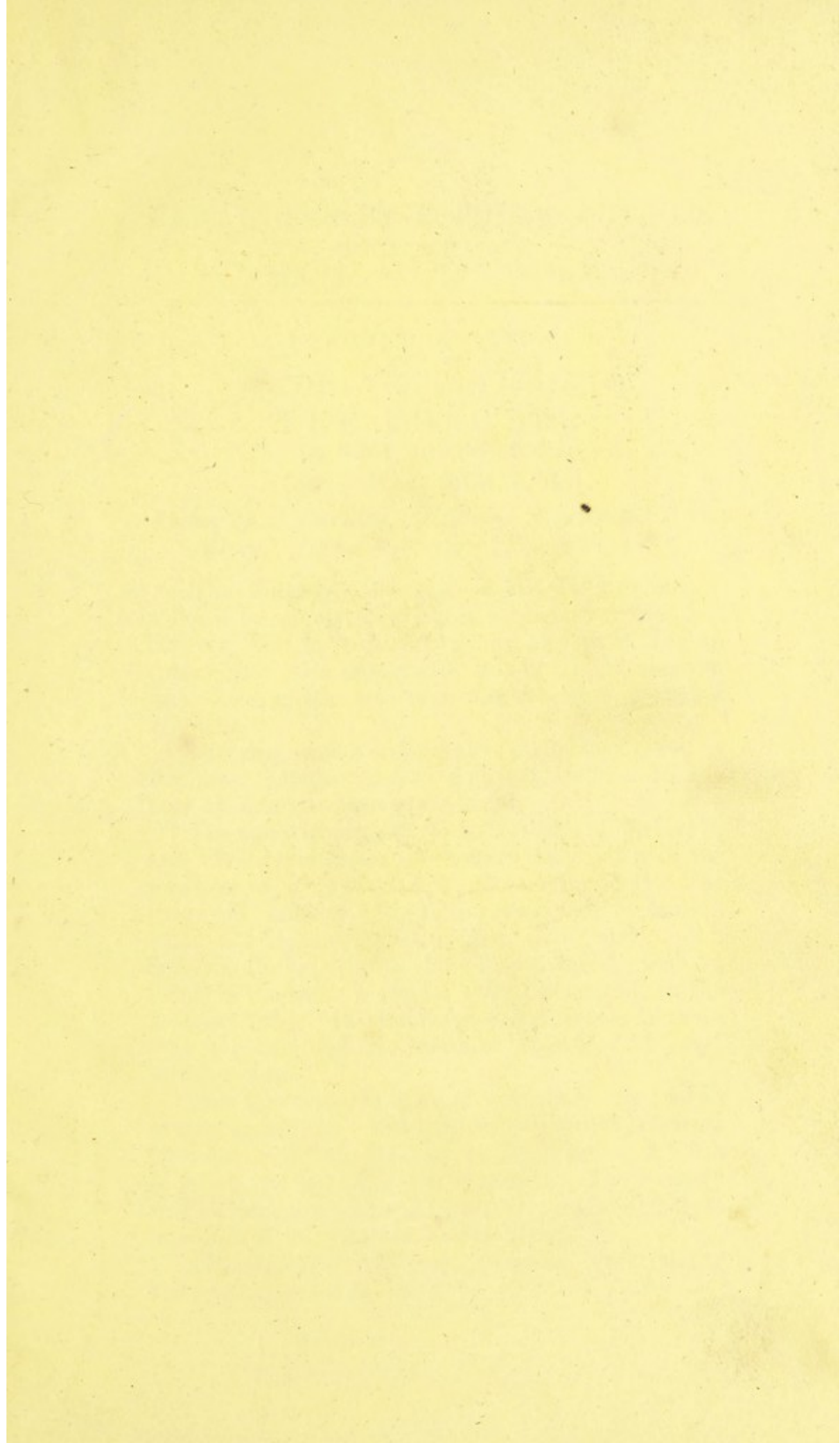


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PASTIMES, AND PLEASURES

OF AN

EMIGRANT IN AUSTRALIA, VANCOUVER'S

ISLAND AND CALIFORNIA.

LONDON:

THOMAS CAUTLEY NEWBY, PUBLISHER,
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1849.



To

JAMES WYLD, Esq., M.P.

DEAR SIR,

I shall not dedicate the "Perils, Pastimes, and Pleasures of an Emigrant in Australasia" to you through the medium of a dry dissertation upon Emigration, but shall endeavour to pen it in as free and easy a manner as though we were quietly discussing that knotty question ; or, rather, as though I were simply engaged in recording the many pithy and practical suggestions which, unpremeditatedly, emanate from your well-stored mind, whenever that subject is under consideration.

You will agree with me that there are two great facts connected with our present Social Condition,

which may well perplex the Statesman and afflict the philanthropist. The first is, that our population has long been increasing at the rate of a thousand souls a day ; and the second, that pauperism has been increasing at a still faster rate than population. This may be truly termed an organic disease in our Social Condition, and the ultimate tendency of it, unless it be carried off by some wise remedial treatment, must be obvious to every one. Now the nature of that remedial treatment of the disease can only be suggested to us by a careful consideration of the cause of it ; and the increase of population, *per se*, cannot be the cause of it, for the laws of God and nature are abhorrent to such a conclusion. Nor can the concurrent increase of pauperism be properly termed the *cause* of the disease, being, in fact, the *effect* of it ; and what we really have to consider then is, what is it that is continually aggravating this baneful effect ? And, first, what is Pauperism—I mean *able-bodied* Pauperism ? Is it not an insufficiency of productive and remunerative employment ; and, if so, how is it that this insufficiency of our resources for employing the ~~in-~~

dustrial classes becomes greater *pari passu* with the numerical growth of those classes?

To solve this important question, we must consider what the nature and extent of our resources for employing the industrial classes are; and these may be nearly wholly comprised under the general terms of agriculture and manufactures—including in the latter all handicrafts of every description. Now, of the latter, it is true that the demand for manufacturing labour would increase with the increase of population, if there was a similar increase in the demand for agricultural labour. But the demand for agricultural labour in this country has a limit which it reached long ago, and, therefore, every increase of the agricultural population, instead of creating an increased demand for manufacturing products, (as every increase of the manufacturing population creates an increased demand for agricultural produce), flies, by necessity, to manufacturing labour itself, and thus inordinately swells the supply of it, instead of augmenting the demand for it.

The cause, therefore, of the disease is the limit which nature has placed to the demand for agri-

cultural labour in this country, while she has at the same time ordained that it shall continually increase and multiply. Of the ever accruing excess, the more inert portion remain and augment the mass of pauperism in the rural districts, while the more active portion are constantly migrating into the manufacturing districts, and importing the same evil of a superabundance of labour into *them*. It is thus that the limited extent of the soil has an increasing tendency to crowd all the markets of labour to repletion—to render employment precarious because there is not sufficient employment for all—to reduce wages to the minimum of subsistence, because *all* are competing for employment under the pressure of an apprehension of that pauperism which *must* be the fate of *some*. Such a state of things of course could not have arisen until the whole extent of soil capable of *profitable* cultivation had been fully interrogated to supply additional employment for the growing increments of the population. Neither could it have arisen at all, had the Crown possessed *accessible* and *unoccupied* territories into which the surplus labour of the country

might have been conducted by easy and inexpensive channels of transit. But, unfortunately, although EMIGRATION would obviously have been the natural preventive of the pauperism, which has sprung from the impossibility of our limited area supplying *ad infinitum* sufficient employment for a population which is illimitable ; and, although the Crown possesses unoccupied territories, of almost boundless extent and fertility, for colonisation, our surplus labour has been hitherto cut off from them by oceans which have rendered them inaccessible for immigration, except on too small a scale to produce any sensible effect on the labour market, which it is so essential to relieve from redundant competition for employment at home.

The question, therefore, is—How is *Emigration* to be carried out so as to produce this desirable result ? Before I attempt to answer this question it may be as well to take a retrospective glance at the subject of Emigration—to trace its rise and progress in public opinion—to mark the different phases through which it has passed, from its first nebulous condition in the cloudy regions of error, to its pre-

sent semi-transparent state, as it approximates to the luminous point of demonstration.

The gradual encroachment of population upon territory, with its accompanying evils, of labourers wanting work, and capitalists seeking investment for their capital, is no new phenomenon in the history of the world. Sooner or later in every country of not unlimited extent this phenomenon must have been experienced ; and the only difference between the past and the present is, we conceive, that in former times the means of relief were at hand, and the evil was no sooner felt than remedied. If the parent hive became too full, there were trees enough in the land ; the surplus population had but to swarm, and make for themselves another, and the faster the mother city grew, the sooner her boughs touched the earth, and became offshoots to renew and cherish, instead of branches to weaken and exhaust her. At length, however, by the continual pressure of population upon subsistence, the earth has been partly peopled ; and some of the peopled parts have grown so full, that no vacant places are left in the neighbour-

hood, into which the superabundance may be drawn off, as it used to be. If the Emerald Isle were, at this moment, uninhabited, instead of being full to repletion, those who are now uneasy with the elbowing and competition in England, would straightway cross over the channel and commence a new career for themselves; and when the increase of numbers should re-appear in all their irritating activity—and no second Ireland should be at hand, to absorb the discontented and unemployed, the people must either make up their minds to the slow destruction, which decimating disease and deadly fever would bring about, or bridge the Atlantic and seek an existence in the unbroken solitudes of the far-west. This has been partly accomplished in our time, and the great question is, how to bring the occupied and unoccupied portions of the earth nearer to each other, so as to stream off the pent-up people from their densely isolated spots to a wider space, and an ampler region for their industrial energies, and give them elbow-room for the full development of their faculties. But we are somewhat anticipating. When the population in this country began to increase too rapidly

for the means of employing it—when it became difficult to adjust the proportion between the claimants for wages, and the fund out of which wages were paid—the public mind was strongly directed to this phenomenon, and after the usual amount of acrimonious dispute, and more than the usual amount of hypothetical dogmatism, from the novelty and magnitude of the question, and the immense interests that were at stake—no less than the peace and prosperity of the whole community—it was at length agreed that *Emigration* would prove the panacea for the great evils which stared every one in the face, and the recognition of that fact was a considerable point gained. Enquiry was immediately set on foot to devise a scheme on an adequate scale to the emergency; and two Committees of the House of Commons (1826-7) elaborately investigated the question, and reported that the British settlements supplied room enough for the surplus population, and that by the assistance of Government a sufficient number could be enabled to settle on the Colonial Wastes, so as to relieve the immediate pressure, and restore, in some measure, the equi-

librium between demand and supply. This was a beginning which augured well for the labouring community ; but the expense was soon found to be too great to follow the scheme up with spirit, so as to produce the desired effect upon the labour-market ; it therefore languished for want of adequate funds during the three or four succeeding years. In addition to this, another depressing cause manifested itself in the rumours of the ills and accidents to which the first batch of poor settlers were exposed on the Colonial Wastes : and the consequent discouragement of the destitute classes from taking advantage of the means of emigrating under such gloomy prospects. But, if the scheme had been carried out *in extenso*—if “ ample scope and verge enough ” had been given to emigration as then propounded—it would not have reached the seat of the disease ; the remedy, with all its expenses and difficulties, was only a remedy for the day. It aimed only to relieve an extra pressure, not to provide what was really wanted, a natural and continual source of relief for a pressure which must be continually recurring. It was simply a temporary

measure—a mere expedient—to stave off the evil to a future time, when it must again appear in a more aggravating form, and with a more hideous aspect ; and again to experience the same results, for the hand-to-mouth policy of our political rulers, which too frequently prevails, whenever questions of great general bearings came under their treatment, could tend to no other point.

At this crisis the “Wakefield Theory” burst upon the world as a new discovery in economical science ; but, unlike most new theories, was treated with marvellous respect, and almost immediately put into practice—and that, too, under the most auspicious circumstances. Its projector had everything in his favour—new territories, ample capital, indulgent followers, a free and open course for his experiment—to say nothing of the vigorous and persevering support which he received from a small band of followers ; yet, with all these special appliances it turned out a complete failure.

The “theory” may be comprised in the following sentence—“That our colonization ought to carry out society entire, and to plant it in the wilderness

in such a way that the new community should exhibit all the attributes of civilization belonging to the old, without the evils which arise from the excess of population."

"If mankind were a chess-board," exclaimed the late Sidney Smith, "then might the *Grote-ballot* scheme work well in our political system;" we say also, that if man were a machine, and you could dispose of him according to his fitness and capacity in the social edifice, then might Mr. Wakefield's theory of colonization work well. But experience teaches us that man, both individually and collectively, is by nature selfish, wayward, and ambitious—that necessity, or what he deems his own interest, keeps him in a certain subordination to his fellow-men; or, in other terms, the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" are not such by choice but by compulsion, and that they would instantly cease to perform those necessary occupations, had they any chance of bettering their condition in the social gradation. It is competition, arising from the pressure of population, that keeps them in their humble sphere, and precludes them from rising higher; and not their own

sense and conviction that they are specially fitted for such useful occupations.

But Mr. Wakefield's theory assumes the converse of all this. He says—"The life of a servant, in a country where servants are plentiful and well paid, is more eligible than the life of a master, where servants are not to be had ; and, therefore, by *voluntarily* doing here (Australia) what they would have been *forced* to do in a country where land was scarce, they would have promoted not only the general interests of all, but the individual comforts of each."

No doubt of it ; but, unfortunately for this hypothesis, men only act "voluntarily" in pursuit of their own interest, or what they conceive their own interest ; they are "forced" to act as they do in their different spheres, not from a sense of duty or a peculiar fitness for the performance of it, but from necessity which has placed them there, and from competition which will keep them there. Every man wishes to better his condition, and would gladly abandon his present pursuit for another, if he saw any advantage in so doing ; and, although society at large might be injured by such a change,

he would care little for that, and would follow the bent of his own inclinations. So with settlers in a new colony, upon the plan of Mr. Wakefield ; they would not remain together, and combine their individual interests, so as to make the territory yield the greatest amount of produce, and the share of each become larger ; but they would rush abroad in all directions to obtain land, of which for want of combination, they could make no use when they had got it. To remedy this defect in his theory, Mr. Wakefield proposed to compel his community to remain, each in his respective sphere, not directly by force but indirectly, by placing land beyond their reach. He reasons thus—there is a certain ratio between the supply of labour in the market, and the surface of land under cultivation, by which the greatest quantity of produce will be raised. If you miss this ratio, you fall into the evils of an underpeopled country on the one hand, in which land is merely scratched ; or, on the other, of an overpeopled country, in which competition reduces wages to a minimum, and the land will not produce sufficient to feed the people. To keep up

always the proper ratio, you must keep the ratio constant between hireable labour and the price of unsold land ; and this must be done, by first fixing the *just* price, and then applying the whole proceeds to the introduction of immigrants. But how this *just* price—this “due proportion between land and population” this “golden mean” between *Dispersion* and *Density*, is to be determined, we are left entirely in the dark. The ground-work of Mr. Wakefield’s theory is pure assumption, and the superstructure, consequently, fallacious ; it is based on the same hypothesis as that of M. Louis Blanc, and the French Communists, *that men will act in their social capacity from a sense of duty, and not from interest, and that* principle has been worked out in France to a most lamentable conclusion. Instead of leaving society to develop itself quietly, according to the natural order of things, acquiring gradation, and rank, *suo motu*, he would arbitrarily impose these conditions upon it, not working as it were *ab intra* and bringing up the social body to the point where distinctions naturally manifest themselves, and the artificial machinery is a necessary result, but working

as it were, *ab extra*, by insisting upon his mechanism being established before the body itself has grown into sufficient strength and proportions to bear it.

We have dwelt the more upon this pet scheme of colonization, from the fact of its having been lauded by almost all parties on its first enunciation ; and, also, from the singular failure which it has experienced in our colonies, the consequences of which are yet felt to a very great and aggravating extent. Several of our leading statesmen were strangely smitten with its beauty ; did all they could to sanction its practical development ; extolled it to the skies *in limini*, as a masterpiece of political sciences : have, many of them, lived to see its utter break-down, and, yet, have not the moral courage to confess their judgment at fault, as they still cling to some of its provisions in their administrative instruction to our colonial dependencies—the high price of land, for instance, and its attaching conditions, which is a bane to a healthy system of Colonization.

Having disposed of Mr. Wakefield's theory of Colonization, which still adheres to our Colonial

administration,* and harasses the great mass of the settlers by its monopolizing tendencies, I shall briefly notice the aid which Government has accorded to Emigration, during the last few years. I shall purposely pass over the influx of Emigrants to South Australia and New Zealand, under the stimulating impulse of the "Wakefield Theory," and the New Zealand Company, as it may be termed an artificial state of things ; for men rushed blindly to the promised *El Dorado* at the antipodes with their "little all," in the hope of augmenting it, but many of them were deceived, and clearly illustrate the folly, if not the crime, of too eagerly embracing the plans of plausible schemers and political Utopists. You will agree with me, sir, that the sudden influx of Capitalists and labourers in 1834—7—40 to Australia, ought not to be classed in the category of steady, healthful, and progressive Colonization, but, on the

† I perceive by the advertisements that the "Church Emigration Society" propose to establish a colony in New Zealand upon the "Wakefield" principle—"with order, rank and gradation," the harness, before the horse is reared to wear it—profound Economists.

contrary, that it should be considered as a "heavy blow and great discouragement" to it, as it was mainly instrumental in presenting a sound and healthy plan of Emigration.

Government has granted for the purposes of Emigration—*its Superintendence*!! It is true that a sum of ten thousand pounds was applied last year to convey certain convicts to New South Wales, and Van Dieman's Land; but this, I apprehend, will not be deemed an encouragement to the poor labourer to emigrate. The expense of conveying the 17,000 who emigrated within the last twelve months was paid out of the Colonial funds, and the Emigrants' pockets—£200,000, was the share of the former, £50,000 of the latter. The question, therefore, naturally recurs—*How is Emigration to be carried out so as to produce the desired result?* Our Colonies stand in as great need of the redundant labour of the parent Country, as the Parent Country does of being relieved from it; but to the legislature of neither can we look for adequate funds to support anything like a comprehensive scheme of Emigration. If such a scheme, therefore, is ever to be effectuated, it must

be from *the resources of the working classes themselves*. But how ? There are few amongst them, who would be able to meet, *individually*, the expense of passage and outfit, and few, therefore, would ever be able to emigrate except by a system of *Mutual Aid and Co-operation*.

The plan, therefore, to which I respectfully call your attention is as follows :—

1st. One hundred thousand persons are invited to form the FIRST class of this society, and to provide for their emigration in succession, as follows :—

2nd. Each Member to subscribe 1s. per week, or 4s. per month.

3rd. As the aggregate monthly subscriptions would amount to £20,000., this sum, supposing the cost of Emigration (including outfit, &c.,) to be £12 10s. per head, would provide for the Emigration monthly of 1,600 members.

4th. The whole body, therefore, (except those previously provided for) would have to draw lots for 1,600 preference passage tickets, &c., monthly ; and, as there would be 13 such monthly drawings in the year, the whole number provided with passage, &c., each year would be 20,800.

5th. Each member, previous to his departure from England, will give such security for the regular payment of his subscription in the Colony to which he may have emigrated, as the Society may require.*

6th. As these payments will extend over a period of five years, the aggregate will amount to £13, of which £12 10s. will be advanced to, or from him, in the following manner. His passage money will be deducted from it in the first instance, half the residue will be expended in clothing, and an order will be given to him to receive the other half on his landing in the Colony. The over-plus of 10s. will be appropriated towards a fund to defray the expenses of management.

7th. In the Society's ships there should be no distinction of classes—such as *cabin*, *intermediate*, and *steerage* passengers—the object should be not only to achieve greater economy, but the greatest comfort

* The Colonial Authorities must render their assistance in this matter. The Emigrant must assign his wages to the Company's Agent, or such portion of them until he has redeemed the expense of his voyage, &c. This can easily be done by the Colonial Legislature enacting that no one shall hold land who has not redeemed his debt.

of the greatest number, or rather of all. The ships, of course, should be specially fitted up for the object.

8th. When the *First Class* shall have been fully subscribed to, a *Second Class* must be opened for subscriptions, and then a third, and so forth.

It must not, however, be supposed that I have the emigration of *Agricultural* labourers alone in view; for, although the situations, which are chiefly open to immigrants in our colonies, are of a rural character, operatives from towns will find no difficulty in either obtaining them, or discharging the duties of them. On the contrary, the Stockholders and Sheep Farmers of Australia prefer the latter as servants, not only on account of their more disciplined sagacity and ingenuity, but on account of their freedom from all prejudice in favour of the old-world way of doing things which is frequently impracticable, and always too expensive, for the young and rude agriculture of a colony, where so many conveniences must not be looked for as at home.

To conclude.

Let any man of ordinary observation pay a visit

to our Colonies—say the *Cape* or *Australia*—and he will there find a splendid climate, a fertile country, yielding everything that a man can desire—the finest wool wherewith to clothe him, the finest corn wherewith to feed him, besides other things, beyond necessities, in abundance. *Man alone is scarce.* Ask the Colonist what he wants; and the only answer will be *Man*. Men are not; therefore, labour is not. The colony languishes for want of labour. Let the enquirer then turn his eyes upon this large capital, fretting and sweltering with the density of its population—what will be the first observation that he will make? He will be struck with the superabundance of *Man*, and the want of everything but *Man*. He will see the land taxed to the utmost to ooze out a living for the masses upon its surface. He will see these things, and involuntarily exclaim—“England wants what the colonies can supply; and the colonies want what England can supply.” Nothing seems more easy, simple, and practicable, yet it is not effected. The question has been deemed too complicated—too weighty for ordinary solution—too perplexed by Utopian projectors—in short, impracticable.

As a humble attempt to render the question plain, practical, and intelligible, I respectfully present through you, my dear sir, the preceding plan to the public.

I have the honour to remain,

With every respectful consideration,

Your's,

J. W.

Bayswater.

INTRODUCTION.

Nugæ in seria ducunt! When I sat down to rummage over my friend's Australasian Correspondence, in order to furnish you with a few hints as to the sort of world you might expect to find in the other hemisphere, I little thought that I should be led into such a serious scrape, as becoming the Editor of a work upon the subject. How little, indeed, I meditated such a piece of presumption is evi-

dent from the fact that, instead of supplying you with a digest of the information scattered through his letters, I consulted my own indolent humour by placing them bundled up together in your hands in order that you might sift them for yourself; and even now I can scarcely conceive myself accountable for their publication, seeing that I have been propelled into it by the urgency of your "numerous friends," amongst whom you have handed them about, and who threaten to impeach me of injustice to my friend if I refuse to allow him to appear in print.

I am bound to say this much, on my own behalf, lest it should be supposed after all that I have been lured into the publication of my friend's MSS. by the tempting opportunity it would afford me of lugging some of my own lucubrations also before the public. And, in fact, it is only as a further act of justice to myself that I also protest that I should not have thought of publishing the following

friendly suggestions to you on the subject of *Emigration*, had you not overcome me by the following remonstrance that the work would hardly be complete without them.

In the first place, then, I would have you to understand that whoever goes to this new world, if he means to succeed in it, must resolve, in a great measure, to become a new man. He must make up his mind to dispense with most of the indulgences, and to discard from his memory most of the conventionalities to which he has been accustomed, and to reconcile himself to the simpler pleasures, and the ruder manners, of a mere primitive life. The man who can thus break through old habits, and divest himself of old social prejudices, is endowed with a force of character which would enable him to make his way anywhere; and in Australia will certainly carve out for himself a sure, though somewhat rough, road to fortune. You, for instance, considered as an Emigrant, may be classed as a capitalist; but,

you would make a very great mistake if you looked for all the exemptions in Australia which the capitalist is entitled to here. The province of capital here is simply to keep labour in motion without any further effort than that of vigilant superintendence; but there the capitalist must make up his mind to set the example of labouring himself, and, indeed, to consider himself as little better than the foreman of the persons in his employment. He must not expect to say "do this," and see it done; but must direct how it is to be done, and also lend a hand in doing it. He must remember that in a new country labour, instead of being the slave of capital, is itself the most valuable species of capital, which he never ought to allow to remain idle and unproductive for a day. In this country, where labour of every description is plentiful and cheap, it would be bad economy in a master to endeavour to save the wages of a labourer by labouring himself, to the neglect of that general super-

intendence, by which he is able to save incalculably more; because here the division of labour is carried so far, that without his superintending head to direct and controul every branch of it, there would be endless irregularity and waste. But, in a new country, where there is little or no division of labour, the best sort of superintendence is that which is ever present in participating in the work to be done; and it is obvious, moreover, that it is of the utmost consequence to the employer to fix the scale of labour by the example of what he is capable of performing himself.

Indeed, to the person who emigrates with a moderate capital, I would strenuously advise that he should make a point of weaning himself from most of his previous habits—even those which may come within the category of innocent indulgences—except those which are purely domestic; and these latter, on the contrary, I would have him cherish with a hundred-fold more fervour than ever. People will

tell you, my dear ——, not to take out *this*, and not to take out *that*; but, whatever you resolve *not* to take out, by all means take out a wife. Few men know what a home is without a wife, even here; and what sort of a home, therefore, can he expect to find in the wildernesses of Australia without one? And even as a matter of £. s. d. it is of the utmost importance to a settler that he should be married. Here, a married life is associated with frightful ideas of large expenses and increasing incumbrances; but in the Bush the cost of housekeeping is not much affected by the number of mouths to be supplied; and, even if it was, children, almost as soon as they are breeched, become such valuable helps to their parents, that in Australia it may truly be said, happy is the man who hath his quiver full of them. And, on the contrary, what economy, to say nothing of comfort, can be expected from the housekeeping of a clumsy Satyr, in the shape of a hut-keeper? For my part, I

can easily fancy the pleasing excitement which the Bushman's occupations afford him during the hours he is engaged out of doors; but the happiness of his life must be marred by his returning home in the evening to a cheerless hearth, where there is no object upon which his affections can repose and expand themselves.

In the following pages there will be found such excellent arguments, by real Bushmen, for even your "practical men" imposing upon themselves the discipline I have inculcated, of renouncing as many of their old notions and prejudices as possible, that I need not take those who are already adepts in the agriculture of the Old World under my instructions. There is another class, however, for whom I have a few words of stern but encouraging advice; and it is the more incumbent upon me to dwell upon their case, because it has been customary to treat them with disdain, as wholly unfitted

to be of any service to themselves, or to others in the character of Emigrants.

If a clerk, a shopman, or a weaver, was to go into the country and ask a farmer for employment, he would no doubt be laughed at by all the clowns who might overhear such an out-of-the-way application. But if you were suddenly to transplant one of those clowns, and one of the aforesaid non-descripts, as they may be termed in an agricultural sense, into the Bush, their respective chances of proving valuable labourers would be all in favour of the latter. In fact, the clerk, the shopman, or the weaver, would, if he possessed an ordinary share of ingenuity and pluck, become a tolerably good herdsman, or shepherd, in the Bush, before *Hodge* had got rid of half of the old-world notions, which he must unlearn before he could make himself worth the salt to his porridge. All that the clerk, for instance, has to make up his mind to is precisely that which I have said the capitalist himself must do—namely, to dis-

miss all the ideas which he has hitherto associated with his relative position in life, and reconcile himself to the new conditions which are attached to the situation of servant, as well as master, in the new world where he is desirous of obtaining that sufficiency, and perhaps competence, which he despairs of finding here. He will not be called upon to unlearn his old practice of book-keeping, and go to school again to learn another against which he would be prejudiced. He will only be called upon to forget waste-books, cash-books, and ledgers, altogether, and apply his wits to a pastoral occupation, which is so much more simple, that a child can learn all the mysteries of it there, much before he would be master of the twenty first pages of a Tutor's Assistant, here. And so far from his Town education being a disadvantage to him, he will be found to have derived from it a quickness of perception, and a dexterity in emergencies, which is seldom or ever possessed by the uneducated, and there

fore unreflecting, farm-labourers of England. To say that a class of men who have been accustomed to the free and easy carriage of their limbs, and to the continual exercise of their faculties, cannot learn how to use an axe, a spade, or a bullock-driver's whip, is absurd. All that they would want is the *will*; and, if they have the will, they are a hundred to one before the joint-stiffened and muddle-headed clown from the threshing-floor or the plough's tail.

That the prosperity of Australia will be progressive there can be very little doubt. Even the crisis through which its various settlements have passed, are sure indications of their ultimately arriving at a point from which there will be no sensible retrogression. In short, those commercial crises have been only the natural struggles of a rising commercial spirit, which will overcome all obstacles. Her wool trade has already taken its place amongst the staple trades of nations; the revival of the

Southern Fisheries will create another vast branch of traffic with Europe ; and, above all, the rapid development of her mineral resources * will shortly effect a radical change in another branch which is of the highest importance to all countries, and will therefore bring her into intercourse, when our Navigation Laws are repealed, with the world at large.

Commercial pursuits, however, will not be appropriate immediately for the moderate capi-

* The rich mineral resources of Australia is one of the most striking phenomenon of modern discoveries. Within the short space of three years the proprietors of the mines have exported copper to England which has realized twenty per cent., on an average, more than the best European coppers, not even excluding those of Chili and Peru ; the ore of the Burra Burra mine yielding as much as 40 per cent. of pure copper, while the average yield of Chilian copper is 17 to 18 per cent., and those of South Wales about 8 per cent. The average price of South Wales or English ores at Swansea, for the last three years, has been 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton ; while those of foreign origin have realized 12*l.*, and during the same period

talist. The development of her marine and mineral resources can only be prudently attempted, or effectually worked out, by the enterprize, management, and capital, of associated bodies. An individual who only equipped one ship for the Whaling Grounds, or sunk his capital in a solitary mine, might be ruined by the failure of that isolated adventure ; but a public company, which sent out fleets to the Fisheries, or worked simultaneously a dozen different mines, would be compensated for the

the Australian ore has commanded, in some instances, as much as 33*l.* per ton—the lowest price never falling below 13*l.*, and the bulk realizing from 18 to 19*l.* per ton. Other mines in Australia have yielded corresponding riches in copper ores ; and when the lead and iron ores shall have been but partially realized, the mining interest of the South Australian Settlement must become one of the finest and richest of the New World. For an interesting detail of the mineral resources of South Australia, and other valuable information relative to that settlement, see Mr. Wilkinson's work—"South Australia, its advantages and Resources."

loss arising from some by the gain accruing from the rest, and thus, by a sort of self-insurance, secure to themselves an average rate of profit. And, as to joining these public companies, emigration is not necessary for that, because it can be done just as easily at home. With these introductory remarks, I shall leave the letters of our friend to speak for themselves; and, if read with attention, and in a proper spirit, they cannot fail to impart a great deal of useful information, not only to the Emigrant, but to the Merchant, the Manufacturer, and even to the Statesman.

Yours, etc.,

J. W.

CHAPTER I.

COW PASTURES, THIRTY-FIVE MILES FROM SYDNEY.

SINCE my arrival on this side of the globe, my dear W——, I have witnessed some strange sights and adventures, which I shall describe to you, as well as I can, knowing your love for that sort of thing, and the lively interest which you will take in perusing the description, from the simple fact of your old chum being the sight-seer and adventurer.

You may believe me when I state that I never witnessed any sight or scene out of the ordinary way, that I did not instantly think of you, and of the pleasure you must have experienced, had you been present, so much does sympathy increase the power of enjoyment; and when the freshness of the scene had worn away, and you were still in my mind, I naturally reverted to the incidents which marked our long acquaintance—to our almost daily meetings at that anatomical temple, St. George's, where the High Priest of nerves and muscles, old *cut-em-up*, who never said a kind thing and never, willingly, did a good one, was continually dinning into our ears, the necessity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of anatomy and of the human frame, and while he was practically demonstrating before our eyes the truth of his instructions, or, in other words, was cutting away at his subject, how frequently have we wished to 'cut away' to our favourite pastimes and pleasures. Ah! my dear fellow,

I think I know better now, experience has taught me a wrinkle or so! There is nothing like *roughing* it in this world, if you wish to clear the brain of many of its foolish notions; especially in its youthful state, when there is something peculiarly *green* about it, and it is too apt to riot in the freshness, and freedom of its nature. It is all very well to talk as you and I did, 'when the bloom was on the peach,' of the monotonous routine of our existence; of our ardent desire to see more of the world, as we then phrased it, of our determination to emancipate ourselves, or, in familiar terms, to 'cut it,' the very first opportunity that might present itself. Well—that opportunity presented itself to me, which I eagerly embraced, and, as you know, I would scarcely give myself time even to make the necessary preparations for a long journey, so hot and hasty was I to be off, going, I knew not whither, and to see, I scarce knew what, or whom. Believe me, my dear W——, that

time works wondrous changes in our feelings and sentiments; and were I to tell you that I have experienced more pleasure in wandering alone amidst the wild "Bush," and in the deep solitudes of New South Wales, or commingling with the motly denizens of her stations and her towns, than I have done while sauntering down that great artery of civilization—Regent Street—arm-in-arm with yourself, I should grossly deceive myself if I did not deceive you, and I will not attempt to do either. It is very easy for your sickly sentimentalist, who never lacked the creature, comforts of this life, to declaim against the thronged city—to conjure up imaginary wrongs—and the hypocritical feelings of its denizens; to chatter about hollow hearts, pride, ambition finery, and festivity; and then, by way of contrast, to paint the Arcadian simplicity of your Australian Emigrant, so honest, so truthful, and so guileless, as we have heard our friends, R—and B—do, and then quote the beautiful antithesis of Byron, touching his "pleasure

in the pathless woods," and his "rapture on the lonely shore;" but let them experience a few of the hardships which every Emigrant is compelled to undergo, when he arrives in this quarter of the globe, and the luxury of "a pathless wood," and the rapture in viewing "a lonely shore," will become merely conventional terms, the true meaning of which must greatly depend upon the physical condition of the individual, which must be of a good, healthy, nature before the mind can experience such enjoyments. Try it, my friend, as I have done, half-a-score times, and you will soon discover the delusion. A head-ache or too, a severe cold with fever and excitement, and a scarcity of the common comforts of life, these ills will soon dispel your poetic notions of "society where none intrudes," and all the Byronic sentiments of your brain. In this land of Convicts and Kangaroos you cannot live upon fine scenery, but you must work hard, endure much, ac-

cumulate slowly, if at all, and then, perchance, you may end your days with a comfortable competency—which you cannot fail to do in England, with your peculiar education, if you only exercise ordinary industry and prudence. Having eased my mind of these few reflections upon the difference between imagination and reality, as regards the feelings of certain would-be emigrants, I shall now proceed to jot down my scenes and adventures in this quarter of the world, as freshly and freely as they occurred to me; and shall consider myself especially happy, if they have the effect of conveying a truthful impression to your mind, of the actual state of things, so contrary in many respects to that, which is generally entertained of them in the mother country.

The Cow Pastures are about thirty-five miles from Sydney, where the Australian Nomade really begins his life. The pasture-life, especially sheep-tending, is dull, lazy, and excessively monotonous. Day after day passess

away without the slightest call for exertion, except at *branding* time, which comes but once a year, when the bustle and boozing create a temporary change; but it is soon over, and then returns the usual quietude and repose. Everything connected with this occupation disposes to dreaminess and dozing—the heat, the drowsiness of the atmosphere, and the stillness of the cattle—and you sink, as it were insensibly, into that condition. I soon became like others, very idle—smoked a great deal—stuffed birds by way of killing time, and affording me a stimulus to carry my gun—took long *steaming* walks, as they term them—from the sheer fatigue of indolence, which frequently created the only excitement which is incidental to a Bush life. I passed three months in this lazy manner, and became heartily weary of it. Our living, I must observe, was wretchedly bad, as everything was so very scarce and dear. Sometimes we had great difficulty in procuring even bread; and

as to meat and milk, although in the Cow Pastures, the first was lean and tough, and the latter not to be obtained at almost any price. But this scarcity arose, I ought to relate, from a terrible *drought* which lasted three successive years, and rendered everything in the shape of food almost inaccessible. The cattle died off by thousands, and those remaining behind were weak, attenuated by hunger, and comparatively unproductive. A timely importation of wheat and rice, chiefly from the Indian Archipelago, proved a great relief to all classes and conditions of society, and even to animal life, so universal was the depression at that time.

My professional pursuits frequently called me to the *Pastures*, although my headquarters, or *bleeding* establishment, was at a small house near Yass, on the road to Goulbourn, where my partner C——, who attended to the kill-or-cure department at home, while I *toured* it in the country, almost always

resided. During the awful scarcity to which I have alluded, we could neither obtain money nor meat of our clients in the town, therefore determined to take a turn together in the country—to pay our patients a *friendly* visit—where we hoped to find ‘relief’ in one shape or another. C——— put the horse in the gig, and off we started on our tour, and we generally managed to enquire the price of ducks, fowls, hams, &c., or whatever we saw about in the eating line; especially if there was an old bill standing, or a new one accumulating. We never objected to take it out in *kind* during the *drought*, as there was scarcely any *kind* of eatables to be obtained for either love or money. One day we had a goose, two dried tongues, a loaf of bread, a couple of live ducks, a small bag of flour, a piece of mutton, and a lump of butter; all of which were *sets-off* against our precious medicine and advice. It would have done your heart good to have seen C——— hand out the

articles, one after another, and to have heard his quaint observations upon the relative value of the 'mutton' and 'goose,' as compared with our costly 'draughts' and 'lotions.' It would also have been capital fun to have seen you in a similar predicament, with your precise notions, and systematic habits—breakfast exactly at nine; dinner—at five, to a minute; or Lord have mercy on the servants! Stick at home, my boy, and don't venture out of the regular routine of life; it would play the deuce with your clock-work habits, and prim, and precise locomotion. You no more could stand 'roughing' in this quarter of the globe, unless your old feelings were completely bruised and battered out of you, than a fine-fed Italian greyhound could take a tramping tour with the gipsies—a jump from the luxuriant drawing-room to a dirty ditch. You have often admired the Horse-Guards and their fine black horses. Just imagine one of the latter—fat, sleek, and saucy—suddenly transferred to a

cabman; and, in lieu of regular habits, capital feeding, and *out-and-out* grooming, shoved here and there, on every road, and at all hours, subject to the caprice of his drunken driver—you know the rest, broken knees, broken wind, broken heart—he dies, and the dogs close the account of the poor animal—then you have a not very inapt resemblance to many men who come out here, who are totally unfitted for it. Don't feel offended at my blunt and homely way of writing to you; it is, at all events, sincere. Picture to your mind what I have been compelled to endure, and many others besides me, who had no notion of the real state of things here—no bread, no butter—worse than the charity children in England; no meat, no money—worse than the common prigs of London, for they can at 'a pinch' procure both—to say nothing of a multitude of other inconveniences which came 'thick and fast' upon me, and which, with every respectful feeling be it spoken, I question much if you

could endure, without wincing most grievously. But, *n'importe*.

We considered ourselves exceedingly fortunate by the tour which we made amongst our friends, as it secured us against the terrible scarcity which everywhere prevailed. We were determined to enjoy ourselves, therefore cooked the goose, and tapped some bottled stout, which cost us fifteen shillings at Sydney, not reckoning the carriage to Yass, which is always very high throughout the Colony; and on that day we made a good dinner—a great treat—and looked forward to a few more while our prog and porter lasted. I ought to mention that I purchased some excellent claret for fifteen pence per bottle, which turned out a most agreeable beverage, especially in the hot season.

My three month's partnership, if I may so term it, had expired—for I was only on trial—the influenza, which was raging most murderously, had disappeared, and from the time I

arrived at Yass till I left, every one seemed less and less to require medical aid, and from booking two and three pounds per day, it gradually fell down to that sum in the course of as many weeks, or a month. After winding up our accounts, I found myself just *five pounds* better than when I started; not so bad after all, thought I, considering the times and circumstances. ‘C——, my boy, it will not do—I must try another station,’ said I. The remote—the very remote bush, with all its privations—salt beef, *damper*, nothing but water, tea with the coarsest brown sugar, no milk, a mere shed to dwell in, bush-ranger-rascals on the one hand, and black savages on the other, ready to instantly pounce upon your valuables, and carriage, at such a price that even a few books would be a source of trouble and expense—all these things I did not fancy, for if money were to be made, it would be at the sacrifice of all social feelings and pleasure, and the rust which solitude invariably generates, would most

likely corrode and canker the little valuable stuff I may have in my mind, to say nothing of the repulsive manners which one too readily acquires by association.

“I will see what this place Wollongong is,” I observed to C——. “It is becoming a fashionable watering place to Sydney.”

We had several horses, which cost nothing for keep if you turn them out in the Bush; but, if you require them for use, they become expensive. We were obliged to have one ready at all hours, and with maize at ten and twelve shillings per bushel, and hay at eighteen pounds a ton, it was no joke. An inn-keeper would charge ten shillings for the keep of a horse, for one night only—so dear was everything at that time.

“No riding for me,” said I: “I will stump it, it is not more than forty miles.”

C—— put to the horse, and over we drove to the village pastor, from whom we solicited a letter of introduction to the clergyman of

Wollongong; and permit me to remark that the former is a most excellent and worthy man, universally beloved, and an honour to old England. When I first joined C——, he was suffering severely from strumous abscesses, so that he could not attend to his business in a proper manner; and it was so arranged that I should take the night journies, and the long distances, which enabled him to recruit his strength, and recover his ordinary state of health. But, as business fell off, we generally went together for mere company's sake, and I always drove, as he was rather timid, and many a shake have I given him by shaving too close to a fallen log in the Bush, driving over a branch, pitching one wheel into a deep excavation, or rattling, with increased speed, through the trees, where there was not the slightest trace of a road. We had many merry days together; for he was a good-tempered and lively dog, although an invalid. We occupied part of a house—a whole one was too expen-

sive there—situate on the road to Yass, Goulbourn, and Port Philip, and the owner was a freed-man. His wife had also been a convict, and they formerly kept a public-house; but they lost their license through bad conduct of some kind or other. They were almost always drunk; and our servant, who had been transported for forgery, and was a ticket-of-leave man, was just as bad. The scenes of riot and drunkenness were too much for us, so that we moved a little further off to the house of a white native, whose father, it was said, was an Irishman of the genuine '98 breed, who "left his country, for his country's good." This man, also, was drunk the first thing in the morning, and would continue in that state for four or five weeks together.

I have seen vice in almost every form, and under almost every condition in the old world, but never did it appear to me in so repulsive and disgusting a shape as it exists among the lower orders at Sydney, and, indeed, in almost

every place that I have visited in New South Wales. The *Sydneyites* seem to have concentrated all the worst feelings of human nature—beastly drunkenness, sensuality of the grossest and coarsest kind, expressions of the most horrid and sickening nature; in short, everything that debases the human species is there indulged in to the utmost extent, and, being so common, produces among the better sort of residents no feeling of surprise, and excites no comment. The higher class of settlers, as if affected by inhaling so tainted an atmosphere, are selfish, grasping, suspicious, cunning, full of trickery, deceit, and falsehood, in almost all their dealings; and the day is wholly engrossed in endeavours to overreach your neighbour, while the spare time is filled up by indulging in scandal, and drinking to excess, which leads to every other debauchery. When once the foot is placed on this hated spot, all the little courtesies of life disappear, and all

refinement of thought, and every generous and elevated sentiment, is instantly extinguished. Poor fallen human nature seems to have sunk to its lowest possible depth in this place.

CHAPTER II.

SYDNEY.

THE first day of my journey to Wollongong, in the beautiful district of Illawarra, was through a partially cultivated country. After leaving Campbell Town to the right, I passed over a hilly district which was studded with wind-mills, cottages, and neatly trimmed gardens, besides a pretty considerable extent of enclosed lands; then dropped into a broad road made by the convicts in some former

Governor-General's administration, for public convenience, which soon brought me to Appin, a queer, long, and straggling village, at which I stopped for the night. There was but one public-house in the place, kept by a freed convict; it was a low and dirty *crib*, and you may imagine that it was no luxury to sleep in it.

The next day I tramped along the broad road, which soon terminated, when I plunged into the bush, where I had to rough it, all alone, for more than twenty miles—one small path, through which the mail goes, being my only guide. The weather was remarkably fine. The sun shone out brightly, but not oppressively; the birds glanced cheerfully from bough to bough, their plumage gleaming like the coruscations of a rainbow; the scene was wild, my mind at ease, my legs strong; in my hand a good thick stick, very little in my pocket, and “the world all before me where to choose.”

While I was pushing along through the brushwood I observed a flock of white parrots, which indicated that water was near, and in a few minutes afterwards the beautiful Nepean burst upon my sight, meandering at a distance over the undulating ground like a silvery eel in motion. The bed of the river was deeply worked in the rocks, at the point where I crossed it, and its water was gurgling over the shingly bottom at a rapid rate, making its way to a broad valley which stretched itself out at the foot of the hills over which I was passing. I bathed myself in the river, whose cool water refreshed my feet, and quenched my thirst, and I never in my life felt so grateful and contented in my mind, especially as I viewed the pendant woods, the bold precipices, and the picturesque falls, which this stream had formed in its onward course through the mountains. I sat myself down to take a view of the country, and greatly admired the scene that presented itself, so different in almost

all the phenomena which meet the eye in an European landscape. Trees are but trees, you will say, but trees, vegetation, flowers, birds, insects, animals—in short, everything that goes to make up a landscape—assume such a peculiar aspect, and are so strikingly different in this country, to anything that I have observed in our northern latitudes. The peculiarity of Australian vegetation, as contrasted with European, is its harshness. The leaves of almost all the trees and shrubs are tough and rigid, and frequently terminate in a sharp and prickly point, which is anything but agreeable when you have to push your way through a tangled mass of them, a by no means uncommon occurrence. The gum tree, which abounds here, is very like our laurels; the casuarina resembles the fir genus; the cabbage tree approximates to the yew in shape; and the dryandra may be likened to the holly. The foliage, with few exceptions, is exceedingly thin, and the leaves present

their edge, and not their "surface, to the light ; so that we have little of that cool and umbrageous luxury in the forests of Australia, which you have in your European woods. To the traveller this is a matter of prime importance, especially when the hot sun is pouring down his rays upon your head, and the parched earth is responding in the same element to your feet. The bulrush, the sow-thistle, and the furze, appear indigenous in New Holland. The beauty and luxuriance of the flowers are beyond description, and seem to afford considerable sustenance to many of the feathered and insect tribes. The silence that prevails in these forests is singularly felt by an European at first, until the ear and the eye became accustomed to it. It will frequently happen that, in a deep, woody country, no sound or movement of life can be heard or seen ; the very leaves on the trees seem fast asleep, the insects are perfectly tuneless in the air ; no hum, no buzz, no chirrup, to break

the fairy-bound and spell-like monotony which completely reigns around you. Such was the effect on my senses when I gazed upon the scene around me from the banks of the Nepean, and so it continued, until I came to the open country, when the comical-looking kangaroo, and its bounding movements—the queer scream of the cockatoos—the agile squirrels—and the various other living things which there abound, began to show life and animation, in all their respective peculiarities.

On I trudged for another ten miles or so, when I heard the sound of the human voice, which came like refreshing music on my ear; and, as I was anxious to ascertain its whereabouts, I listened and listened, and actually thought it had been a dream, until, at length it burst out into a loud and boisterous laugh, which soon broke the spell, and convinced me of its reality. On a sudden turn in the path I came upon some men, who were seated in a shed, which they had been erecting in the

midst of the forest, as a sort of resting-place for way-faring wanderers like myself; and, as this was the only spot likely to contain a human being on my route, I turned in among them, lighted my pipe, sat down, and began to chat away; so delighted was I to meet with anything in the shape of a human being. Here I found some *damper*—a kind of heavy, close, bread—and some good brandy, which I greatly enjoyed, and while I was stowing these things away, up came a constable and a runaway convict, on their way to Wollongong. The constable observed that he saw me start from Appin, and guessed that I was not “all right,” from the rapid pace at which I was going; and then he further questioned me as to my being “free,” my destination, place of departure—all of which I purposely evaded, which excited his curiosity still more. I was amused at the idea of being taken for a runaway felon. What next? thought I. The constable could make nothing of me, which

somewhat annoyed him; but when I offered to accompany him to Wollongong, he was greatly appeased, and we soon became comparatively friendly and sociable. I found him a somewhat intelligent fellow, and able to give me a great deal of information about the country and the people, which I much required; and he amused me with many of his adventures—his tales of queer characters—his singular experience among the criminals—all of which he had picked up in the different stations which he had filled in the colony. First, he was in a regiment of the line stationed at Sydney; next in the horse-police of this district, and finally a constable, which brought him in contact with many strange incidents and individuals. His stories of a bush-ranger's life would make you laugh; his tales of the *Felonry* of this colony would make you shudder or weep, according to the sympathies of your nature. He invited me to share his "pot of tea," which I did with a great deal of

pleasure; but I could scarcely keep my eyes off his prisoner, so unmistakably was his character written on his face.

I have seen many criminals in my time, but never in my life did I see a countenance like that of the poor runaway whom the constable had in tow. Poor devil, he was dead beat; and he had that hardened, haggard, and despairing look which none but a thorough criminal can put on. Every line of his queer and sinister features betokened excessive grief; and it made me quite ill, at first, to look at him. That man's face, said I to myself, is a *multum in parvo* of crime—a map of Newgate in miniature; so you would have said, had you seen it.

When we had finished our “tea,” the prisoner was hand-cuffed, and off we started on the road to Wollongong. The prisoner walked first, while I and the constable followed close behind; the latter having decked his sides with a couple of loaded pistols, in the event of

the former attempting to bolt. In this respectable society I reached Illawarra, after passing over a rough and irregular road, with five miles of steep descent before we neared Wollongong; but, on a sudden turn in the road, before the descent commenced, I caught sight of the sea, spread out like a sheet of blue silk, and the effect was so electric upon me, that I thought for a moment, that I should have cried, albeit not much given to that sort of thing either. The truth is, that the first sight of the sea, when you have been some time in the interior, always reminds you of home and its affections—it forms the connecting link, as it were, with that sacred and hallowed spot. We all sat down for a few minutes—the runaway at some distance from us—when I began to talk to the constable about his home, and recollections of old England; but I fancied that he was shy, so I changed the subject.

“I wonder,” said I, “whether that poor man ever thinks of his home.”

"Oh, I dare say he does—it comes o'er 'em all sometimes; but they won't have it, if they can anyways help it—they stifle it as quick as possible," replied the constable.

"Do you know him?" I enquired.

"No; but he is out 'for life;' he is on the gang-work down at Wollongong. I never had him at this game before," he replied.

"I suppose," said I, "that they are soon 'used up' at that work?"

"Not so soon as you would imagine; a great deal depends upon their condition when they arrive here. Some of them are as hard as iron, and could *they* (meaning the authorities) keep the 'spirit' from them, they would last a precious long time; but they will have *it*, somehow or other, and then all the devil comes out of them, and a regular hell-on-earth it is, too, I can assure you."

"No doubt," said I; "no doubt; but there is a great difference, I suppose, among them?"

“Oh, I believe you,” he replied; “I have known some men among them—gentlemen-sort of men, you know—who have been unfortunate, and got ‘lagged’ on the other side, who have soon dropped off; they couldn’t stand it, you see, like that man, who has been bruised about all his life time, most likely. But they seldom put these gentlemen-convicts or *Felon-swells*, as we call ‘em, to any hard work like ‘ganging,’ and such like; they are, always wanted for other purposes, such as store-keepers, writers, and other clean and easy work, which it is difficult to get dore well, as there are so few of that sort that come out here.”

“So much the better,” said I, alluding to the latter part of his observations.

“True, true; but you know luck is luck, and life is uncommon strange, and you would say so too, if you were to hear one half of what I am obliged to hear every day,” he exclaimed.

On my arrival at Wollongong, I soon found

the Revd. Mr. M——, to whom I had a letter of introduction, who turned out a kind-hearted and hospitable Irishman : in fact, the only really gentlemanly-minded man that I had met with for some time. We took a survey of Wollongong together, and he and I endeavoured to measure the chances of my succeeding in that place, when, for reasons which I will shortly detail, it was decided in the negative. The fact is, there were two medical men already located there, which were more than sufficient to attend to the “ills which flesh is heir to” in that limited but fashionable watering-place. This Wollongong is rapidly increasing in population, being a convenient distance from Sydney ; but there is one great draw-back to its prosperity, which it will be difficult to overcome—the dangerous state of the coast, and the consequent inconvenience of landing. Steamers are constantly plying here ; but the surf in general beats heavily against the shore, and many of them with

their cargoes of live stock are compelled to return to the capital, whence they had come to improve their health and spirits. I put up at the head Inn, the Royal Hotel, kept by one Dillon, an Irishman ; and so full was the house, that I was compelled to sleep on a sofa, then on a table with a bundle of women's petticoats for my pillow, and, at last, I had great difficulty in procuring even that luxury, so great was the competition for accommodation. I washed my face, as usual, in the morning—the utmost luxury of that kind, that I could indulge in—but they brought me such a dirty towel at first, that a lady, who observed it from an adjoining room, gave me a clear one of her own, observing, at the same time, that it was a shame to treat “gentlemen” in such a manner, and at the head inn, too, of the place. I fully agreed with her, and took her to be a person of much discrimination, a quality not often met with in this topsy-turvy portion of the world ; but the fact is, it would have been

quite useless to complain, as the landlord and his wife were half *slued* all day long, and almost always fighting, half-play, half-earnest.

Walking round the town, and looking at the curiosities and characteristics of the place, I met my companion, the constable, who was also on the stroll, which gave me an opportunity of acquiring some information about many things, of which I was completely ignorant, therefore I joined him with some degree of pleasure. Sauntering along, and talking of this and of that, in his peculiar style, we, at length stopped at a small house, where they sold spirits and tobacco, which we entered, sat down on a bench, and then re-lit our pipes. There we had a "drain" of rum together, which I paid for, of course, and smoked my pipe, while the constable and the landlord, or storekeeper, were holding a conversation together. The storekeeper, I must tell you, was quite a character in his way—he was a short,

quick, bustling, cock-sparrow, sort of a man, knew everything, talked to every one, about anything or nothing, and didn't care a pin what you said or did, so long as you purchased his spirits and tobacco ; and, if you would only stand a "drain" for himself, you was everything, in an instant, in his estimation.

"Well," exclaimed the fubsy little man, "so you nabbed him, did you?" speaking to the constable about his prisoner of the preceding day.

"Oh, yes, it is all right ; I dropped on him at Appin," replied the latter.

"I suppose you'll give him the 'cruel' again?" alluding to some peculiar mode of punishment, which they inflicted on runaways —said the storekeeper.

"That's of no use ; he has had that so many times ; they will give him a 'Norfolk dumpling' next time, and that'll tie up his stockings pretty tight," returned the constable.

“That’ll ‘choke him off,’ and no mistake ; none on ’em can stomach that ; it stuns ’em all,” exclaimed the storekeeper.

“And pray, Mr. Constable, what may be a ‘Norfolk dumpling?’” I enquired.

“That’s what we call sending ’em to Norfolk Island, the most out-and-out, cruel, punishment that *they* can give,” replied he.

“Well, that’s the only way to put ‘a stopper’ on such outdacious coves, as him,” popped in the storekeeper, by way of a closer, seeing that we had finished our spirits, and not disposed to have any more.

“A smart little man, that,” said I to the constable, when we had left the store.

“Yes, he is ; and knows his business too. He is up to a move or two, and no mistake. Get him out to talk about London, and then you’ll hear a bit that’ll amuse you. Mind, I don’t mean the low, slangy, and blackguard life in England ; for he’s a superior sort of man, and

has been well brought up in the world," he replied.

"I should'nt have thought that," I remarked, "if I may judge from his language and his manner."

"That's habit, at least a good deal on it is, I can assure you; when he likes he can come out in the right style, and then he astonishes them all, above a bit, in this quarter," responded the constable.

"I should like to bring him out, then," I exclaimed.

"Well, so you shall, and when you like. He'll do anything for me, for I've given him a turn now and then, which cost me nothing, but was of great service to him," replied my companion. "If you have half-an-hour to spare, when you have finished your stroll, we'll drop in upon him; I see he's a little bit "on" now, you've only to *wet* him, as they say of a hedgehog in my country, and he's sure to *open*," observed the constable.

“With all my heart,” I replied, “for I’m very partial to everything of the curious and uncommon in life, which you must have seen a great deal of, since you have been in these quarters.”

“Well, Mr. Watson, we have come to have a glass of your “yankee particular” after dinner, if you have no objection,” observed the constable, as we re-entered the store of the little spirit-dealer, which we had visited in the morning.

“Walk in, gentlemen, walk in,” exclaimed the active boniface, “there, go into my little snugery behind, there’s nobody there, and I’ll join you in a jiffy.”

We all three smoked, we all three drank, and heartily too, for the constable was a regular soaker, and nothing seemed to come amiss to him—he could stretch his throat, like a ribbed stocking, to anything, from a pen’orth of gin up to a frothy pot of heavy—and we all three talked, but not in the same ratio, for

I said little, the constable said much, but the landlord said the most, which particularly pleased me, as I was anxious to hear the history of his adventures through life.

“When I first came out to this country,” exclaimed the landlord.

The constable whispered in my ear, “Came out, indeed! he was *sent out*! a little difference between you and I.”

“Well, well, I know what you mean, but I don’t care about that. I’ve always behaved ‘fair and square’ since I have been here, and show me the man that’s done better, considering what I’ve had to fight against,” alluding to our *tête-à-tête*, which I would gladly have avoided, but the constable was getting a little *on* himself.

“I meant no harm, I assure you, Mr. Watson,” exclaimed the constable, “I was merely cracking a joke upon the difference between ‘came out’ and ‘sent out,’ which we hear so often up at Sidney; but I never thought for

a moment that it would 'bring you out' in this way, or wouldn't have drop't a word to my friend beside me."

"Ah! that's all very well, you are like many others that I know here; you must have "a fling" at us 'out-siders,' you can't help it," retorted the landlord. "Let a man once commit himself—it's all up with him, then; he may be as good as an angel all his lifetime afterwards, but they won't forget it—that's just like the world," continued Watson, who seemed disposed to turn sulky and 'shut up shop,' as the saying is.

"Mr. Watson," I put in, "I've heard our friend, the constable, give you the best of characters, during our stroll this morning, therefore I hope you won't take amiss what he said to me just now—I'm sure he meant no harm to you, as I'm certain he respects you too much for that. In fact, to tell you the truth, it was only what he said to me about you, that induced me to come back to

your place, and take a glass of grog with you, therefore I shall take it as a personal favour if you won't allude to it again. Here's to your very good health, Watson; may you live long and die happy."

"Thank you, sir, thank you—the same to you," responded the landlord. "Well, I was going to tell you why I'm out here," continued his boniface friend, "and to make a long story short, I'll begin at the beginning."

In the mean time our glasses were replenished and our pipes re-filled, at my suggestion.

"I was born, bred, and educated, in a small town in Northamptonshire, and my parents were respectable farmers, and pretty well to do in life. As a start in the world, I was apprenticed to a linendraper in the country; served five years, and learned my trade, such as it was; then removed to London, to try my fortune in that great whirlpool of struggling care, honest industry, ambitious hopes,

splendid success, and, I must say, of crushing misery to the *many*, whatever advantage the lucky *few* may obtain—in that great industrial game which is always on, and never played out, in one way or another, within its eddying rounds. I was lucky at first in obtaining a situation at twenty pounds a year in one of those large houses—whose gaudy fronts and well crammed windows, which denote a very plethora of opulence, are an infallible *cynosure* to ladies eyes—situate in the neighbourhood of St. Pauls. Our governor—we never called him master—was a religious man, and lived out of town, and, in his way, not a bad sort of character either; but as deeply bitten with the *conventional morality* of the trade, as any shopkeeper possibly could be. His motto was—‘sell, sell—fairly and honestly, if you can—but you must sell, or you won’t do for me.’ If a lady came in, and one of the young men—or women either—for there were a great number of the latter in the shop—could not

suit her with an article, he was considered a bad salesman, and depreciated instantly in his annual value, if indeed he was allowed to stop, which was seldom the case. The result of this system—which is almost universally observed throughout London—with a few exceptions—is the rearing up of young men and women thus employed, as unmitigated and rotten liars, which it would be impossible to surpass, as the utmost ingenuity and ability are exercised in devising new schemes to entrap customers, and fresh devices to prevent their escape without making purchases, when once entrapped. I have known some of the most audacious liars in those establishments, and well they might be so, for many of the after-hours of business were spent in telling the tricks and devices of the day, in order to sell goods, or, in other terms, to make a ‘good book,’ which the governor most scrupulously scanned next morning. If you were a good salesman, or, which is synonymous in linen-drapery ety-

mology, a great liar, that is, technically speaking, if you could *shave* the ladies well, and took a good amount every day, you would be sure to obtain the approbation of the heads of the house, and receive an approving smile or nod from the *governor-in-chief*, as he made his morning's survey through his well-drilled establishment. That is a very corrupting school, let me remark, and, I believe, that competition, or the great glut of goods, has produced it in that branch of trade, more than in others. My next move in life was to a large wholesale house, which abound in London, where I received a good salary, and succeeded comparatively well. But there you may observe the same system of lying, deceit, and chicanery, and of a more atrocious nature too, as far as genuine morality or common honesty is concerned; but the parties upon whom it is practised are of a more crafty kind than the 'ladies' in the retail shops—being no less than the buyers and masters of these same

shops—therefore to compete with them is verifying completely the old proverb of ‘dog eating dog,’ and to beat that class of men, the most pre-eminent of liars, you must obtain a ‘sad pre-eminence’ indeed, in the art of lying yourself. Having ran the round of the large Houses, with the view of enlarging my experience, and improving my finances, in both of which I greatly succeeded, I at length determined to commence business on my own account. The times were good—money was easy—I was well known in the manufacturing districts, as a buyer—others, with less means, had succeeded, which greatly annoyed me—therefore, I made up my mind to try my luck. Imagine me in business with about twelve thousand pounds stock, with liabilities to about fifty thousand, and literally owing twenty thousand—similar to many and many a man in the city of London, I will venture to say, at the present moment—a great depression in trade, a panic in the money mar-

ket, no bills discounting in any shape ; you are desperately hard up for the needful, and with a balance at your bankers', which they had long hinted as too *tapery*, or too *fine*, as their respective terms might be ; what could you have done under such circumstances ? What ! —why *stop* payment, of course ! Nothing but a miracle, which never occurs in methodical London, in the shape of a secret mine, could save you. That was my case in 1837, and here I am in 184— little thinking that I should have experienced so many and such peculiar changes. Ah ! that is an infernal system of business, and breaks many a man's heart. No one should embark in such a business without he has ample capital to carry it on with ease, I think I hear you say ; very true, but almost all your wealthy men in England, and especially in London, many of whom have fallen under my observation, have commenced with comparatively little capital. The fact is, when a storm sets in, no matter whence it blows, the

great commercial world of England feels it most keenly, and many of her strongest and most stately trees are swept down by it, although fully prepared to live in fair and quiet weather. Talk of misery, too; what can equal the feelings of a man who wishes to do well; who would gladly pay twenty shillings in the pound, and yet cannot turn himself round to do it? Many and many a time have I gone into London in a morning with the most agonized feelings; and many and many a man have I saluted in the well-known Omnibus, with an apparent smile upon my face, who was similarly circumstanced to myself. Talk of the tread-mill—that must be a luxury when compared to the misery which a poor devil must endure who has a heavy bill coming due and very little at his banker's to meet it. He goes home to his excellent and careful wife, the mother, perchance, of several children, all of whom must be provided for, and, of course, in a respectable manner, if he wishes to main-

tain his *status* in his neighbourhood ; he listens to a little music, which, for the moment, drives away the thoughts of the "bill;" he goes to bed, tries to sleep, and from sheer fatigue dozes or dreams an hour or two, all of which time his thoughts are disturbed, his mind is wandering over figures, cheques, stamps, bill-discounters and bankers, which cause him to tumble about and "fan" the sheets right and left, when his gentle spouse—that guardian angel of his existence, who instantly divines that all is not quite right—gently taps him, which procures a momentary cessation in his bodily movements. When he rises in the morning he feels fatigued, hurries to the city to read the "city article," never cares about the "splendid Leader," although it may be in *The Times*—not even the "Jupiter tonans" himself can seduce him from the one overwhelming idea—the unprovided-for bill at the banker's. A man—I mean a fair, round dealing man, such as abound in the city of London, who would

pay if he could—who has bills falling due and cannot command the means to meet them, and wishes to keep up his credit, may as well have a live cat in his belly, scratching its way out every morning of his existence—no sinecure that, you will say.

“But,” you will naturally exclaim, “what has all this to do with my being here. I will tell you, and you will find it has more to do with the circumstance than you imagine. One morning I was desperately hard up; had gone through all the phases of mental agony which I have feebly attempted to describe; had some thousands coming due at my bankers’, and very little to meet it; could force no sales, which, after all, was only precipitating the event; had exhausted every means of renewal, borrowing, exchanging cheques, drawing “pig on pork,” as it is technically called; therefore came to the fatal resolution of writing another partie’s name across a stamped bit of paper—or, in other terms, as you know all about it,

committed FORGERY. When I wrote the name I trembled; when I took it with others to the discounters I almost fainted, and felt sick at heart; and yet I endured all this to prolong a miserable existence—to hide a false feeling—false, in relation to a criminal act—of shame; and rather than brunt the supercilious sneers of the world, plunged into a crime of the deepest dye, and inflicted a lasting stigma upon my family and friends, which no after-exertion can thoroughly efface. Oh! could I but live my time over again, how differently would I act; but that, you will say, is idle rant—it isn't much better."

For a moment or two Watson paused, as though in deep agony of mind, and never shall I forget his countenance as he fixed his little keen eye upon me—his face, at the same time, lit up with the fiery spirit we had been drinking—when he exclaimed in a measured, solemn, and deep-toned, voice,

"If I wished any one to be miserable—

really and truly miserable—to have all feeling of kindness and humanity thoroughly crushed in his bosom—I have only to wish him the feelings I experienced while standing at the bar of the Old Bailey—to see an old friend sneaking in one corner of the court, looking at you on the sly, and ashamed to acknowledge you; to bid your wife and family an everlasting good-bye; to be thrust amongst the lowest criminals, and obliged to hear their blasphemous language, and see their filthy and disgusting habits; to make a long voyage, under every species of hardship, mental and physical; then to be ordered about like a dog; and if all that would not gratify a malignant heart, then I don't know what human feelings really are.”

When he had finished, he fell back for a moment in the seat; his pipe dropped from his hand; the cold perspiration seemed to hang on his brow; and altogether he seemed really and truly a miserable man.

"Come, cheer up, my trump," exclaimed the constable, "let us have another 'drain' before we part; and let by-gones be by-gones; and, if ever you be so down upon your luck again, when I introduce a gentleman to you, hang me if I'll enter your house."

"Agreed, agreed, my friend," exclaimed Watson, at the same time extending his hand to the constable, who shook it most heartily, and then drank his "last drop," as a matter of course, and your humble servant did the same.

CHAPTER III.

SYDNEY.

As I found the ground occupied at Wal-longong, I took my departure for Shoalhaven, according to the advice of Mr. M——, who gave me a letter of introduction to his friend B——, one of the largest occupiers of land in that quarter, and, indeed, the principal settler. My first day's journey was through a line of country of rich and varied wildness—flats, rivers, hills, tall trees, and tangled brushwood,

alternating the scene. Nature was arrayed in all her glory, and most luxuriantly displayed her charms. Here a thick and inter-twined mass of scrub and brush, utterly impervious to the human frame—there an open space, dotted over with isolated tufts of grass, the favourite couch of the Kangaroo and Opossum, on which “the foot of man had ne’er, or rarely, been,” to disturb their almost unbroken solitude. The trees, in many instances, were of the most gigantic growth, and, in others, of the most fantastic forms, which added greatly to the beauty of the woody scene. The enormous ferns, the thick-girthed gums, shooting up to a height of a hundred feet with their branchless bolls, and their peculiar barks; the caoutchouc, or Indian fig-tree, with its tortuous branches piercing the atmosphere in the most fantastic directions, were flourishing in unrestrained luxuriance. The *Banksia*, with its orange-red flowers, in shape like the cone of a pine, and perfuming the air with a scent as delicious as

that of the honey-suckle; the *Dryandra*, with its flowers shooting from the end of the branch, like the head of a large thistle; the *Xanthorea*, or grass tree, with its sooty-coloured trunk, its long, pendulous, thickset tuft of grass, from the centre of which springs up a stem several feet in height, covered with small white blossoms; then there was the *Xylomela*, with its fragrant flowers, and its pear-like seed-vessels; the *Zamia Spiralis*, with its black trunk, and its foliage like that of the wild date tree—the fruit of this tree is a favourite with the natives, and a condiment resembling arrow-root has been made from its pith—which, curious to relate, has often been found in a fossil state in England; but the tree of trees in Australia—the glory of her forests—is the *Nuytsia floribunda*, or cabbage-tree, with its bright yellow-and-red-tinted flowers, profusely scattered over the foliage, and, at sun-set, glittering like a mass of molten fire; these, and many others, variegated the richly-spread landscape

in whatever direction you turned your eye. The luxuriance of *Flora*, too, was beyond description ; she had decked herself out in the utmost profusion—her robe glittering in the wildest gaiety of colouring, and enriched with every variety of tint and shade. There was the purple *Kennedia*, climbing here, there, and everywhere ; and, also, the scarlet *Kennedia*, creeping along the ground, in the same fantastic forms ; then the pale green *Arragosanthus*, with its velvet-like, ruby stem ; the scarlet *Comptoniana* ; the *Drosera*, with its pink and white blossoms ; the orange *Camilanthium* ; the slate and yellow-coloured *Chrysanthimums* ; the elegant *Thysanotus*, or lace flower ; the white, pink, and gold-tinted *Xeranthemum*, were peeping up in every direction, with their peculiar shapes, and their rich and brilliant hues. The variety of birds, with their gaudy, yet superb, plumage, skimming here and there in apparent wonderment at the sight of an object like myself, was perfectly staggering ;

and the stillness—the almost breathless quietude—and my utter loneliness, which added to the peculiarity of the scene—all conspired to throw my mind into that dreamy state, which strangely bewilders one's thoughts, and utterly baffles description.

This district of Illawarra is certainly the most beautiful portion of New South Wales, and amply deserves all the fine things said of it. Being fatigued, I sat down on a log of wood, ate the lunch which I had brought with me, and, after contemplating the enchanting scene around me to the full of my fancy, I fell off to sleep as soundly as though I had been feather-bedded in old England, by which I felt greatly refreshed. When I awoke I jumped up and shook myself to ascertain, as it were, my 'whereabout,' so indistinct and dreamlike did everything seem around me, for a few moments; at length, feeling the reality of objects, I trudged on and reached a small place called Dapto,

where I stopped for the night, and indulged in the luxury of a *lie-down*, infinitely preferable to what I found at Wollongong, although it is the fashionable watering-place—the Brighton—of the Sydney people. The next day I passed through Jamboroo and reached the village of Kiama—consisting of three houses—where I fell in with a *native* and his family, quietly squatted under the branches of a tree, round a queer sort of fire which they had kindled, and eating a peculiar kind of seaweed which they had cooked, after a certain fashion. *Blackey*, his Gin, or wife, and two girls, all of the true Australian breed, and myself, bivouacked together that night; and, as he had picked up a few words of broken English amongst the settlers, with whom he had been ‘on’ and ‘off’ for some time, his company was not a perfect blank, as far as speech was concerned. He wished me to understand that he was *king*, or a bigwig of some kind or other among the natives, and wore round his

neck a semi-lunar piece of brass, which some one had given to him, and upon which was inscribed the name of a chief of a certain Australian tribe. I gave him some tobacco, which he seemed to enjoy very much, and, as his sable majesty was going the same way as myself, we set off early in the morning on our journey. When we were all fairly *en route* I had an opportunity of observing the habits of the Australians in their migratory excursions, and was highly amused at everything I saw. The *Gin* carried a bundle of all sorts on her back, which was pretty heavy; the eldest daughter had a few things in a bag, and a lighted stick in her hand, toddling steadily along with her mother, whilst the youngest ran and rolled in the sand, and tumbled about in the tufts of grass, like a jovial young savage, which she really was; her black skin glistening in the sun, for she was almost 'as naked as she was born,' and with a long reed, like a spritsail-yard, run through the cartilage

of her nose. The chief 'of this bright host' carried his *waddy*, or club, in one hand, and a few spears in the other; and wore over a portion of his body an old shirt, almost as black as his skin, which he had picked up somewhere, not having the slightest idea of washing it, or of the comfort that would be derived from such an operation. The lady-blacks were decked out in pieces of old blankets, just as dingy as the skeleton shirt of their lord; and so careless were they about such a covering, and so utterly insensible did they appear to anything like shame, that they allowed their bits of blanket to float free about their sable persons, and took no pains to restrain the liberties of the saucy and capricious wind, which blew about them where it listed, and seemed to make a sport of their half-covered nakedness. At length *Blackey* scented some friends of his in our immediate neighbourhood; and thinking, perhaps, that he could get nothing more out of me, shammed head-

ache. “*Cobbera* sick,” said he—then asking me for “tick pence,” left me to pursue my way quite alone, which was anything but irksome, as it gave me an opportunity of indulging in one of those quiet communions with nature, which invariably leave behind a pleasing sensation in the mind.

Wandering about the neighbourhood of Kiama in search of something out of the ordinary routine of nature’s phenomena, I observed a bold and rocky point jutting right into the sea; the waves beat furiously against it, interrupting their full-flowing and free course, and sent up their foam and spray, which floated like a fleecy cloud in the atmosphere, until the wind spread them like a white mist far over the cliff and the forests, when at length they were dissolved into a good smart shower of rain, which felt both cool and refreshing. But the most curious object that met my eye was the crater of an extinguished volcano, which spouted up a column of water

to at least thirty feet in height, and with immense force, as its splashing fall on the sides of the vitrified and rocky cone could be heard at a great distance. The sea had worked its way by a bend of the coast to the base of the volcano, the hollow cone of which soon became filled ; and the water rushing out with great force through a narrow aperture, formed a foamy column, whose feathery spray, presented an object of the most unlooked for and startling beauty. This phenomenon is the *Lion* of the place, and every visitor, as a matter of course, is sure to see it. For my part, I candidly confess, that I never witnessed a more beautiful sight, and I lingered about for hours, looking at this fine natural *jet d'eau*, and even returned on the morning, before I had adieu to the place, to indulge in the luxury of another and a longer look. Before I arrived at Shoalhaven, I passed through Jeringong, which is a small place ; made my way over a rocky and winding road, which was intersected

with woody scenes of singular richness, and at length came to the sandy beach of the sea, along which I trudged for seven or eight miles, holding a boot in each hand, and allowing the spent surges to lave my feet, which I found to be agreeably cool and refreshing. A dead whale on the shore was the only object that I saw of importance, throughout the journey, after leaving *Blacky*, and the volcano water-spout of Kiama. When I arrived at B——'s, I was most hospitably entertained, but instantly dissuaded from attempting the project I had on foot, which was the principal, if not the sole, cause of my visit to so out-of-the-way place as Shoalhaven. There were as many doctors as they required in that neighbourhood, the settlers enjoying a very good state of health, from their temperate habits, and their industrious pursuits; and, had I been allowed to set myself down amongst them, it is within the range of possibility that they might have fared worse, as young beginners must make a

trade if they wish to do as well as their neighbours, although I should feel ashamed to establish myself at the expense of others—that is, by creating a *raw* in the healthy sides of the community, as I have seen others do since I have been in this quarter of the world. B—— is a Scotchman of the truly industrious breed, and has accumulated a large property by his own unaided exertions, if I exclude his two sisters and his three brothers, which perhaps I ought not to do, although they *followed* him to New South Wales. He is the owner of 70,000 acres of land, a member of Council at Sydney, where he generally resides, and employs, altogether, about two hundred hands. He has constructed a wind-mill, and several saw-mills; makes his own casks, and all his iron work; contracts largely to supply the government with salt provisions; and the shoemakers, carpenters, smiths, butchers, and salters, which were employed on his establishment, were nearly all

convicts. I observed a patch of wheat of about three hundred acres, growing in the most luxuriant condition on the other side of the river (the Shoalhaven) which I crossed to pay a visit to B.....'s bailiff with whom I stayed two nights, but was compelled to sleep in a mere sea-cot, through which the wind whistled with terrific violence. There I was regaled with salt mutton, *damper*, tea, and the usual eatables and drinkables in the bush, but here I had an additional luxury—milk—which was quite a treat to me. This was the regular fare, all the year round, at Shoalhaven; and also, except the milk, at almost all the other settlements which I visited. Before I left Shoalhaven, M..... arrived to preach his monthly sermon, as usual, when I acted as his clerk, the first time that I ever assumed such a vocation in my life. He performed service under a verandah of B.....'s house, and all the congregation appeared decorous and attentive in their demeanour. Here I wit-

nessed, for the first time, the performance of the *Corrybory*, by a tribe of natives, who were wandering about the settlement, as they were in the habit of doing at certain periods of the year. It was a kind of merry-making with them, or meeting to dispense justice, according to their barbarous ideas of jurisprudence; and it generally ended by the natives dancing in the wildest and most grotesque manner, and by shouting and hallooing in the most savage and unearthly tones. The women were ornamented about the head with the white tips of the native dogs' tails, and with Kangaroo-teeth; and their faces patched about with pipe-clay, which gave them the most extraordinary appearance. Some had their lips whitened only; others the inside of the leg; while a third portion had drawn over their heads a small net, which was stuck over with swansdown, looking something like a powdered head-dress of the olden time. The men were, also, as comically decorated as the women, and both formed

as singular a *coup d'œil*, as well could be met with in this world. I must, also, tell you that the men rejoiced in certain peculiar names, that had been given them by different settlers, and mostly through caprice or fun, as there was no affinity between the meaning of the terms and objects to which they were applied. One was called "Ugly Jack;" another "Blanket;" several assumed the titles of "Broken-nose Tom," and "Waterman Bill;" and one fellow was glorying in the appellation of "Fryingpan."

These Aborigines are proverbially lazy, and can only be induced to work at intervals; so naturally opposed is savage life to regular and consecutive industry. Before the ceremony was closed some of the youths were admitted to the rites of manhood, which are performed at a certain age; when after undergoing a peculiar, and I should suppose, painful, process of initiation, they are permitted to indulge in the luxury of a wife,

which is strictly prohibited up to that age—so at least I was informed by my old friend and companion—*Blacky*. Some of the women were not badly formed, and by no means unattractive—especially the younger ones; but those of more advanced age were ugly and repulsive in the extreme. One old damsel might be termed a finished specimen of ugliness; nevertheless, she seemed to command considerable respect, moving among them, like some *mere de famille*, and apparently possessed of considerable authority.

CHAPTER IV.

SYDNEY.

BIDDING adieu to my hospitable friends at Shoalhaven, I set out on my journey back to Wallongong; but not exactly by the same route, although, as a matter of necessity, I touched at the same places, for there alone could anything be found in the shape of eating, drinking, and sleeping; and everything approaching to civilization, however coarse it

may be in its condition, is always acceptable to the way-worn and weary wanderer, especially if he happen to be in the primeval paths of an untrodden and uninhabited forest. *Necessitas non habet legem*—or, as we used to translate the axiom somewhat freely—*Necessity has no legs*; and when poor human nature is really hard up, as your humble servant was at that precise period, and in that particular spot, it must stump along as well as it can, and leave the more measured manner of its movements to luckier and happier times. After enjoying the soft and refreshing breezes of the ocean for an hour or so, I tramped bare-footed on the sands, which most agreeably cooled my feet; then plunged once more into the deep and umbrageous woods, which almost fringed the water's edge for miles along the shore, and endeavoured to shape my course to Jeringong; but the new and singular phenomena which nature spread before me at almost every turn and step I took, caused me to diverge strangely

from the zig-zag, and roughly-hewn, way which travellers had formed for themselves in journeying from Shoalhaven to Wallongong.

Everything appeared so fresh and gay, and so truly enchanting to my mind, which was in prime condition for observing the beauties of nature, being free, healthy, and fully flushed with the hearty breakfast which I had partaken at my friend's, although I had seen the same objects frequently before; yet, every time that I viewed the face of nature in those deep and unbroken solitudes, I could always discover some fresh beauty, some unexpected phase of design, which gave new zest to my wandering propensities, and even added another pleasure to my existence. The morning was bright, clear, and warm; and the dew hung in pearly drops on the bushes and flowers, wetting me to the skin, as I forced my way through the tangled masses of underwood which opposed my path. Then I saw, to great advantage, the enormous webs of the spider-class of

Insectivora, set out to catch their prey; and many of them exhibited great ingenuity in construction, besides strength and size; and far surpass our western *Arachnidæ* in both the latter respects. These webs were very troublesome to pass through, as they clung so stickingly to the face and hands; and from their multiplicity, intersecting thorns, and bushes, and flowers, in almost every direction, you soon acquired a gummy coagulation all over your clothes, which was somewhat difficult to remove. As I brushed past some of these webs, out would come the owner, and with terrific glare scamper back along the line to his hiding place, utterly staggered, apparently, at the havoc which I had committed in his household arrangements. Some of these spiders are of enormous size, and peculiar colour; and like our European species, used their long antennæ with amazing power and agility, whenever a victim chanced to become entangled in their springes. I amused myself

with teasing them, watching their movements whenever a fly, or any other insect, attempted to cross their path; and observed that they frequently fought hard for their prey, especially if it happened to drop on the contiguity of two or more webs—a sort of no man's land—which would immediately bring out their respective owners to the rescue, and bitter and sharp would be the contest between them for a time. At certain seasons of the year, the Arachnidæ have plenty of food, as the air teems with insects; while, in others, there must be great scarcity, for the periodical fires which sweep across, and utterly lay bare whole districts, must completely destroy the nests, eggs, and larvæ of all the insects which happen to come within their range. For miles and miles the underwood is blackened with the flames and smoke; and when not destroyed altogether, is so scorched and dried up that no insect could survive or exist, while the conflagration lasts; and, as there are thousands and millions of these insects

buzzing about the long grasses and flowers, which almost everywhere intersect the country, they are completely swept away by the ravaging element, and the balance of nature is somewhat disturbed by such irregular and fitful assailants. I say that the "balance of nature" is somewhat disturbed in the Australian forests, by these destructive fires, which are frequently caused by the negligence or the design of the natives; and that portion of the spider-class, which does not happen to fall a victim to the element, is almost sure to pine and starve for want of food. Many of the birds and lizards also, exist almost exclusively upon the Arachnidæ, and the Insectivora, therefore, must be desperately hard up whenever a raging and destroying fire has swept over the plains, which is the nursing place of their food and existence. The musquitoes I found exceedingly troublesome, especially in swampy places, and their bite is blistering and sharp in the extreme; but the

ants are the most formidable of the annoying insects, which man must make up his mind to encounter in all hot climes and new countries, and they sting you with merciless pain. There are several kinds of ants—the black, the white, and the red—and one species, called the lion-ant, is a most terrible assailant whenever his anger is aroused, and that is, when you chance to trespass within the boundaries of his domain, which is somewhat extensive in the forests of Australia. You will meet with the paths of these industrious creatures in almost every part of the forest, which they have formed with singular care and assiduity, along which they periodically migrate from one nest to another, some of the latter being of a prodigious size, and extending over a wide space. In many spots, where the ants have pursued their instinctive industry, you will find the way cleared of every obstacle, as though the hand of man had been there employed; and so carefully do they remove every obstruction to their

intercourse, that scarcely a stone will be left unturned, which lies immediately in their path. I also observed a great variety of the *Reptilia*—especially snakes, lizards and tortoises; some of the snake and lizard genus being exceedingly venomous, but the greater part are, I believe, harmless, and all fly at the approach of a human being. There are several kinds of frogs, and some of them beautifully coloured; particularly one species, the dark green-backed kind, with brown spots and stripes intersecting his body; his belly was yellow, and his eyes were peculiarly bright, which he seemed to open rather largely as I accidentally dropped on him.

Beating my way through the bushy underwood, which produced a crackling noise, whose echo seemed to startle the sunny silence of the spot, as though I were the only destructive being in the wide circumference around me, I suddenly came upon an open space, which contained some water holes; and if you had heard the flutter

of birds, the scampering of animals, and the rustling noise in every direction, of something or other scudding away from me, you would never have forgotten it.

I sat down on a clump of trees, pulled out my pipe, lit it, and smoked in quiet contemplation of the scene around me, which was full of animation and intelligence to an active and discursive mind; and when the calm had become somewhat restored, and I betrayed no symptom of existence, except the curling wreaths of smoke which ascended from my pipe, out came the animals, one by one, but most provokingly cautious, to have their feed among the young grass, which was profusely scattered over the ground, and their drink at the "holes," which had been dug, I presume, by some of the settlers, although it was in such a wild, sequestered, and unfrequented part of the forest. The birds, too, hopped down from the trees and bushes, and exchanged mutual signs of contentment, after the strange in-

trusion, which I had committed on the silence of their habitations, and which must have strangely puzzled them. I felt at that moment the beauty of Byron's splendid stanza, which has embalmed the spirit of solitude, as it exists in thronged cities, and amidst the busy hum of men; contrasting it in a felicitous vein of irony with the cheerful and healthy communion with nature, which the mind may hold, when properly tuned, as to place and condition; but I shall forbear quoting the stanza—it has become so trite and hacknied, especially amongst those who have the least opportunity of experiencing its truthful beauty and sublimity.

At length, feeling somewhat hungry, and having taken my fill of the animated scene around me, I made my way as well as I could to the beaten path which I had quitted, but, it was a long while before I could reach it, having no clue to direct me, and the under-wood, was of more than ordinary thickness and density, so that the day was far

advanced before I found myself on the right route for Jeringong. On I trudged, however, for some time, until I saw the sun was declining fast on the horizon; and, as there is no twilight in this hemisphere, I became somewhat anxious to reach my destined point, half regretting that I had dallied so long for the mere purpose of indulging in beautiful scenery, which I could do freely every day of my existence, in this quarter of the globe. Yet, so it was; and before I reached Jeringong it was long after sun-down; nevertheless, I indulged in a comparatively comfortable sleep at the house of a *freed* man, who had been a convict, and who, considering his position, and the scenes that he had gone through, was by no means a common man. Before I reached his station I was wandering some time by the light of the moon, which seemed like a large lamp suspended in the sky, and never before saw an Australian night to so much advantage. The heavens

were beautiful and clear, and the stars were out all over the bright expanse—and so sharply defined were they on the dark ground of the sky, and of such a resplendent order, that I looked at them with an almost silent awe—the moon, too, was *Queening* it in the most lustrous style, and steered her radiant course in such quiet beauty over the arched expanse of the dark, deep blue, that I could scarcely take my eyes off the enchanting scene, had not chillness and hunger somewhat damped the poetic temperament of my mind. The stillness of the night in the forest of Australia is peculiar, and almost unbroken; except you chance to be in the neighbourhood of the wild dogs, which occasionally intrude on the haunts of man, especially when pressed by hunger, and then their howling is mournful and monotonous in the extreme. When in the pursuit of their prey these dogs seldom bark, but generally make a “yapping” noise, something similar to that of the fox in

England, when hunting down the rabbit ; but, let a poor beast stray behind, when on your journey, through fatigue or sickness, and you will presently have a whole multitude of these dogs upon it, yelping, fighting, and tearing each other, and quarrelling over their victim, although a few minutes before you would scarcely have seen one in the whole range of your view. At night time these dogs drop down upon the kangaroo and dalgoyt, the latter sometimes going out to feed when the sun goes down ; but the instinctive sagacity of the latter is generally a match for the dog during the day, smelling them a long way off, and conscious of their approach, these timid creatures make off with the utmost fear and rapidity. There is an owl in these quarters which takes its nocturnal round and is abroad in search of vermin when everything else seems buried in sleepy repose, startling the “dull ear of night” with its drowsy and lonely cooing ; but, in general,

there is an almost death-like silence pervading the nights of Australia, when you are distant from the habitation of man, and his living appendages.

Next morning, after I had somewhat refreshed myself, I started for Kiama, which I reached about noon, rested myself for an hour or so, then pushed on to Jamboroo, where I stopped for the night. There I obtained a bed, or rather a *settle* before the fire, at an Irishman's store, and a pretty comfortable kind of affair it was too; the next day I trudged on to Dapto, where I found somewhat decent quarters, and stopped all night, but the fleas were so active and industrious that I could scarcely sleep, therefore, I rose in the morning more fatigued than when I retired to rest. This store was kept by a Scotchman, who, like most others in a similar condition of life had been a transport, and had recovered his liberty by good conduct and steady industry. At length I once more reached Wollongong, paid my old

friend Mr. Mears a visit; strolled down to Watson's store, whose romantic history I have already related to you; stopped the night with him, and started the next day on my way back to the Cow Pastures, by way of Appin, where I rested for the night at old Bean's; and on the evening of the following day, reached my destination—a little fatigued, but as sound in “wind and limb,” as they say of horses, as on the day I set out on my journey. It is true that I passed two places in the forest, in one of which, a few days afterwards, the mail was robbed, and in the other, a traveller was stripped of his clothes, by the bushrangers; but the latter only look for plunder, and seldom add murder to their other crimes, so that I should not have been desperately frightened at encountering one or two of those rascals, provided they had confined their atrocities to robbing me of my clothes, albeit a not very pleasant condition to be left in—stripped stark naked in the lonely wilds and

forests—although I can now afford to talk lightly of the matter, seeing that all danger is over, and I am completely out of their reach.

In my next I will give you an account of my first whaling excursion, and the new scenes of excitement which it opened up to my view ; and by the time that I have carried you through them, I shall be prepared to enter upon a wider and more comprehensive chapter—namely, the convict-system, and the position of the freedmen in the colony, which I trust you will find not only interesting, but also instructive, as I have been most particular in sifting the details of the information, which I have obtained, and have weighed it all with scrupulous care and comparison.

CHAPTER V.

ON THE LINE, LONGITUDE 178.

IN November last, while at Sydney, I saw an advertisement in the paper for a surgeon to go a Whaling-voyage, which stated that he would be "treated liberally by the Captain," and that his services would be required for eighteen months, or, perhaps, two years. A long time, thought I, but I should like to see New

Zealand, and take a cruize among the islands of the Pacific—

“I longed to see the isles that gem,
Old ocean’s purple diadem.”

So I immediately enquired about it, and found everything to my satisfaction. I shipped myself aboard at once, and on the 24th of November we were outside the *Heads*, running before the wind with a fresh breeze, which soon took us into the deep blue ocean, and out of sight of the contaminated shore of Australia. We had provisions on board to last us the first twelve months at least; the remainder we could procure from the different islands at which we intended to touch. The first night we were at sea, it came on to blow, the ship tumbled about awfully, and we were in very deep water, which washed over us like a half-tide rock. About midnight a heavy swell swept away the binnacle, carried overboard

the compass, knocked off our cabin sky-lights, and poured down the water like a cataract into the cabin, setting everything afloat. We carried four whale-boats, ready for lowering, and two spare ones on the "skids;" and the sea, that night, swept one away with a crash, breaking the davits short off, at the same time carrying every fastening with it. We tried hard to save it, but the elements were too much for us. We then hoisted on board the larboard waste-boat, and lay-to under close reefed maintopsail, main try-sail, and fore top mast staysail, till the storm blew itself out, or, in other words, till it appeared to have become spent. For four months we cruized southward to about latitude 38, having encountered heavy blowing weather, rolling seas, and gales of wind, with a few intervals of fine weather; but with indifferent success, having taken only five whales during all that time. Some of the latter, however, were pretty large, and the oil we obtained from them was worth about

£2000, calculating it at £80 per ton, the then market price. We only killed sperm whales; for the black, or Greenland, whale is rarely seen in these latitudes, nor have I seen a single one during the whole voyage. Now, I will tell you all about whaling.

The "Jane"—our ship—is a barque of about 300 tons, carrying 32 hands, and is what is called a four-boat ship—that is, she is able to lower four boats at a time, after whales. There were five men to each boat to pull, and the headsman at the steer-oar. A whale-boat is well loaded—six harpoons, three lances, two tubs of line, short-warp, key for water, tinder box, lantern, blue lights, compass, boat spade, axe, knife, whiffs, drogues, nippers, &c. Suppose the day to be Sunday, the ship going easily before the wind, and most of the hands turned in, or lying down on their chests, some asleep, others mending their clothes. Two men are stationed, from sunrise to sunset, at the main-top-gallant mast-head, and two at the

fore. One of them sings out in a long, melancholy, strain—" *T-h-e-r-e* she *s-p-o-u-t-s.*" " *T-h-e-r-e a-g-a-i-n,*" and down goes the work or book, the skipper bolts out of his cabin and runs on deck, and the hands, all alive and eager, come tumbling up the half-deck hatch and fore scuttle. Now, the following is something like the colloquy that takes place between the skipper, the mast-headsman, and the man at the wheel. In the meanwhile, the boat's crews are in active preparation to lower at the first signal.

First question—

"Where away?"

"On the weather bow."

"How far?"

"Five miles off."

" *T-h-e-r-e a-g-a-i-n,*" sings out the man at the mast-head.

"Here, Charley, hand up the glass!"

"Aye, aye, sir."

"There she breaches; there again!"

“Mind what you are at there, at the wheel ; why, d——n your eyes, you are three points off the wind—well so ; steady there keep her as she is.”

“Where are they now ?”

“Making to windward.”

“Here—give me the glass ; mind your weather helm ; there’s white water.”

“Near—near—no higher ; you are now all up in the wind ; top-gallant sails are shaking ; why, damme, you’ll have her all aback directly.”

“*T-h-e-r-e* she *s-p-o-u-t-s*,” continued from the mast-head—the skipper having got as far as the fore-top-mast cross-trees, looks through the glass, exclaiming—

“That’s only current rip.”

“*T-h-e-r-e* she *s-p-o-u-t-s*,” continued the mast-head man.

“That’s not *sparm* whales,” exclaims one who had been looking all along in the wrong direction ; at length, coming along the horizon

with his glass, he sees the "spout," and loud and joyously exclaims, "*sparm* whales!"

"Keep your luff there, you tiger; brace up the yards a bit—get your tubs in your boats."

Now life commences. Twenty-four men—the crews of the four boats—are now seen hauling away, pulling along the whale-line tubs, and *rousing* them into the boats—tumbling over one another, and swearing, and singing, like mad.

"Stand by to lower—down with your falls."

"There's blackskin," meaning the whale itself.

"There she breaches."

"That's only floptail."

"There again, five miles off—keep her to the wind—we will see if we cannot shave them pretty close before we lower."

"There she breaches—there again—a whole school!!—we are making on them fast."

"*T-h-e-r-e* she *s-p-o-u-t-s*," again from the mast-head—*t-h-e-r-e a-g-a-i-n*."

"Four or five of 'em right ahead, sir."

"Steady there—steer her steady—don't be yawing the ship about that way—we shall be on the top of 'em directly—man your clew garnets—stand by to back the main-yard—braces let go—lay the topsail to the mast, boats boys!"

Now there's a devil of a bustle, and all hands are jumping up to the boats.

"Cast off your cram lines—cut away your mousings."

Down davit-tackle falls.

"Cast off the gripes—hoist away—sway up well—hold on, in with your cranes—avast lowering there, you Jim Crow—look out for the steer oar—lower, lower away, fore and aft altogether—hurrah, boys! Unhook, hand up tackle there—jump in, d—n you, jump in, you sleepy-headed beggars—ship your tholes, out boat-hooks, shove off—shove her off there,

forward—keep her away from the ship—ship your oars—pull, pull, pull, you beggars, pull.”

“Where away, now?”

“Two points on the weather-bow.”

And away they go, pulling as if for life; the steersman standing and backing up the after-oar at every stroke. The boat pulls right alongside the whale, puts two irons (harpoons) into her, if they can, takes a turn round the logger-heads, and eases the line out, now and again, if the whale pulls the bows too much under water, and if she slacks at all, they haul upon it to get up to her. She (the whale) must come up to blow, and then the lances are ready to complete the work of death; the boat's crew dart them into her as deeply and quickly as they can, until, at length, she gives up the ghost. There is always one man who acts as ship-keeper when the skipper is away, and who stands at the masthead all the time, to keep the “run of the whales,” make signals, put the ship about

and heave to. The compliment generally left to work the ship comprised the carpenter, the cooper, the steward, the cook, two boys and myself. We all watched with intense excitement the proceedings of the boats—now jumping up on the rail, now standing on the cat-head or the skid, or half way up the rigging, and every one exclaiming, according to his feelings and excitement, in short and rapid sentences, at the scene before them.

“There they are—boats in among them—look at the humps!”

“The skipper is nearly up with them—there, she spouts again!”

“Mr. Kerr is laying with his oars apeak, to give the green boat a chance.”

“There—he’s into her—didn’t you see him strike?”

“Pshaw; he’s only getting ready.”

“Getting ready do you call it; look how she’s dragging him through the water.”

"I'll bet two niggerheads we get a couple of 'em."

"Mr. B.'s got another; see, there goes a lance...they are fouling one another's lines...there's a mess...one will have to cut."

"By Jove! she's carrying him right in the teeth of the wind."

"Brace-up the main yard; keep her close at it."

"There she is again—strike, you beggars, strike."

"There she has it again—now she fights."

"There's white water—spouts clear yet."

"Now she tumbles—another boat coming up—he'll be at her directly."

"There she kicks again—there's blood—there's the red shirt."

"Two chaws of baccy against a rope-yarn she's ours—there she fights again—there's the red flag—she's getting weaker—it's all up."

"A young bull, I think—back the main

yard—clew up the main-sail—in driver—boat coming for fluke-rope.”

A stout rope is then carried from the ship, made fast round the *small* just before the flukes, and the whale is soon towed alongside; when operations are immediately commenced, as she lays in the water—the “cutting-falls” being prepared—and the men standing on a stage over the ship’s side. First—the upper part of the head is separated from the lower; the former comprises what is called the “case” and the “junk,” and is immediately towed astern till the last, and then, if not too large, brought on deck. The “junk” is cut up into slices, and the “case” is baled out—the latter containing pure fluid oil; while the “junk” or brain, contains the spermaceti, or, as we call it, head-matter. I will endeavour to describe the mode of disposing of the whale, and extracting the oil. Suppose a ruler about eighteen inches in length, with a ribbon, about three inches wide, wound round it in a spiral

manner; the former will represent the whale—the latter the blubber.

Suppose, again, a piece of the outside covering of the whale (the blubber) which averages from three to four inches in thickness, is raised by tackles and hooks, worked by a windlass—the men cutting with long spades into the sides of the whale to detach the covering—this may be compared to the ribbon. As the piece is raised by the tackle, the whale itself will turn, precisely in the same manner as the ruler would turn, were you to pull the ribbon perpendicularly from it—or, in other words, were you to uncoil it. The piece cut is called a “blanket piece,” generally measuring from three to four feet in width; and the first process of oil-making is to stow down this ‘piece’ in the blubber room, where two men cut it up into what are called “horse pieces,” thence it is conveyed to the mincers who prepare it for the “try pots,” where it is boiled till the scraps are quite brown and crisp, which denote that

the utmost quantity of oil has been extracted from them. The oil is then bailed out into the coolers, and from thence to the barrels; when it becomes cool it is stowed below. The next operation is to boil what is technically called the "stink," which comprises the slivers of blubber, bits of "fat lean," and the "snot"—which may have been thrown aside. As the barrels are rolled off from the coolers, they are lashed to the "stringer," till stowed down. We have had sometimes fifteen tons of oil on deck. The sperm, which sometimes adheres so closely to the casks when emptied, we call south-sea snow. The flesh of the whale is of a deep red colour, darker than beef, and appears full of blood; its flavour very much resembling that of black puddings. We had it frequently on table—sometimes stewed, sometimes in steaks, sometimes chopped up with onions and pepper, like sausage-meat—and it is not a bad relish in any way, although I preferred it prepared in the sausage manner.

Such is the pastime of a south-sea whaler, which I have described as minutely and faithfully as my memory will enable me; and now we are off to the islands which you shall have some account of in my next.

CHAPTER VI.

AT SEA. LAT. 45 MILES, SOUTH. LONG. 176
MILES, WEST.

WE are in what we call fine weather—that is, without gales of wind, under a hot and scorching sun, and with a few squalls and rain; but had very bad weather to the southward. We are out for twenty months, nearly seven of which are expired—now crossing and re-crossing the line—now running to the westward, and expect every moment that the man

at the mast-head will sing out, "*T-h-e-r-e* she *s-p-o-u-t-s*." This whaling life is a life of great excitement. It suits me to a T. I am glad now that I chose surgery, as a means for a livelihood; it not only enables me to maintain a respectable position in the world, but it gratifies that darling delight of my soul, which seems to "grow with my growth and strengthen with my strength," I mean the love of adventure, and the wandering to and fro, through the world, with fresh scenes and characters constantly starting up before my view. I enjoy, beyond description, visiting strange and unfrequented lands, although I have to endure greater hardships than your quiet people on shore; but, as our old friend Miss P—— would say, I am '*manured*' to it now, and endure willingly all the inconveniences which are incident to such a life.

After leaving Sydney, the first place we made was Lord Howe's island—one of the most beautiful and romantic spots in the

Pacific ocean. Some parts of the island rose perpendicularly from the water to the height of six or seven hundred feet; while others were lower, and, in some instances, there were portions undulating to the water's edge, although we experienced great difficulty in landing. The interior of the island is richly covered with trees, growing in all manner of forms, and covered with the most variegated verdure. There we saw the tall cabbage, with its graceful plume at the summit; the tangled fig-tree with its peculiar shape, besides a great variety of almost all the tropical kinds. There were three white men (English) on the island, and each of them had a wife and a numerous family; their wives were New Zealand women, which they had picked up, somehow or other, from ships putting in for food. Those three Robinson Crusoes, a big lad, brother to one of the women, and their families, constituted the whole of the population. They had plenty of pigs, goats, poultry, and dogs for hunting; besides a canoe for

catching fish, so that they did not want provisions, whatever may have been their other privations. Birds were also in great abundance, and many of them of a plump and eatable order; but, as to their plumage, you may imagine that, when I tell you that nature had painted them in the most prodigal manner. I shall not attempt even to describe it. There we saw growing the pumpkin, the water melon, potatoes, onions, cabbages, and other vegetables, all of which were cultivated with care, and appeared healthy in condition. I spent a whole day there with my gun, and killed more birds than I could stuff, while they were good. There is a beautiful bay of smooth water within the reef, with a sandy beach, which leads up to the bottom of a hill, where those island-*triumviri* had built their houses, which were rude and simple in structure, but by no means incommodious; and there these secluded adventurers and their families, lived happily together, so at least, I should infer from their appearance, and their

observations. I dined with one of the "Englishmen" on pork and greens, and left the charming little island with regret. We had fifteen miles to pull from the ship to the shore, with a heavy swell; but, towards evening, she had beat up nearer, so that we got safe on board about an hour after sun-down. The other boats had been off to *near* the rocks, to catch fish, and had returned with a bounteous stock, so that we had plenty to salt down after we had all enjoyed a good fresh meal or two, which made an agreeable change in our food for some time afterwards..

The next island on which I landed, was called the "Three Kings." It is, properly speaking, a group of islands, situate near New Zealand, but by no means inviting in its appearance, from the bold and rocky projections, which front you on every side. There is not a single place all round this group, on which you can safely shove a boat, so that we were greatly puzzled at first how to land.

We wanted some pigs, and two boats were sent from the ship to bring back what we purchased. The group consists of several small rocky islets, one of which is much larger than the rest, and to that we bent our course, one boat steering leeward, and the other keeping the weather side of the island, in the hope of finding a convenient place for landing; but, after a long pull right round the island, meeting each other at a point directly opposite to that from whence we started, it proved a fruitless search, and we were compelled to jump from the boat on to a piece of rock, one of the crew standing by, and with great difficulty keeping the boat from bumping to pieces. We then ascended a broken, irregular, and nearly perpendicular rock, and when we had reached the summit, we found some of the natives anxiously waiting our arrival. As we cast our eyes around, we saw some fine slopes and tracts of land, which seemed highly fertile, but very little timber appeared on its surface, which greatly diminished its picturesque

beauty, when compared to Lord Howe's island. However, the little streams of water were murmuring through the rocky channels, the birds were singing a cheerful note, the day was beautifully bright and clear, and the varied tints of reeds, tea-trees, short-scrub, and here and there a small patch of green cultivation, which shone out distinct and vivid, while the deep shadows formed the relief—all these objects produced so enchanting a scene, such a delicious landscape, that I still linger on it with pleasure and regret. I sat down by the side of one of the natives—an old chief—and drank in, as it were, the delicious beauty of the scene. There were only twenty-seven inhabitants on the island, including men, women, and children; and, according to their own account, they are a remnant of a conquered tribe of New Zealanders, who escaped from their enemies, and found a peaceful refuge in that almost inaccessible spot. The old fellow, who sat next to me, was partly enveloped in a blanket, and deeply tattooed all over his face.

I gave him a pipe and a piece of tobacco; and I heard him say to one of his countrymen—" *Ranga Tira*," or, in plain English, that "I was a gentleman." One of the natives who had been in a whaler, and spoke a little broken and barbarous English, was particularly anxious about the grog, so we formed a party round this fellow's house, and spent a jolly hour or two in that way. His wife, rigged out in a *Cockahoo*, or rough mat round her middle, squatted herself on the ground, made a fire, and stuck up some fish to dress, which she performed much to our satisfaction. Hunger, after all, is the best sauce; and I am not so dainty a dog as I used to be, when in your quarter of the globe, or I might, perhaps, have questioned the culinary art of our sable *serviteur*. We produced our biscuit and grog, and several of the natives seated themselves round us; but what amused me most in that singular scene was two little girls—

Like George and the Dragon,
Without e'er a rag on,

who stood gazing at a distance, in apparent wonderment, yet seemingly amused, while their black, smooth skins were glistening in the sun. For the life of me, I could not help laughing at those sable nymphs, which caused them to laugh still more; yet the sensations which produced the laughter must have been widely different in each of us—so, at least, I should respectfully suggest. We soon left the island, as we could procure but little provisions, other ships having forestalled us in the purchase of what we wanted. We bartered two niggerheads of tobacco for four pigs and a couple of baskets of potatoes; the pigs were very small, and as wild as rabbits. One of our men gave his old woollen shirt for a couple of small pigs, and pulled on board quite comfortable without it...as naked as possible. Another was fixed on a point of the rock, in making his descent, with a large pumpkin in his shirt, and a pig squeaking under his arm, which completely paralyzed his movements; he could neither get up nor down,

and appeared in a strange quandary.— When I eased him of his burden, he descended easily, and the young grunter was soon lowered into the boat. We had still two hours of daylight, so we pulled among the large rocks, and amused ourselves by letting down the line for fish; and long before sunset the bottom of the boat was covered with them—mostly rock cod (and capital eating they were, too)—which added to our stock of food on board. At length, we stood out to sea for the ship, which was a long way off; but having taken her bearings, and steering by the compass, we reached her in about an hour after dark. Whale-boats, let me remark to you, carry compasses, tinder, blue lights, lanterns, water, and all sorts of useful things at sea.

Our second mate is a New Zealander, son of the chief from whom Mr. Marsden bought so much land for a few axes, and a decent fellow he is, too, considering all things. While I am writing the perspiration is dropping from my nose and chin, and literally running in streams

from my arms—having tucked up my shirt sleeves for coolness. All the clothing that we require here—that we can really wear—is a light cotton shirt and trousers, so powerful is the heat felt in these latitudes. I am as well in health as I could possibly wish to be, and enjoy myself, in my way, as much as it is possible for any one to do. Adieu.

CHAPTER VII.

ON THE LINE, LONG. 178 DEG.

ALTHOUGH among new scenes, new countries, and new faces, I love to cherish the recollection of old days, old associations, old rambles, and still more lonely evenings, so that we might participate in each other's pleasurable emotions. I look forward, with fervent hope, to the time when we shall be able to smoke a cigar together—it is one of the choicest pleasures which I have stored up for myself—when, I promise you, I shall be most happy “to spin a jolly

good twister," as our mate calls telling stories, and relating incidents.

Shortly after we left the "Three Kings" we made for New Zealand, rounding North Cape, and running into a small but secure harbour, called Mungonutie, in Doubtless Bay, about sixty miles to the northward of the Bay of Islands. We had a bit of a breeze a night or two before we got in, and were in some danger from the rocks on our lee. As it fell calm the night we entered the bay, we sent our boats a-head, and were towed in by four of them, each containing six men; and, as they were pulling all night, we cheered them up by singing songs, all joining in with a jolly good chorus, and keeping time to the oars, which made the labour comparatively light and cheerful.

We had scarcely anchored, before a canoe with about thirty natives came off to our ship, and it was highly amusing to see them pattering away, and digging their paddles so quickly in

the water, as though it were a matter of life or death with them. In the midst of the crowd stood a chief, with a green, plaid, camlet cloak thrown over his shoulders, a large tuft of white down stuck jauntily in his ear, his hair besmeared with fat or oil, and hanging in black ringlets all round his head. This chief was a regular, out-and-out, south-sea swell; and, in his line, I have no doubt, a very clever fellow. He brought his "mob" of women in his canoe, for the accommodation of the ship's crew; keeping a regular stock of that commodity, which he carefully cultivates and preserves for the use of the ocean-wanderers who may chance to put in there, either for safety or for provisions. The Franklin, an American Whaler, anchored just beside us, when off went those "dusky doves" of the island, to give the Yankees a turn, having transacted their business with us, with the utmost coolness and nonchalance. The canoe with the nymphs was no sooner alongside our ship, than up they

came, scrambling over the ship's side any how, anywhere, tumbling down over the rail, and walking about, as if the vessel was all their own, and they had the greatest quantity possible of business to perform. Some of those *Ebony Eves*—not like our friend Baily's, that *deesse* of art—were clothed in a sack-shaped garment of blue printed calico; others had mats—*Cockatoos*—blankets, and some only a portion of one of these articles. I must say that they were not over-prepossessing in their appearance, and by no means a fair sample of the South-sea Island-nymphs; nevertheless, it was highly amusing to see "Jack" turning and twisting them about, and making his selection. These nymphs mostly belong to the chief, who receives a blanket or so by way of compensation, for any services that they may have rendered; in addition to which they pick up a trifle for themselves.

Little is known of this Mungonutie, and only about four respectable white settlers live on the island. On the shores of the harbour

there are a few grog-shopkeepers, and some drunken and reprobate labourers, such as sawyers, helpers, &c. Three families are settled here from Adelaide, having left that settlement in consequence of the excessive dearness of everything in the shape of provisions, of which they gave a most miserable account; but I find by experience, that such testimony of the value of localities is not to be relied upon, so much depending upon individual ability and enterprise, whether a place is esteemed good or bad. While our ship anchored in this harbour, I endeavoured to see as much of the island as possible, and made the most of my time. There are two small rivers, which empty themselves into the Bay, almost close to where we lay; and another five or six miles to the northward, but much larger. I went up these rivers six or eight times, as far as the boat would go, and should conclude that it would be a capital place for an emigrant to settle at—from its fine timber, evidently suited to almost every

purpose, its extensive tracts which are ready for the plough or the spade, and others equally rich, which only require the fern to be burnt off, to render them highly productive. There is a fine, black, loamy soil—the *debris* of thousands of years of decayed vegetable matter—with which a little skilful industry on the part of man, would make a smiling garden. The natives had numerous patches of land, producing maize, potatoes, water-melons, shallots, &c., and all appeared in the most exuberant state. The climate is infinitely superior to any that I know of in the whole circuit of New Holland; and the rains are genial, mild, and abundant. The natives are active, intelligent, and well-behaved; and would, to a great extent, if under proper treatment, supply the Emigrant with what he so much desires, and is so much talked of in all the colonies—namely, a *sufficiency of labourers*. Many of the natives are excellent sawyers; and some of them on the West Coast, have learned several trades; so different is their disposition to the lazy, crafty

New Hollander, whom I shall describe when I touch upon Swan River, and other points of the Continent which I have visited. All along the Eastern Coast there are numerous creeks and harbours for coasting craft; with a small capital, and a little skill and industry, an emigrant on this island would rapidly progress, as compared with other settlements. To tell you the truth, I have purchased about 200 acres of land, which is situated on the river Typat, about five or six miles northward of Mungonutie; and look forward to its becoming a place for building houses upon, as it is just at the mouth of the river, and a native settlement is already near it.

I had made up my mind to purchase land in that quarter, when I left Sydney, from the accounts I had previously heard of it, which were more than confirmed by my own eyes; and had furnished myself with the usual and useful articles for such an undertaking—namely, blankets, cotton prints, powder, shot, double barrellled gun, rifle, soap, shirts,

trousers, etc., etc., all of which are indispensable to the settler. It is possible, from the uncertain state of property there at present, that I may never possess it: nevertheless, I thought the risk not great, and the prospect highly advantageous, when I made the purchase, and do not regret it. There are two native houses on the estate at present—they will make capital pig-styes. Some of the huts of the natives are large, warm, and not badly put together; and one old chief, whom I visited at a place called Orudee, had a very comfortable hut, with a verandah and two windows, in which he was stowed away at his ease. When I arrived, the old chief, and his fat wife, were enjoying themselves outside the house, and, as the latter had taken just enough grog to make her feel funny, it was highly amusing to observe her deportment to her spouse and to ourselves. This lady had done us the honour to visit our ship in the morning, and, as a matter of course, we returned the compliment in the afternoon.

They made us very welcome ; wanted us to stop all night, and would insist upon killing a pig—a great compliment, by the bye, to strangers. The “lady” produced her spirits, which was what we call “white face,” or “Yankee Particular ;” sent her slave for water melons, and brought out her best *mat* for us to recline upon under the verandah, at the same time, making me sit close beside her.

During the whole of my stay here, the ship was crowded with natives ; each seaman had his wife, and our crew numbered thirty-two, and these wives their friends. They used, all of them, to sit on the taffrail bowsprit, night-head, or on the top of the “try works,” and sing a curious song, which they frequently composed from the passing incidents. They were very clever and showed great dexterity in that sort of amusement. These women were also fond of a game, at which two only could play ; which consisted in performing a motion with the fingers and hands, at which both must keep

time. They would play at this game for hours together! and when they left us, to go on a visit to the Yankee ship anchored close by, we could see them sitting on the hurricane-house, and almost all parts of the ship, amusing themselves in this manner. Fish were most plentiful in the Bay, and it was highly amusing to set the black girls to fish over our stern, which they delighted to do, as it was a novelty for them. While we stopped there, our crew were at work every day, taking in wood and water, and getting drunk—indeed, I may safely say that they were all drunk from the day we cast anchor, till we were out to sea again—and heartily sick of it was your humble servant, I can assure you.

CHAPTER VIII.

AT SEA.—THERMOMETER IN MY BERTH TO-DAY
84° LAT. 3 MILES SOUTH—EAST LONGITUDE
177° 12'

I HAD just commenced writing to you, some days since, when “spouts” were hailed from the mast-head, the boats were instantly lowered, and all hands at their post, so that I was obliged to lay down my pen, and hurry on deck to take my part in the business. In the course of the day, we had three whales alongside ; and, with little intermission, have been taking in

whales ever since, having stowed down, in a very short space of time, nearly £4,000 of oil, at the present market price. There is great excitement and bustle while the game lasts, and a great deal of dirt and work after it is over; but I have little to do with the latter, except to mind the "try pots," and prevent the oil running too rapidly into the "coolers," which it is apt to do if the heat is kept up at too furious a pitch. But, before I give you a description of my scenes and adventures since I last wrote to you, permit me to observe that I have met with a somewhat serious accident, which very nearly prevented me writing to you again—for some time at least. I nearly cut off two of my right-hand fingers, and have just removed the bandage to take up my pen; but I find them so stiff and cramped that I am fearful you will scarcely be able to read my writing, so difficult do I find it to use them in any way. We had hoisted on deck the jaw of a large whale, measuring about

seventeen feet in length, which contained some very fine teeth; as all hands were busy in cutting them out, I took up a boat-knife to assist them, and began cutting away like the rest. The teeth of the whale are imbedded in a tough, white, resisting substance, and it requires some dexterity of hand and knife to cut them out cleanly from their sockets; while I was forcing the knife round a large tooth, my hand slipped over the handle, which was covered with oily matter, on to the sharp blade which cut right to the bone of my little finger, and nearly through the joint of the next, for I was grasping pretty tightly the handle of the knife. The wound healed rapidly; but I have no feeling in the last joint of the little finger, and very little in the next, as the nerve is completely divided, so I have lost all power of moving the joints of either of them.

In my last letter I endeavoured to describe the treatment which we met with in the Island of Mangonutie, and ended with an ac-

count of the confusion and noise on board our vessel, occasioned by the women leaving, our sailors almost all drunk, and bidding a mawkish adieu to the dark "fair ones," who had been so generous in bestowing their favours upon them; some of the native chiefs trading for pigs and potatoes, while others were buying muskets and cotton goods, to say nothing of the bustle and shouting of the natives in their canoes, who came alongside our ship, either to barter or beg; the rafting of casks, and the stowing away of wood and provisions, so that I was heartily glad to get clear of the place altogether.

But I must be permitted to indulge in a few more remarks on the scenes and incidents which I observed in that beautiful island, so as to make my narrative complete in all its parts. Some of the chiefs were tattooed in a most remarkable manner; and amongst the rest "Jacky," or "wide awake," the fellow who came off with the sable "mob" to our ship,

when we first sighted the island. The face of the latter was lined in every direction, and with great regularity ; and, altogether, he presented the best specimen of tattooing that I ever beheld. "Jackey" was about the middle size ; very firm and well set in his appearance, his features were good and regular, and his manner, altogether, had the air of a melo-dramatic "swell" on the stage, so awfully fierce and energetic were some of his movements. He was an off-shoot of the warrior tribes of New Zealand, and prided himself on his great qualities in that respect. Sometimes he would come on deck, with no other covering than an old tattered shirt ; while at others, he would sport a pair of clean duck trousers, a showy handkerchief round his neck, and his hair well-plastered, and glistening, with oil. Many of these men were tattooed all over their thighs, as well as their faces ; and most of the women were marked about the lips in characters of a deep blue

tint, which gave a singular appearance to their otherwise not badly formed features; but, both men and women had a large hole bored in each ear, through one of which they stuck the stem of their tobacco-pipe, while the other was generally decorated with the tooth of the tiger-shark, suspended to a black ribbon, and ornamented with red sealing wax. Both sexes seemed blessed with a luxuriant head of hair, but greatly varying in quality, and in quantity, also; some of them exhibited the frizly texture, while others were of the gently waving, as though they had indulged in "Rowland's Macassar" all their life-time. Some of the white settlers urgently requested me to stay in the island, as there was no disciple of Esculapius within some hundred miles of them; while one old chief solemnly declared that I should never want either "pigs or potatoes," would I but consent to live among them.

I left the island with considerable regret.

When we had got our men together, discharged their "wives," and their grog-bills, we weighed anchor, and stood out to sea—sighting Curtis's Island, and passing another which seemed uninhabited, except by goats. It was our intention to have touched at Navigator's Island, to procure yams and pigs, but we had such a continuance of foul winds, that we were blown much more to the eastward than we wished; but, shortly afterwards, I landed at a small Island, mentioned by Cook, called Mangea, against which the surf beat with tremendous force. Several canoes came off to land us, our boats being perfectly useless for that purpose in such a swell; and I could not but admire the rude cunning of the natives in the construction of their craft, which were built with an outrigger to prevent their capsizing, and seemed admirably adapted for those seas. One of the "natives" beckoned me to come ashore in his canoe, which invitation I willingly accepted, and stepped into

it, when he paddled away until he reached the outside of the point where the swell breaks on the coral reefs. There he paused till three good surges had passed; then, taking advantage of the lull, both he and his companions paddled in with all their might, the next surge merely wetting us to the skin, and grounding us on a bar of gravel and shingle, we all jumped out, standing ready for the swell within one hundred yards of the shore, which is bordered with coral rock. There was a crowd of natives waiting our landing, all of whom set up a loud shout when I touched the shore, and conducted me to the house of a native missionary, from Otaheite, where I sat down until all our party should arrive. The people on the island were exceedingly civil, and I may say with justice also, hospitable and ingenious, for we were treated in a somewhat generous manner, and by no means in a mean condition.

The natives were not a large race; they

were brighter and clearer in colour than the New Zealanders, and the expression of their features was somewhat pleasing, and indicated a mildness of disposition seldom met with in a semi-savage race. I dined with the missionary, who had prepared a boiled sucking pig, some yams, bread-fruit *taro*, and sweet potatoes, by way of edibles; while cocoa-nut milk, and lime-juice, served us for drink. I enjoyed my dinner greatly, and was highly amused at the semi-religious and savage-saintism of my host, who talked in quite an *ex-cathedra* tone, simply because he took me to be a thoroughly-ingrained sailor, whom he characterized as more barbarous, in a certain way, than the natives of the islands, to whom he administered spiritual comfort. The next day I had the honour of dining with the "King of the island"—an old man—who entertained me in a similar manner to the missionary, except that he served up to table some roast fowls, which were exceedingly delicious eating.

There seemed a great plenty of the good things of life on the island—turkeys, pigs, ducks, fowls, bananas, and almost every variety of tropical production. The natives are very expert in making straw hats, nets, furs, plaited woman's hair-belts, mats, carved clubs, wooden bowls, and native cloth of various colours and patterns, in many of which articles they exhibit considerable skill. They exchange these various commodities for cotton handkerchiefs, shirts, iron, scissors, needles, thread, tomahawks, soap, and other articles which they require for their use. One of the natives gave me a quantity of native cloth, which they call *Tappe*, because I cured his sore eyes, a disease which prevails to a great extent among them, especially in the younger classes. There is a large church on the island, which I visited; the inside is painted red, white, and black, and there are several carved pieces of work, which evince considerably ingenuity in the architect. The houses are large and lofty,

and are put together without nails, and very strongly and ingeniously lashed at the joints; and the better sort are carved and painted to even a sumptuous degree, considering the nature and condition of the place. The females are clean and tidy in their appearance; and many of them exceedingly good looking—simply clothing themselves in a scanty piece of native cloth, except the better sort, whose clothing partakes of more ample dimensions, although composed of the same materials. As I walked about the island the people followed me in crowds, gaping and staring in apparent wonderment, while the little boys and girls tried to touch my hands, looking up in my face, and rubbing my legs, and feeling down my back—sometimes giving me a poke, to see, apparently, if it was all right, and flesh and blood, like themselves—and on my turning round to see what was the matter, away they would scamper in all directions, which afforded me a great deal of amusement.

It was late before we had collected our three boat's crews, who had been purchasing commodities, and amusing themselves as well as they could among the natives. I was then shoved off in the same canoe which landed me; and, after being nearly capsized, and getting a good wetting in the surf, I reached our boat, which was lying off to avoid the breakers. I had scarcely left the canoe when it was over-set, and the five natives were swimming and chattering away at a furious rate; but our people took no notice of them, and never moved an oar, so accustomed were they to see the Islanders in the water, and apparently in the most dangerous plight. While our men were arranging the cargo of fruits and livestock, which we were to take on board, I watched the natives extricating themselves from their difficulty, and was highly amused to see them pattering about the surf, and shoving their canoe to the shore. These islanders are expert swimmers, and seem quite at home in

the water, where an ordinary swimmer could scarcely exist; and I remember seeing one native, breaking his way through the surf, and swimming towards our ship, which was at least five miles off, with something in his hand, which he held above the water to keep dry; and, when tired with holding it in one position, changed hands, still keeping it above his head, that it should not be damaged, intending it for barter or sale. The ship, however, had braced up her main-yard, and was going through the water when he was about half-way, which, when he perceived it, caused him to return to the island, still holding his commodity above his head. Before we had arranged our cargo it became quite dark, and no one could see the ship, which was lying off at a great distance; and, to make matters as bad as possible, no one had taking her bearings, but almost every man differed in opinion as to her "where-about," so that we were compelled, as it were, to grope our way over the waters, which with

our living and dead stock was no sinecure; nevertheless, we reached her in the 'course of the night, and glad enough we were *to get to what seemed our home.*

After leaving Mangea, we steered for a small island called Whylotacke, sighted Harvey's Island, which is said to be uninhabited at the present time, although there were people upon it when Cook landed there; and after two nights and a day-and-half's sailing, we reached the former, when we sent two boats ashore to procure yams for sea-stock, which we found both plentiful and cheap. The island produces bananas, bread-fruit, *taro*, tobacco, limes, pumpkins, water-melons, and other rich fruits and vegetables; besides pigs, fowls and turkeys, all of which were in excellent condition, and proved very agreeable eating. Mr. Riley, an English Missionary, resides there, for the praiseworthy purpose of converting the heathenish natives to Christianity; but, how far he has progressed in his holy en-

terprise, I am incompetent to give an opinion, therefore shall content myself with simply relating what I saw, and leave you to infer the precise condition of his progress. I learnt that Mr. Riley came out in the Missionary brig, Camden, in company with poor Williams, who was so cruelly murdered at Eromango, by the savage natives of that island; and many singular stories are told of the humbug and duplicity of both missionaries and natives—the one wishing to believe that they had made converts, by way of gratifying their vanity, in swelling their own importance in the eyes of the home authorities; the other dissembling, in the most artful manner, and pretending to embrace the doctrines of the missionary, by way of serving some cunning purpose, or acquiring some paltry gain. I could fill a page with the artful dodges which are practised on both sides, as little creditable to the pretended piety of the one, as it is indicative of the low cunning of the other.

As soon as I landed I made enquiries for Mr. Riley, for whom I had brought a letter from Mangea, and was told that I should find him at church, where he was performing divine service, although on a week-day, which struck me as being somewhat extra-pious; but upon further enquiry, I also learned, that the natives were seldom occupied steadily in their pursuits for many days together, therefore had a great deal of idle time on their hands, which caused the missionary to preach a few extra sermons, by way of keeping them up to the mark, and preventing them from sliding down the declivity upon which, with much praiseworthy perseverance, and pious energy, he had contrived to raise them. I soon made my way there, and found the little*

* We should sincerely regret if any inference unfavourable to the Missionaries in the South Seas were drawn from the above remarks, as we deeply venerate their character, and can bear testimony to the value of their services. The Missionaries have

man peppering out the service to his numerous and *dingy* congregation, in a somewhat smart and fluent manner; but thinking, perhaps, that my presence—a white man, and a stranger, togged in sailor's costume—would distract the attention of his hearers, if it did not disconcert himself, I withdrew until the service was over, and then delivered my letter in *propria personâ* to Mr. Riley, as he came out of the church. Our mate was with me, and we waited outside the church for some time, taking a view of the surrounding scene, which was peculiarly interesting from the religious

done much to humanize the savage islanders, and prepare them for a higher state of civilization; and the sacrifices which many of the former have made to carry out their sacred purpose, may be classed in the choicest category of human martyrdom. We have no desire to make exceptions, but must give our testimony to the great services which the Wesleyan Missionaries have rendered in the cause of progress and civilization, especially in the Southern Seas.

associations with one's native land. The tune sung by the natives at the conclusion of the service, although in a nasal and conventicle tone, reminded me of many a chaunt which I had heard in my youthful days at home, and threw my mind into a melancholy mood, which seemed, for the moment, like a sweet dream of the past—and that even here, in this lone and remote island of the ocean, the holy and benign influences of religion were beginning to be felt.

While we were waiting, a shower of rain came on, which caused us to seek shelter in the hut of a native close by, the owner of which brought us a mat to sit down upon, and began questioning us about "this and that," in his broken English, as though he were intent on turning a penny, either by direct sale or by barter. When the "*darky*" learned that our mate had given "two needles" for his straw hat at Mangea, which he had in his hand, he held up his hands in astonishment, and laughed

heartily at the idea of his being so egregiously cheated by bartering the article at so dear a rate. At length, the congregation came out, and many of them saluted me, as they passed, with "Your honour, Bo," this being the common "good morning, fine day," of these islanders; and almost all seemed as decorous and devout as they possibly could be, considering the sunny nature of their skins, the warmth of their blood, and their strong animal passions, which, in spite of the thick covering of continual devotion which had been impressed upon them, peeped out in their sly, slanting, and laughing eyes. Many of the women wore bonnets, and the favourite trimming seemed to be a bit of red rag, which they had obtained from the sailors; therefore, a soldier's red coat, and a sailor's flannel shirt, if torn into shreds, would be valuable at Whylotacke, and command a considerable amount of produce in exchange. I paid a visit to the missionary's house, which was a large and lofty building,

but somewhat rude in shape; the walls of which were composed of coral rock, the natives having erected the whole building at their own expense. The church, also, is very large, considering the number of inhabitants to be accommodated; but coolness, and not space, is what is generally required in public buildings in these islands—hence their apparent disproportion to the domestic huts of the natives. Mr. Riley is a deliberate, smooth-faced and precise little man, with a white shirt and tie scrupulously clean, and neatly put on; a light blue dressing-gown was wrapped negligently round his person—a dressing-gown in the pulpit! new fashion that, thought I—and he walked along in as prudish and pedantic a manner, as any provincial pedagogue would have done among his squad of unruly boys. Mrs. Riley was no great shakes, so I shall pass her over at once; although I ought not to forget that she treated us with some delicious milk and oranges—the former, we learnt, was

from a cow and two heifers which the missionary had contrived to pick up among his English friends, and nurtured on the island. While we were seated on the sofa at Mr. Riley's, and fanned by a native girl, the judge of the island, two fat female Otaheitans, old servants of Mr. R., and several other natives, squatted themselves on the floor in a semi-circle around us, and seemed to take great interest in our conversation. Altogether, the scene was highly amusing, and I shall never forget it. Mr. Riley told me that he had experienced great difficulty in reclaiming the natives, and that a large party called the "Tutiony," or opposition-mob, still held out against his instruction and ministration, and resolutely adhered to their heathenish customs. The judge of the island, learning that I was a surgeon, or one skilled in the use of medicine, particularly wished to have me tattooed, with the view of inducing me to stay there; and the venerable chief actually spoke to Mr.

Riley on the subject, thinking that he might persuade me to adopt that course. I made the old gentleman a present of a bundle of Epsom salts, for which he seemed extremely grateful; and taking my leave of the missionary and his pious, but, apparently, prudish wife, I bade adieu to the island. As we made our way to the shore, where the barter and trading was going on, we were followed by three or four nice, plump, laughing girls, who were joined by others, until there was quite a mob of them, all playing the same tricks, exhibiting the same wonderment, and full of the same savage wantonness, which we observed in the islanders of Mangea; but they were perfectly harmless, and only wished to indulge in a little innocent curiosity at the expense of our convenience, but by no means against our will and pleasure. I must not omit to mention the visit which I paid to the "old king" of the island, whom I found greatly advanced in years, his eyes being nearly

clouded by his white, shaggy eye-brows; his hair was short, grizzly, and frosted with age, and his harsh, crabbed, and dried-up countenance, exhibited all the phases of impotent cunning, and used-up duplicity. When I entered his house he requested me to take a seat upon an old sofa, by his side, which had a table before it, with certain fruits upon it, some of which I gladly partook, and made "his majesty" a present of some medicine in the shape of a few bundles of Epsom salts, in return for which he seemed highly grateful; but, on taking my departure, I observed a native girl, who was weeping bitterly, with her hands and feet confined in a wooden structure, something like the old stocks in the country towns of England, and altogether she presented a very melancholy and pitiable appearance. I inquired the cause of such treatment, which appeared cruel in the extreme, when I was informed that the old chief had turned missionary, and had married the girl—and, in

short, that she was compelled by missionary law to sacrifice her young and blooming beauty to an old man, contrary to her notions, her education, such as it was, and all the associations and customs of her companions, at the same age of life. Mr. Riley had married them; had converted his "majesty;" had made him a good christian, by confining him to one wife, and as the old gentleman could not treat her in a manner suitable to her age, her wishes, and the notions in which she had been reared before missionaries or single-blessedness, in the shape of one wife, had set its foot on the island, it seemed the height of cruelty to sacrifice that young being to an old and infatuated dotard—yet so it was. The fact was that the young and beautiful islander had violated the marriage vow; and she was suffering for her guilt at the instance of the missionary, as I understood, and, certainly, according to the wishes of the jealous old chief. There she sat—that prepossessing creature,

in all the fulness and freshness of youth and age; her long, dark hair flowing to her waist in waving curls; her bright and beautiful eyes shining from beneath her smooth and well-turned forehead; and, from my soul, I pitied her. The features of that young creature were singularly fascinating; her skin was clear, and her general expression was mild and pleasing; and her feet and hands were particularly small and well-formed, a peculiarity, by-the-bye, which I observed in almost all the females on that island.

When we had finished our bartering with the natives, for yams, pigs, ducks, fowls, turkeys, and potatoes, for which we gave them boat-axes, blue cotton prints, and dungaree, and had stowed all away in the boats, we shoved off, and were soon outside the reef of rocks and aboard, the ship having beat in pretty close to shore. The yards were instantly squared, the mainsacks brought aboard, and in an hour we lost sight of that pleasant little

island, and stood away to the north. We intended to touch at Palmerston Island, to take in cocoa nuts for our live-stock, thinking it was uninhabited as it used to be; but hearing that some white men were there, and not of the best character, we declined, although it abounds in nuts and fruits, which we greatly stood in need of at that time.

CHAPTER IX.

SANDWICH ISLANDS, OAHU.

WE put in here to obtain provisions, after a long, dreary, and profitless voyage to the northern latitudes of the Pacific, having sought the "field" of whales, which we heard of when down at Mangea, in vain; for this was one of the chances of war to which we wandering whalers are subject, and often have to cruise three or four months, with a man at each mast head on the look-out, without the cheering sight of a single fish. Indeed, we

ought to have been cruizing more to the southward, as the whale-herd had migrated to that quarter, according to their natural instincts, in search of the food which was there in abundance—the insects blown off the immense tracts of land which are washed by the Pacific, forming a glutinous mass which floats with the periodical currents; but, as our captain wished to do a little business on his own account, he too readily listened to the reports of others, and the more so, as they tallied with his own interested views.

After touching at numbers of the small islands which, within a few hundred leagues, stud the great basin of the Pacific—sometimes to exchange articles of trade for native produce, at others, to take in provisions solely—we traversed the greater portion of the 49th and 50th degrees of North latitude without catching a single fish, and found ourselves at Vancouver's Island, as rich as when we left port, as regards the real object of our voyage.

We lay to in the harbours of the latter island for nearly six weeks, in and out; and had many opportunities of viewing its condition, which, in many respects, was highly interesting. The principal portion of the Islanders are Indians, belonging to different tribes, who hunt the fur-animals, and dispose of their produce to the Hudson's Bay Company; few of the inhabitants being addicted to steady and stationary industry, except some old semi-civilized hunters and half-cast Americans, who till the land, and dispose of the produce principally to the Sandwich Islanders and the few ships that frequent those distant seas in search of the whale. The Hudson's Bay Company have an agricultural establishment on the southern point of the island, where they cultivate most of the productions which are common to the climate of England, to supply the posts of their fur hunters, farther north, with provisions, instead of importing them from the western coast of America, and the distant

islands of the Pacific, as well as some of them, as formerly, from this country. They have also built a fort called *Victoria*, to protect the property of the establishment from the thievish incursions of the Indians, who are not over scrupulous as to whom they plunder when the cravings of want are strong upon them. As we sailed down the straits of *San Juan de Fuca*, at the south eastern point of which the Victoria Fort is built, we observed two vessels, principally laden with corn, destined for the islands of the Pacific, the Vancouver settlers carrying on a considerable trade with the latter, but mostly in the shape of barter—the former exporting corn, pigs, potatoes, and dried fish; receiving in return sugar, pepper, dried woods, honey and spices, most of which ultimately find their way to the European markets. There are also some fish-curing depôts, at which we purchased dried salmon in a remarkably fine condition, and at a very reasonable rate; that kind of fish migrating

in immense shoals, at certain periods, all along the north western coast of the Continent of America, and caught in abundance as it ascends the fresh-water streams to spawn. The sturgeon is also caught and cured, and proves a very agreeable dish after a long sea-voyage. Vancouver's Island is about three hundred miles long and fifty broad, and is said to abound in minerals of the most useful description; especially in copper and lead, the former jutting out of the rocks in many places and apparently in large quantities; lead is also plentiful, and the specimens extracted were of an excellent kind. Coal is found in abundance, especially on the north-eastern portion of the island, and is seen distinctly on the open beach, extending over the space of a mile in length, having been laid bare by the washing of the sea, which in the course of time has evidently frittered away the overlaying mould and sandstone. The Indians dig the coal, and transport it to the ships, at a very trifling ex-

pense; and the mineral burns bright, exuding a good heat, being strongly impregnated with a bituminous matter.

The timber is exceedingly luxuriant, especially in the northern portions of the island; such as pine, spruce, red and white oak, ash, cedar, arbutus, poplar, maple, willow, and yew, all of which are more or less abundant, the cedar and pine attaining an immense size. Limestone may be easily excavated, and fit for the most useful purposes. The climate is considered mild and pleasant, and not subject to any extraordinary changes, from local causes, which obtain in many places in the same latitude; and the capabilities of the soil for agricultural purposes have proved great, being composed the most part of two varieties—a dark vegetable mould of considerable depth, and a mixture of the latter with a greyish, clayey loam, upon both of which vegetation is rampant and luxurious. The island is not subject to the damp fogs which prevail along

the coast in lower latitudes, especially in Upper California, which are blown from the ocean, and stunt down, even when they have not sufficient power to blight, the cereal crops. The potatoe grows to an enormous size, and seems to thrive most luxuriantly on the island; the Indians having large patches under cultivation, which frequently serve them for food, when the hunting-season is not on, or not so productive as they expect.

The natives, for the most part, are a fine race of men, have their faces tattooed according to the savage rites of their respective tribes; are excessively fond of ardent spirits, for which they will exchange their very souls if possible; not indifferent to beads, pins, or anything in the shape of metals in a manufactured state; are industrious and friendly, but cannot possibly abstain from thieving whenever the slightest opportunity presents itself.

Having stored ourselves amply with provisions, and our captain done his utmost to

turn a penny on his own account, which was not always in unison with the interests of the owners of the vessel, nor of the crew, we left the island for the south, and kept coasting along for some days, until we stood in for Mendocino, a cape on the Coast of Upper California. But, before we could reach it, the wind changed, and we again stood out for sea, still steering for the south; when, after a few days' fishing, in which we were unexpectedly successful, having stowed away a couple of whales, we sailed for San Francisco,* with the view of recruiting our stock of water and provisions.

As the tide sets in heavily at certain changes of the moon in the deep channel leading to the Bay of San Francisco, we were obliged to steer the vessel steadily in one direction, so as to avoid the strong eddies on either side of the stream. The Bay is one of the finest and

* Vide Appendix.

most capacious in the world, not excepting Sydney Cove, and a thousand vessels could ride at ease in its deep basins which widen out and stretch far into the land north and south beyond the point where we cast anchor.

There were several ships in the harbour besides ours; some of them for trading purposes from New York and Boston, with their floating retail-shops of dry goods, trinkets, and wearing apparel, the latter especially adapted to the habits and climate of the country; others were there for repairs, and for recruiting their stock of provisions and water, like ourselves; and almost all their crews became alike noisy, drunken, and quarrelsome, which made it anything but agreeable to be in their neighbourhood even, much less their company, as we were sometimes compelled to be. The town of San Franciscos lies on the southern extremity of the channel which leads to the Bay, and vessels may anchor almost close to

shore with perfect safety. The passage to the latter is about two miles in width, bounded by steep basaltic rocks, and the tide is sufficient, as we have already observed, to carry you in without the wind being in your favour. The Bay extends about twenty miles N. E., and about thirty miles S. W.; the northern part narrowing to a passage which opens into a basin about ten miles wide, called San Pablo, and a second pass unites this basin with another, into which most of the great rivers empty themselves. The favourite anchoring place for whalers is called San Salito, opposite to Yerba Buena, where fresh water and provisions can be readily obtained. There are several islands in the Bay of Franciscos, the largest lying in the northern part of the first basin, and is easily distinguished, even from the ocean; the next in size is opposite to the town of Yerba Buena, and is the habitation of goats, birds, and game, being covered with wood and wild pasturage.

There are a few merchants in the town, some poor Indians, a few half-caste Spaniards, and here and there an old friar strolling about; the dwellings, for the most part, are miserable, being built of *adobes* or unburnt bricks, for the better kind of houses, while the meaner huts are simply composed of rough poles, covered with dry grass, having a small aperture for the entrance. The climate is beautiful, except some dense fogs which come steaming off the ocean at certain seasons of the year, but they do not extend far inwards; in other respects the atmosphere is pure, clear and invigorating—bracing up the nerves to a most healthy tension, and imparting an elasticity to the limb, which is only occasionally felt in the more temperate regions of the globe. The land all round San Franciscos seems highly productive, and requires but little cultivation; judging by the indolent habits, and the lazy movements of the inhabitants, who appear, in that particular respect, to take things very

easy. The wheat is sown broad cast on the land when it has been sufficiently ploughed and crossed; the latter being occasioned by the construction of the plough which cannot cut up and turn over a furrow as with us, but simply leaves a rut, therefore the soil must be broken by repeated crossings, before it is capable of receiving the seed. The land is prepared in the same way for the maize, oats being little cultivated, although in some parts they grow wild and luxuriant—so at least I have been informed by parties well acquainted with the interior of the country. In many parts of California they are obliged to irrigate the land to produce corn, but round San Francisco the rains and dews are sufficient for that purpose. The same remark will apply, doubtless, to the rich valleys lying between the two great mountainous chains which run from North to South, and are parallel with the line of the coast. Barley is cultivated in comparatively small quantities, as it only serves for

food to the horses, distillation from this grain being unknown. The price of wheat is about two dollars the *fanega*, or 1*l.* 5*s.* the English quarter, and maize at 1½ dollar, or 1*l.* per quarter. Barley is about the same price as wheat, the latter being mostly cultivated. Clover is also grown, and serves as excellent fodder for the cattle; and flax is found in a wild state, the Indians using it for their nets and ropes. Vegetables of almost every description we found in abundance, and exceedingly cheap; potatoes, beetroot, onions, carrots, beans—besides fruits of almost all kinds, such as apples, pears, peaches, melons, grapes, plums, cherries, figs, oranges, and pomegranates, were offered at an extremely cheap rate, and most excellent in quality. Many of these fruits, we were credibly informed, grew wild, especially the strawberry and the grape, the former attaining an extraordinary size, and deliciously sweet in flavour.

But the principal occupation of the Cali-

forians, and the foreign settlers, must be in rearing cattle, which not only supply them with meat, but also yield a profitable return from their hides and tallow. These cattle are comparatively wild, roaming at will in the immense praries which are covered with vegetation, or in the rich valleys watered by the numerous streams, which lie between the great mountain chains of the *Sierra Nevada* and the *Rocky* range. Judging by the price of skins, which were heaped up in huge piles ready for shipment, with that of animal food, it might reasonably be inferred that the herds of cattle must be very numerous, and in excellent condition. The management of the dairy is almost unknown among the natives; cheese and butter being procurable only from the foreign settlers. The pigs are fatted for their lard, of which a large quantity is exported; while the sheep does not seem so plentiful, nor so much prized, although, with an improvement of the breed, it would prove more profitable, in their

rich pasturage, than either the ox or the pig.

The population is a strange mixture of Mexicans, Germans, Americans, and English; the first are proud, ignorant, and lazy; the second, as far as we could learn and observe, are quiet, laborious, and intelligent; while the latter partake of their national characteristics—industrious and dominating, according to the peculiarities of their disposition and education. The Indians are quiet and docile; lazily disposed, and scarcely fit for continuous industry—their wild habits and roving spirit being utterly inimical to such a condition of existence.

We left San Francisco with regret, having experienced a more than ordinary amount of courtesy and kindness, both by the Americans and our own countrymen; and our captain had made up his mind to put in there on his return from the south, had he not been prevented by the “winds and the waves,” whose

mandates no sailing vessel dares dispute, and to which we were obliged to submit, although much against our inclinations. As we cleared the harbour and stood out at sea, with the intention of steering southwards, we soon found that it would be useless to attempt it, as the southeast wind, which blows with such terrific violence up the Pacific, had set in somewhat earlier than usual, and compelled us to take a nor-westerly course. At length, drifting about for some days—sometimes in a calm, sometimes in a storm—and constantly on the “look-out” for our game, which, by-the-bye, seldom appeared, we found ourselves off the Sandwich Islands, after sweeping over half the Pacific; and, as we had lost a mast, and otherwise damaged our vessel, we made up our minds to put in the first convenient port, by way of squaring our timbers—as a landsman would say—or, in other words, to put our ship in order, so that she might weather another storm or so before she reached her final destination.

CHAPTER X.

SYDNEY.

I HAVE been sojourning for the last three months at Sydney, not only to purge myself of a little scurvy which I picked up in my last whaling expedition, but also with a view of studying the strange phases of society here, to which, neither in its origin or present condition can any prototype be found in the history of the world. It was precisely on this day sixty years ago that Governor Philip laid the foundations of this now important Colony

at the head of Sydney Cove; and strange, in truth, were the materials which were placed at his disposal. Indeed, there was no idea then of colonizing even at some future time this distant acquisition of the British Crown. The loss of our American Colonies had deprived Great Britain of a place of exile to which she was accustomed to banish those of her sons whose crimes had placed them out of the pale of liberty, and civilization; and New South Wales was, in this predicament, selected simply as a penal settlement for all the roguish depravity which was supposed to be incorrigible at home. This, the first stage of the present colony, has been compared with the early state of ancient Rome, in which the community were nothing more than an association of robbers and outlaws; but, there is this remarkable difference to be observed between them—the robbers and outlaws of ancient Rome were independent and free, while those of New South Wales were in a

state of slavery more rigorous in principle than even negro slavery in the West, because the labour and submission exacted from them was not merely considered by their masters as a right, but as a punishment also, which it was their duty to render effectual, both for retribution and correction.

The great blunder committed in the outset was in endeavouring to construct a community of felons alone, which was to be continually increased by fresh accessions of convicts. The machinery of government, even in its most simple and orderly state, cannot be carried on without hands, and much less in a state of society almost exclusively composed of unruly spirits, who are to be kept under rigid surveillance and coercion, because the local government had no alternative but to select from this very class nearly all its subordinate functionaries. Public works were necessarily filled by those convicts whose better education only rendered them more dangerous as confidential

employés. The frauds and robberies in particular practised upon the government in the timber-yard—that is the *depôt* for the materials and stores belonging to the Office of Public Works—were most enormous and audacious. Every Overseer and Clerk on coming into office at once set about building on his own account with the labour and materials of government; and such was the fellow-feeling amongst the convicts that the practice was very rarely *split* upon, or detected. Some of the largest fortunes now enjoyed in the Colony by *Emancipists*, or their descendants, have no other origin but this.

It was not until the appointment Sir Thomas Brisbane, in 1821, that the tide of free emigration steadily set in for New South Wales, and enabled the government to keep the felon population somewhat more at arms-length. In the course, however, of thirty years, under the system I have alluded to, that class had acquired, as a body, great wealth, and became

inflated with extravagant pretensions. Nor, unfortunately, was the assignment system which was now brought into full vigour, however well calculated in other respects to promote the progress of the Colony, calculated to check the growth of this evil. In fact, it was through the facilities which existed of abusing the assignment system that transportation, instead of conducting the malefactor to a place of punishment, only opened for him a road to fortune; and that we at this day witness the anomaly of the opulence and luxury of a rising Colony being represented by a class, whom our criminal legislation had intended that they should reap nothing from their labours in it, but privation and disgrace.

I am not, however, going to moralize, or philosophize, on this subject; and you will, therefore, merely regard the above observations as necessary to your fully entering into the amusing sketches which the most common-place observer cannot fail to draw from those singular

adventures which have rendered society in Sydney what it now is.

A few words first, however, as to the nature of the assignment system itself. By it all free settlers could command the unpaid labour of as many convicts as they could satisfy the government they were able to employ and subsist, on re-imbursing the Government for the trifling expense of the convict's dresses; and the masters of these assigned convicts had the power of rewarding them for good conduct by recommending them for a ticket of leave. In consequence of these regulations a very different fate was in store for the ignorant convicts from the rural districts of the mother-country, and the better educated criminals from the cities and towns. The former were, of course, selected by settlers in the interior, who, in the event of their proving worthless, returned them upon the hands of the government, to be employed in chain-gangs upon Public Works, and if they proved useful and valuable, never re-

linquished their services until the term of their sentences expired. Not so, however, with your Gentleman-forgers, Cracksmen, Swell-mob-men, &c., who might escape for a ten or fifteen years retirement to Sydney, at the public expense. This class of offenders are usually "fallen angels" from a better sphere of society, and, together with the accomplishments acquired in the earlier and more virtuous portion of their career, bring with them also the unscrupulous cunning which they have imbibed during their rise and progress in crime. This sort of people had very little difficulty in procuring eligible assignments in the Colonial Metropolis; and in most cases proved themselves so useful to their masters, that they could command from them a very early recommendation for a ticket of leave, as the condition of continuing to devote their talents to their service. In frequent instances they would insist, not only upon a ticket of leave, but even upon a *sub rosa* partnership with their

assignee masters, and the latter, for their own interest, were compelled to submit, because, though assignees of the mere manual labour of their convict-servants, they had no power to exact the exercise of their professional skill, or other acquirements, except upon their own terms.

But there was something still more in favour of this class. Your swell-burglars, *fences*, forgers, swindlers, mail-coach robbers, &c., always advised some old hands in the Colony of their coming, so as to have assignees of the *right sort* to apply for them on their landing. These gentry, moreover, always took care before conviction at home to secure the spoils of their *raids* on the public so that they could enter into partnership with their *pseudo* assignees at once, and, frequently, by the time that they underwent the ceremony of *Emancipation*, they were prepared to start a carriage-and-four, and liveried retinue, a town house and a cottage *ornée*, with extensive pleasure-

grounds delightfully overlooking the finest sea-scenery in the world.

It often happened, too, with the highest class of criminals—lawyers, for instance, who had robbed their clients with so much ingenuity that they were not allowed to practise it any longer at home—that the very enormity of the offence was a sure and immediate passport to a much greater degree of affluence here than they could ever have aspired to in their native land. Their fame, as clever practitioners, preceded them, and the incompetent professional men of the Colony were all on the *qui vive* to obtain from Government a preference of their assignment, and to outbid each other with the convicts themselves for their services. I met a man this morning, driving his barouche and pair along George-street, whose history is a fair illustration of the manner in which these gentry get on. His name is *W*——, and he was at one time an attorney of considerable repute and practice in Liverpool. Like many

other clever people, however, who are not content with making respectable fortunes by persevering in their own calling, this man would fain become rapidly rich by secretly entering into speculations alien to his profession ; and, as it mostly happens, he found that he had been throwing away his substance by grasping at shadows. To meet his engagements, and with the hope of retrieving himself, he took to abusing the confidence of his clients, and, ultimately, forged a will, and was sentenced to be transported for life. The dexterity, however, with which he had prevented the fraud from being discovered, for several years, was a theme of general conversation, and the fame of it had reached the Colony before his arrival. A young lawyer named A——, who had previously been destitute of business, was fortunate enough to obtain the assignment of this celebrated rogue, and from that day clients beset his offices in shoals. W——— of course was, under the rose, the *active*, and A—— only the *sleeping*, partner in

the concern; and the former thus jumped into a vastly more lucrative business, on the strength of his bad character, than he had enjoyed at home on the strength of a good one.

There was also another dodge, which was the more remarkable, because it was generally connived at by the authorities; but, as before, I had better give you an example, than a description, of it. A Jew in Petticoat Lane, who had been a notorious *fence* for years in London, at last carried his pitcher to the well once too often—in short he was *nabbed* and *lagged*. From the first he was quite aware that the scene of his future destiny would be laid in New South Wales; and he set about providing for the change in the most business-like way imaginable. He realized all he possessed, and had it placed to the account of his wife in one of the Sydney banks; and the day after he received his sentence, sent her forward to the colony to be ready for his arrival. Immediately upon his landing, his

better half was ready with a petition to the Governor to have him assigned to her as a convict servant, and, as she had qualified as an householder, the assignment was made to her as a matter of course. Indeed, a wife, if she had a family of children to back her claim—and if she had not, she could easily borrow three or four brats for the occasion—rarely failed in having her husband assigned to her; and thus the transported felon not only became his own master, but found himself in a place where he could employ the fruits of his past nefarious courses to more advantage than he could have done, had he been allowed to continue his career at home.

The large and rapid fortunes which these gentry have made in Sydney would almost appear fabulous, even in the purlieus of Capel Court during an epidemic mania for speculation. The spectacle of a *millionaire Emancipist* is by no means a *rara avis*; and from five, to twenty, thousand a year may be taken as the

average incomes of the *aristocracy* of that worthy class. Indeed they quite over-top the free and respectable inhabitants; and the exhibition is the more glaring because they endeavour to revenge themselves for the *noli me tangere* of the untainted citizen, by the most ostentatious display of their wealth. You shall count hundreds of carriages-and-four, barouches, landaus, &c. on the race-course at *Five-dock Farm*; and your *cicerone* in giving you an account of their proprietors will only be giving you a catalogue of the most successful *felonry* of the colony. Still, in spite of their display, there is always the meanness of the *parvenu* amongst these gentry; for they will give anything to acquire a footing in the society of the free settlers, whom, at the same time, they appear so ambitious of out-shining. I know an instance of a wealthy emancipist, who had for a long time been endeavouring in vain to induce a respectable draper to lend him his countenance, by taking a seat in his

barouche; despairing at least of being able to scrape an acquaintance with *him*, he turned his attention to a person in the same trade, but in more humble circumstances, over the way. He finally succeeded in corrupting his virtue, and in enrolling one free settler on the list of his acquaintances, by the lavish expenditure of himself and his *emancipist* friends.

It has often struck me that these 'people, who are certainly not endowed with any excess of modesty, so rarely return to dazzle their old friends and enemies at home. I only know one instance of the kind; and if the reception he met with in his native place was generally known, I do not think that it would deter others from following his example. Master P—— was a very large horse-dealer in Lincolnshire, ransacking all the fairs in the United Kingdom for hunters, carriage-horses, and hacks, and, after making them up, disposing of them to great advantage amongst the gentry, within fifty miles of his stables. He

was a master-hand at his craft, and had, notoriously, accumulated considerable wealth; but one luckless, (or, as it ultimately turned out, lucky) day, he happened to sell a horse at a high figure to a gentleman who returned it as unsound, and, as our hero refused to return the money, a series of expensive law-suits was the result, in which he was finally discomfited. Enraged at this issue of his shiftiness, he turned everything he possessed into ready money, and procured a docket of bankruptcy to be struck against him. His opponent, however, stuck to him like a bull-dog, and palpably proving in the Bankruptcy Court that he must have made away with his property to defraud his creditors, he was prosecuted for the offence, convicted of it, and sentenced to transportation for fourteen years.

An assignee master, however—a large *emancipist*, stock and landholder—was ready to apply for him as a convict servant on his arrival, and with a large sum which he had saved

“out of the fire” by “smashing” at home, he purchased a share of his sham-master’s business. Now, although they are very good judges of breeding horses in Australia, they knew nothing of training them to their paces, and making them up for market; and Sam P—— possessed these peculiar qualifications to perfection. Before three years had passed, he and his partner became the largest exporters of chargers to India, where they always commanded enormously high prices, and where the breed* of Master P—— and his partner had already grown high into repute, above all others. At the expiration of eleven years P—— received a full pardon, and he returned home with a large fortune. Instead, however, of sneaking into his native place, like a returned convict, he entered it in an

* The horses on a stock-farm in Australia are all branded with some peculiar mark by the owner when yearlings.

open carriage-and-four to the tune of "See the conquering hero comes," by a couple of braying bugles; and the same evening gave a sumptuous feast to his old neighbours and friends, whose flattering reception of him, I presume, must be imputed to their attributing his return with health and wealth to the interposition of Providence in favour of persecuted innocence! When I last heard of him he was enjoying all the pleasures and sports of a country gentleman's life, within a few miles of the stables which, before he left England, he did not disdain to clean out himself.

But, if the strange fortunes of our male convicts may be called the romance of crime, that term is still more applicable to those of the female convicts. They remained after arriving at Sydney, eight or ten days on board before they landed, during which a portion of them found assignee-masters, and the remainder were then sent to what is called the Factory at Paramatta. Such, also, of those who were

assigned, and did not conduct themselves to the satisfaction of their masters, were returned on the hands of the Government, and sent to the Factory, where they are provided with an abundance of food, without being subject to any labour or discipline, and enjoyed, also, in a range of extensive gardens, all the pleasures of gregarious intercourse. Indeed, the female convicts soon found out that the Factory was the very best market for their charms imaginable. The settlers in the interior are always anxious for the male convict servants marrying; and the latter, when they become free, are equally bent upon matrimony, because, apart from other considerations, a wife and children are of considerable value in the Colony, as indeed they are in all thinly-peopled, grazing, countries. The wife can always command good wages in the same service as her husband; where a boy of ten years of age is as useful in the management of a flock, and of twelve years in the management of stock, as many a grown-

up adult. When one of these Benedicts was on the look out for a spouse, and could not, as he very rarely could, find a mate to pair with near home, he applied to the Factory.* The

* A painful circumstance, in relation to Paramatta, occurred some years ago, and, as it points a moral, by showing that the only romance is in real life, we shall repeat it here. A young man who had been some years in Australia, came up from the Bush as usual to dispose of his produce, and take unto himself a wife ; when he arrived in Sydney, he was advised by his friends to choose his "fair one" from Paramatta, as a fresh importation had recently arrived from England, and women were then scarce in Sydney. Accordingly, he took his way to the Factory, speculating in his mind what kind of being he would be able to select ; when, to his utter astonishment, his own sister was in the file of the women he had to choose from, and the effect upon his mind was so stunning that fatal consequences nearly ensued. At length the young man recovered ; obtained the freedom of his sister by means of a ticket of leave ; and both are represented to have lived happily together, and to have accumulated an easy competence. It is needless to observe that his sister was a convict.

unmarried frail ones were drawn up in a line for inspection; and after examining their points with as much curiosity as if he was about to bargain for a brood-mare, he beckoned with his finger for the one to step forward from the rank, who happened to strike his fancy the best. After a short conference in private, the treaty of marriage was generally agreed upon; and, if not, the amorous adventurer had only to try his luck again and again, until he succeeded in bringing one of the fair *Calistas* to terms.

Indeed, from the moment that the female convicts acquired any knowledge of the convict customs of the Colony, marriage was the subject which pre-occupied all their thoughts.

As soon as the transport-ship arrived at Sydney, they devoted the few days of their *Quarantine* in preparing to make their descent, upon the *natives*, with the greatest possible

effect. Most of them carried out some little finery with them ; but your lady-sinners made their appearance in all the gorgeousness, in which they had been accustomed to tread the *pavé* of Regent Street, or the saloon of old Drury.

Thus decked out, they disembarked to present themselves before their future masters ; and were frequently besieged by captivated suitors even before they arrived at their new habitations. But the assignee-master had the power of “forbidding the banns,” though his obstinacy rarely continued long, for my “lady,” by playing the part of a princess instead of a servant, could soon extort from him her *congè* for the Factory, where the surliness of a master would no longer be a bar to her matrimonial projects.

Bad, however, as all this was, it was infinitely better than that the Colony should be left, as it since has been, almost entirely with-

out a supply of female immigration into the interior. My friend *Onslow*, however, has already enlightened you on this subject, better than I can do, and I will, therefore, conclude with the assurance of my respectful esteem.

CHAPTER XI.

SYDNEY.

I HAVE to thank you for the flattering compliment that not only you (from whose friendship I might expect some little partiality), but the circle also of your private friends, to whom I am a stranger, take great interest in my communications from this part of the world. I will not, however, affect to be surprised that, however homely the style of them, the matter should possess some charms for you denizens of the old world; because I can easily

perceive that the adventures and scenes, and strange conditions of society into which I have been led by my rambling disposition, and which have left such vivid impressions upon me as an observer of, or actor in, them must, even in description, however feeble, have the charm of novelty for those who are languishing for want of excitement, under the jog-trot sameness of civilized and conventional life in the West. Nor will I deny that I derive much pleasure from corresponding with you on these subjects, because it is only when I sit down to recal my experience, and embody it in *litteris scriptis*, that I begin to reflect and philosophise upon it, and to feel that I have not travelled from Dan to Beersheba, and found all barren of useful and entertaining knowledge. Your last, however, contained a request with which I shall not be so foolish as to attempt to comply. You wish me to give you some ideas of "Life in the Bush;" but, personally, I know little of it, except

a ramble or two to the Cow-Pastures, which I have already described, and which, after all, is but the mere fringe of life, and character, and incident, in the "Bush." Nor are any accounts of it to be gathered in the settled districts, (beyond which my erratic star has never led me to penetrate to any extent) at all to be relied upon. Indeed the shop-keeper, or broker, of Sydney knows no more of "Life in the Bush," *ex officio*, than the slop-seller of Portsmouth does, by virtue of cheating *Jack* when on shore, know of life afloat. It is true that the Bushman comes down once a year to Sydney to dispose of the products of the Bush, and to take back provisions and other necessaries in return; but the Bushman in the colonial metropolis is no more like what he is while exerting his unceasing watchfulness and activity in the solitude of the interior, than the seaman who comes to London with his pocket full of money to unbend himself, after the privations and

restraints of ten or twenty months' voyage, is like the same man buffeting, with an eye always to the weather, the winds and waves in the solitude of the ocean. You must recollect, too, that there were no bagmen who travel into the Bush for orders, as they do into the rural districts in England, and hence the most valuable class of anecdote-mongers are wanting to give us even sketchy outlines of the life of a Bushman; and as for your mere book-keeping travellers they know as little of it as a Frenchman would learn of the graziers of Lincolnshire from a Smithfield salesman, who had never been further north than Barnet in his life.

Fortunately, however, though I can tell you little or nothing on this subject of my own knowledge, I am enabled to furnish you with some interesting particulars at second hand. About a month ago I received a long letter from an old friend of mine in the Bush, in answer to one from me which anticipated the

very request contained in yours. I had heard by accident at Sydney that my old hospital *chum*, Charles Onslow, had come out about six years ago, and had proceeded at once into the interior to commence the life of a Bushman. I at once wrote to him to inform him that I also was in this part of the world, and having related my own ups and downs since we had last parted in London, desired that he would in like manner gratify my friendly curiosity as to his own. I enclose his answer, which will sufficiently speak for itself; but it will perhaps be better to preface it by informing you out of what materials this successful and happy Bushman has been made.

Charles Onslow's father was a surgeon, enjoying a first-rate practice in a provincial town, and educated him (he being an only child) to his own profession, with a view of his succeeding at a proper age to the business. He received a tolerably good education—though he was much fonder of stealing a mount upon

one of his father's spare horses than making a hobby of poor Pegasus—and in due time he was sent up to “walk” one of the hospitals in London. It was there that I first met him as a fellow student; and, although our temperaments were strongly contrasted, it was perhaps to that very reason that we became such intimate friends. I was always observing everything, but in a quiet way, whereas, Onslow, though equally ardent to acquire a knowledge of the world, was never happy unless the pursuit of it was productive of some strong and stimulating excitement. You may suppose, therefore, that there was a good deal of that reckless dare-devil about him which does not qualify a young man for gaining favour in that ordinary level of society, where the proprieties are considered to be almost as essential as the virtues. Whether under ordinary circumstances, his tendency to become a scapegrace might not have been checked as maturer age taught him the necessity of not

offending the sober prejudices of the world in which he was about to move, I cannot say ; and his sudden succession, just after he had attained the age of twenty-one, to a fortune of seven thousand pounds by the death of his father, cut off every chance of this problem being solved. What course of life he led for some time after this event, you will be able to infer pretty well from his letter, of which the following is a transcript—

“ My dear ———,

“ I have not experienced so much surprise and delight since I have resided here, *divisus toto orbe* as it were, in the Bush as I did on the receipt of your letter. Not that I have any hankering for the *blasé* old world which I have quitted ; but one cannot refrain from indulging in speculations as to the fate of one’s former friends and companions ; and curiosity is gratified by any

information which enables one to retrace with the mind's eye the scenes of our earlier career, and note the changes which time has wrought in the characters and fortunes of those who once played a part in them. Need I, therefore, repeat that to hear from you, not only the earliest, but I may say the only, friend (of course, I except my father) with whom I ever truly sympathized in my younger days, afforded me inexpressible gratification.

“Nor will *you* wonder, my dear ——, you who know how pleasurable any sort of excitement is to me—that this gratification was greatly heightened by my astonishment on finding that you also should have made a weary pilgrimage to the Antipodes, in search of adventures to satisfy an uneasy spirit, as well as myself. As for me, my impetuosity and my impatience of anything that is stale and conventional, was certain to hurry me, sooner or later, into taking a tangential flight from the centre of civilization into distant and unknown

regions, in search of something natural and new. But for your more quiet temperament, dashed as it is with a sort of semi-professional passion for dissecting human nature, I should have thought that the study of the excrescences which the luxuries and privations of civilization have engendered in the body social of the world in which you were born, would have been sufficient. I should have as soon expected to hear of a curious oyster leaving his 'native' bed at Burnham to examine into the condition of his fellow-creatures in the pearl fisheries of Ceylon, as to hear of your whaling in the Pacific, or philosophizing and trading at Sydney.

"But a truce to these prosy reflections. You wish to know what I have been doing since we parted; and, like a true Bushman, I will dash *in medias res* at once.

"You are aware that just after having attained my majority, and my examination at the 'College,' my father died, leaving me about

seven thousand pounds, and the reversion of his practice. However, it would have been as little desirable as it would have been agreeable for me to start alone in my profession at that early age; and I, therefore, contracted with a medical man of name and standing to take a share in the business, upon the condition that he should manage the whole of it himself for three years, while I was acquiring a little more knowledge and manliness in London. Small, however, was the portion of my time which I devoted thenceforward to Professors and Pharmacopœias. Possessed of so considerable a sum of ready money, and with the best share of a lucrative practice to fall back upon, if that fund should be exhausted, I abandoned myself to the indulgence of my craving for excitement without stint. My first step was to make myself at home at those places of convivial resort—Coal-hole, Cyder-cellars, &c.—where the sons of Apollo and Thespis enjoy their midnight revels, after having gone through the

laborious harmony and forced humour of the stage. But I was soon tired of this sort of thing. The sameness of it, night after night, in a short time only produced that sort of weariness which the musician in an orchestra may be supposed to feel, who is doomed to sit through the performance of the same opera for half a season without change. There was always the same set, and the same 'feast of reason and flow of soul,' until the affair at last became as intolerable as it would be to sit down to the same dish with the same set of faces before you for twelve months together. I therefore looked out for something else, and chance threw me into the 'ring,' and here, for a time, I certainly found a source of more animating excitement. To a medical student the development of physical power in the heroes of the 'ring' is always an interesting study; and besides this branch of 'comparative anatomy,' the science of *Fistiana* presents to the novice seducing opportunities for making

himself practically acquainted with the 'Doctrine of Chances.' In fact, while the amusement to be found at the 'Sporting Houses' of the East and West continued to be racy from its novelty, and heightened by the additional excitement of betting, it was all very well. But the manners of the P.R., which at first attracted from their unsophisticated rudeness, soon disgusted by their revolting coarseness; and even the passion for gambling in such an arena vanished as soon as I discovered that in every match to which I was a party, and in every bet into which I was drawn, I was uniformly planted upon as a victim and a dupe by a set of blackguard sharpers who, while flattering and spunging upon me, were only chuckling in their sleeves at the fat flat who had fallen into their clutches.

"With the change of scene, however, no change took place in the bent of my inclinations. Even the mortification of having been gulled did not efface the pleasing infatuation of

having something worth one's anxiety dependent upon the hazard of events; and I only sought to find what had become the principal charm of my existence in a somewhat more refined sphere. In short, I next sought to dissipate the irksomeness of mental inaction by "roughing" it among the well-dressed (and in many instances, well-bred) black legs of the turf, and the fashionable *rouès* of the second-rate *Hells* in Bury Street, and the Quadrant. But even here the fascination gave way before the satiety of sameness; and so it was in every subsequent stage of "Life of London;" until at last, thoroughly fatigued with the the vain pursuit after a stimulus capable of exhausting the overflow of my animal spirits, I sat down coolly to consider whether I had not adopted a mistaken course for that purpose, from the first."

"I shall never be able, I thought to myself, to keep down these ever-teeming humours of my temperament by such drastics as I have

hitherto been taking to expurgate them. My diseased state of mind requires a medicinal regimen, the basis of which must be more powerful ingredients than any I have hitherto prescribed for myself—and those ingredients are toil, difficulties, and dangers. As soon as this new light broke upon me, I, at first, turned my thoughts to the army; but then, in these piping times of peace, I should be much more likely to find my lot cast in the enervating lethargy of a Colonial barrack, than amidst the exciting apprehensions and aspirations of the march, the retreat, and the battlefield. Then foreign travel, with its surprising discoveries and ever-present perils invited me; but my fortune was no longer adequate for such a life of adventure, as I had barely *fifteen hundred* pounds of my original patrimony left. I had been turning these and other schemes over in my mind without arriving at any satisfactory result for more than a fortnight, when I accidentally alighted upon an amusing article

in one of the Magazines, descriptive of the hardships and enjoyments of life in the Bush of Australia. No fiction of romance ever interested me so much as the startling realities which were there portrayed. EUREKA! I exclaimed, with more rapture than ever astronomer did over the discovery of a long-sought star; and my mind was instantly, and unchangeably, made up to pursue my destiny in the virgin wildernesses of the southern hemisphere. I have said that I had still fifteen hundred pounds left; I disposed of my interest in my late father's business to my partner for another twelve hundred pounds; and in less than ten months I found myself at Sydney, well equipped for a residence in the Bush, and with an account of £2,500 at the Bank of Australia.

“Being a single man, and in rather independent circumstances, I resolved, before finally settling down, to acquire some experience by a tour of observation in the Bush for

a twelve-month. Mounted upon a strong and good-paced horse, and with no other baggage than my arms, which consisted of a musket, a brace of pistols, and an axe, and a knapsack furnished with a blanket, a change of linen, and a supplementary pair of stout, moleskin trousers, behold me crossing the frontier of the narrow belt of sea-board which comprises the settled district of New South Wales. The few necessities I required, such as tea, tobacco, &c., were stowed away in the capacious pockets of my stout, fustian shooting-jacket.

“The appearance of the country before me was, at first, anything but promising; tracts of stunted scrub and stony waste succeeding each other, alternately, for a considerable distance. This cheerless phenomenon, however, did not, as might have been expected, depress me; on the contrary, I never experienced more elasticity of spirit in my life. Of course, I attributed this to the stimulus of the adventures in store for me; but I afterwards learned

to account for it in a much more natural way. Once beyond the taint of the denser haunts of men, the atmosphere of Australia is the most exhilarating in the world; the genial warmth of it not being counteracted, as the similar temperature of India and America, by steaming exhalations from the soil. It is not, however, altogether exempt from the sudden convulsions common to all climes, in which the air is unequally rarified, as I had an opportunity of testing before I had travelled twenty miles into the interior. A tornado suddenly gave evidence of its approaching from the East, by the huge spiral column of dust and leaves, and even branches of trees which seemed to sport madly on the wings of the whirl-wind; in less than two minutes it was upon me, and had not my steed understood the nature of the crisis better than I did, I should certainly have been unhorsed in the very outset of my first trip in the Bush. The sagacious animal turned his head to leeward, and

planting his fore-feet into the ground at an angle, and drawing in his hind quarters at a parallel inclination, opposed the resistance of his whole weight to the fury of the storm, while, by throwing myself forward on his mane, I afforded it as little surface as possible to act upon. In ten minutes it had passed as far to the West as I had first observed it in the East; and, except that I was smothered with dust, I suffered no inconvenience from the rencontre.

“The appearance of the country at last began to improve. Belts of woodland and pasture succeeded to those of scrub and flint; and huts which appeared in the distance like dark spots scattered over the horizon indicated that at this point man had again re-commenced his labours upon the soil. As the sun was now setting, I resolved to stop for the night at the first station in my path, well knowing that, belong to whom it might, I should be hospitably entertained.

“On approaching the hut, I was much struck by its external appearance; for, contrary to what I had been led to expect, it seemed as if the owner had been attempting to give to it something of the air of a sporting-box on the northern Moors of our native land. The hut-keeper, who welcomed our arrival, after informing me that his master had been for some time down at Sydney, conducted me into the hut, the parlour of which, I was surprised to observe, was, though excessively dirty, ornamented with a profusion of guns, saddlery, and other appurtenances, which indicated far greater taste for the rural diversion of old England than for the privations and toils of the Bush. The Major Domo set before me a dish of mutton chops, some *damper*—that is, cakes similar to the short cakes of Lincolnshire, only that they are baked in the hot embers instead of upon a tile—and a large panikin of tea, which I was compelled to sweeten from the stock of sugar I had with

me. But though this was my first taste of Bush fare, I enjoyed it heartily; and not finding my deputy host a very conversible companion, I retired early to rest.

“I learned afterwards that the owner of this “run” was a young man of good family, who had come out with about three thousand pounds, and had purchased it ready fenced and built upon to his hands. His first object was to reconcile his dwelling with the tastes and habits which he had acquired at home; and of which, though they had partially ruined him there, he had not the sense or pluck to divest himself in the very different country of his adoption. He had, as might be expected, been pretty well fleeced in the stocking of his land; and as his continual hankering after the billiard rooms and other gaieties of Sydney, led him to abandon the management of his flocks to a superfluous number of hired servants, everything was going to the devil as fast as possible. In less than a year after my

visit, the whole concern was sold under execution ; and the *exquisite* colonist returned a beggar to his friends in England, who had fondly afforded him this chance of retrieving a dissipated fortune, to abuse the colony, its inhabitants, and everything connected with it.

“ I continued my journey the next morning, the woodlands, and belts of pasture becoming gradually broader and more luxuriant, and the intervals of arid and stony land less frequent. About noon I entered a forest which I had to traverse for about twelve miles ; and here, for the first time, burst upon me all the glories and sublimities of the solitude of the Bush. Solitude indeed it could hardly be called, for never had I seen animated nature so joyous and beautiful before. From every branch the mocking parrot, or coquettish cockatoo, were carrying on their lively mimicry or flirtation ; and, as I rode along, I was amused, without ceasing, by the tricks and evolutions which I could almost fancy these feathered jesters and tumblers were

going through to testify the welcomeness of my visit amongst them. The forest scenery, too, was different from any I had ever beheld before. Though the trees stood as densely as in the forests of Europe, they did not interpose an umbrageous and gloomy canopy between the light of Heaven and the traveller. The leaves presenting their edges, instead of their surfaces, to the sun, the sward beneath appeared like a carpet of golden ground intersected capriciously by dark zigzag lines which, ever varying with the trembling foliage from moment to moment, presented, like the kaleidoscope, a succession of pleasing designs to the eye. Indeed, it was not until I emerged again into the silent and monotonous pasture, beyond, that the sense of being alone returned upon me.

“Once more, at sunset, I pulled up at a hut, and received that invariable greeting which is tendered to every stranger in the Bush. The host, on this occasion, was a stout man, past the middle age, and whom, from his build, you

would at once pronounce as an emigrant farmer from the mother country. Finding that I was a 'new chum'—that is, a new arrival in the Colony—he regretted that he should not be able to 'sleep' me very comfortably, but hoped that I should be able to *plank* it, nevertheless, among the good company with which his hut was then honoured. On entering into the *salle à manger*, he introduced me to nine or ten other visitors who had all casually dropped in, and who were then busily engaged in making scarce the eternal mutton chops, damper, and pannikins of tea. I was soon one of them; and, in spite of the homeliness of our beverage, and the vulgarity of our short and blackened pipes, it was one of the most agreeable evenings I ever spent. To be sure, we had no political discussion, no theatrical criticism, no fashionable scandal, nor even so much as the news of the day wherewith to amuse ourselves; but we had something, to me, infinitely more *piquant*—stories of Bush-ranger's atrocities, of fights

at alarming odds with the Aborigines, of the ravages and hunting down of the native wild dogs, of the mysterious loss and miraculous recovery of whole flocks and herds, and of the perils and disasters of long journeys, with their heavy drays, between the far Bush and Sydney, through almost impassable forests, across precipitous ravines, and swollen rivers, and over swamps and morasses, which threatened to engulph not only wain and oxen, but the horse and his rider. For me, the narratives possessed a more romantic interest than I can describe, and confirmed my sanguine anticipations that here at least I should find adventures sufficiently rapid and stirring to work off the hot blood which 'my mother gave me' to the utter unfitting of me for the dull and unvaried recreations of civilized life.

"As our host could only supply one, or at the most, two of us with a bed by giving up his own, that courtesy was by universal consent awarded to me; but I refused to avail myself

of it; I was eager to commence my life in the Bush in earnest, and therefore persisted in bivouacing for the night with the rest of the party in the wool-shed. Wrapt in my blanket, and stuffing my shooting-jacket into the knapsack to make a pillow, I threw myself upon the floor, and slept a more refreshing sleep than I had ever enjoyed on a bed of down.

“ I arose early the next morning, and had time to look about me before breakfast, as I was anxious to do, in order to contrast the management of a born and bred farmer with that of the “ gentleman” Bushman at whose station I had last sojourned. My inspection greatly disappointed me, for I found as much inactivity, disorder and slovenliness at this station, as at the other. The bullocks had strayed during the night, and the driver and his watchman stood gaping at each other, as if waiting for some inspiration as to the direction in which, like Saul the son of Kish, they ought to seek them; and the good man.

himself seemed to think that he was fully meeting the urgency of the case by lustily swearing that his two trustworthy servants spent the whole of their time in finding the cattle one day, and losing them the next.

“ Not so his guests. No sooner were they made acquainted with his loss, than they were all in their saddles, myself included, and prepared to scour the country round for the recovery of the wanderers. We radiated off in pairs to the different points of the compass, each pair being attended by a rough, Scotch colly, and a bob-tailed, Smithfield lurcher, and armed with those formidable stock-whips, which the wildest bullock, who has once had a taste of her lash, never hears without trembling. Off we went at a spanking gallop, taking no heed of up-hill or down-hill, however steep, and clearing the fallen timber and creeks in our way, at a fly. When we had in this way departed about a couple of miles from the

centre of our movements (the hut), at an understood signal we severally turned short to the right and followed each other rapidly in a circle around it; and the experienced Bushmen, having ascertained that the cattle had not passed this cordon, dispersed themselves over the area within it, to discover in what amphitheatrical valley they were browsing, or to what gulley they had resorted for water. Presently the clang of whips, the short, sharp barking of dogs, above which rose the Bushman's cry of 'Tail 'em! Tail 'em, boys!' which was heard to our right; and, the other parties all making in that direction, we were soon in a body driving the cattle furiously before us at a pace, which no one can conceive who has not witnessed the extraordinary speed of the Australian kine. Never did I enjoy a half-hour's burst behind the most clipping pack of fox-hounds so much, or relish after it a deviled bone and a draught

of old October, more than I did the mutton chop and pannikin of tea, which awaited us after our exploit.

“ The road of one of my new friends not lying very wide from the direction of my own, he kindly offered, in order to show me the nearest route, to see me ten or twelve miles on my way ; and, as we rode at our leisure, I learned from him some particulars respecting our late host, which explained to me the causes why the management of his ‘ Run ’ was, obviously even to me, so very indifferent. He had occupied rather a large sheep-farm in Wiltshire, and finding that his returns did not enable him, with the utmost economy, to face the landlord and the tax-gatherer, without trenching upon his capital, he resolved to emigrate to a land where those unpleasant visitors are unknown. ‘ He came here,’ said my informant, ‘ and took to the ‘ Run ’ he now holds ; but, though he had been living among sheep all his life-time in England, he

was as little calculated for the management of a sheep-farm in the Bush, as if he had not learned the difference between a ewe and a tup. Sheep-farming in England is an occupation over which the grazier and his shepherd may almost go to sleep, except in the lambing-season ; but here a man need have a hundred eyes, and a hundred hands to conduct it successfully. Indeed, here it is a different business altogether, when we have those two curses to contend with, the scab and the wild dog, to say nothing of the wide extent to which our flocks are apt to ramble if not diligently attended to ; and, therefore, the man who comes out here to make his fortune by breeding sheep with the conceit that he knows all about their nature and habits, is sure to make a failure of it, because he will not set about unlearning his old lessons, and learning the little which is peculiarly required for his calling in this country. Our friend, too, made another serious blunder in bringing out with him his very

knowing old shepherd to superintend his flocks, and one of his waggoners to officiate as his principal bullock-driver. A Manchester weaver, or a Birmingham button maker, or a Sheffield grinder, make much better shepherds here, than any born and bred shepherds from England, Scotland, or Wales; because the former have no prejudices to get rid of, while you have to drive (if you can) a host of old notions out of the heads of the latter, before you can drive into them the slightest conception of what they are required to do, and to contend with, in the Bush. Besides, your English farmers, and farm-servants, have been used to so many conveniences that they have no idea of the shifts that must be, and, where there is a resolute will not to be beat, can be made in the Bush; and hence they leave a hundred things undone, which are all material to success, because they have been accustomed not to do them at home. What is wanted here is,

not an European education in agriculture, but an active mind which can apply itself to anything, and which will fish out for itself, not only what, under the peculiar circumstances, is to be done, but how it can be done; and, it is from the want of this quality in our friend and his servants that the management of his 'run' is so slovenly and unsatisfactory as it is.

"I was comforting myself with the reflection that I was at least unencumbered with any previous knowledge of the business to which I was about to devote myself, when my fellow traveller directed my attention to several dark and motionless objects which appeared on our field of view about a furlong out of the line which we were traversing. In reply to his question, what I conceived they might be, I said that I took them for the burnt stumps of trees; upon which he gave a loud crack with his stock-whip, and these seemingly inert masses of matter at once started into life and

scampered away from us in an oblique direction, and with a speed, which would have done credit to the swiftest of your sporting pedestrians.

“My companion informed me that this sort of *pose plastique* was a trick, to which the Aborigines usually resorted when they wished to avoid observation; and that, therefore, he apprehended that the *blackies*, who had just given us leg-bail, had some mischief in hand. Nor was it long before these apprehensions were verified:—we had not proceeded more than a mile when we observed a dense cloud of smoke, issuing, as it were, from the bowels of the earth, at some distance from us to the north west; and then a lambent and lurid flame burst forth, which ran with terrific rapidity in a line parallel to that of the route we were pursuing; and then, having deployed, as it were, to the full extent of its forces, began to advance upon us at the rate of the quick march of an attacking enemy.

“ ‘Those villanous *blackies*,’ said my companion, ‘have set fire to the dry herbage—let us haste on to the nearest station, and give the alarm, or the fire will be down upon them, and consume them, before they can entrench themselves against it.’

“ And driving his spurs deep into the flanks of his horse, he was off at a furious gallop, as if on a business of life or death. Of course I followed in his wake, and in about twenty minutes we arrived at the station where he was so anxious to give the alarm. From this point the advance of the fire was just then concealed by a high ridge of upland; but no sooner were the inmates apprized of the coming danger than all hands were busily employed in entrenching their little fortress against it—an operation which consisted in clearing a considerable circular space around it, by setting fire to the grass, and when it had been sufficiently burnt down to afford no pabulum to the hostile flames which were coming down upon them,

beating it out with branches of trees, or anything else that was at hand for the purpose. Scarcely had we thus fortified ourselves within a little desert, which *tabooed* us, as it were, from the incursions of the approaching conflagration, than it made its appearance on the crown of the upland ridge to which I have alluded, swept down the declivity like a stream of liquid flame, and then advanced steadily upon us, until at last we found ourselves surrounded, as it were, by a circular wall of fire. The heat was intense, but of short duration, for the destroying angel did not slacken in his pace, but passed on steadily to the East, and was followed by a refreshing breeze, to fill up the vacuum which its scorching breath had created. Little or no damage had been done ; having taken lunch with the proprietor of the station, my companion summoned me to prepare for our departure with as much nonchalance as if nothing extraordinary had happened.

“ ‘ You will find some difficulty,’ observed

Mr. Smith (for such was the name of my guide) 'in continuing your route to the point you intended, because the blaze which these rascals have kicked up will have obliterated all traces of the track we shall pursue. I do not, therefore, think that you could do better than come with me, and pass a few days at my station, if time is no great object to you, as you will there meet with all the principal settlers for forty miles round, who are about to assist me in conducting the sports, and doing the honours, of my annual Bushman's feast.'

"I gladly complied with this invitation, and in a few hours we arrived, and were welcomed by a numerous retinue of servants at his hut.

"On entering the hut my host found a considerable number of guests already assembled in anticipation of the grand to-do on the morrow; and a more picturesque *tableau* than the one they presented to a stranger cannot be imagined. Picture to yourself a dozen stalwart, young, and middle-aged men, form-

ing five-sixths of a circle, round a blazing wood fire—conceive them habited pretty much after the fashion of discarded game-keepers, turned poachers, in England; and their waists encircled by broad, leathern belts in which huge pistols are stuck, ready to be used right or left, while the savageness of their appearance is so heightened by their thick, bushy, beards that it would excite suspicion, if not terror, were it not relieved by the honest conviviality which sparkles in their eyes—and you have a scene before you which I wish you could send us some modern Salvator Rosa to immortalize. They all rose when they perceived that their host was accompanied by a stranger, whose outward man at once satisfied them that he was a new recruit to the Bush, and without waiting for any formal introduction, welcomed me amongst them with every demonstration of satisfaction.

“ Mr. Smith withdrew me for awhile into an inner room to partake of some solid re-

freshment, which by this time we very much needed, and we then rejoined the company in what might be termed the hall of the Bushman's residence. As this was the eve of a grand, annual festival, the usual abstinence observed by the denizens of the Bush, was relaxed, and our tea was allowed to acquire a strong flavour of Jamaica rum. In fact, instead of tea we revelled that night in tea-punch; and the time, most agreeably to me, was passed by my companions in recounting their adventures, since their re-union, or in discussing the probable fate of several gangs of Bushrangers who had been recently hunted down, and carried back to Sydney for trial.

“The history of one of these miscreants was such a harrowing one, and is, altogether, so illustrative of the horrid life which they must lead, that I will endeavour to tell it to you as nearly as possible as it was told to me.

“I must first apprise you that the most

atrocious, or incorrigible convicts, are confined to a distant settlement by themselves, where they are employed in chain-gangs by day, and as soon as their hours of labour are over, are transferred to a sort of land-hulk, where they are confined by night. So intolerable does this sort of life become to them, that they have been frequently known to have murdered their contiguous convicts, from no other motive than that of ending their sufferings on the scaffold; and you will, therefore, not be surprised to learn that they still more frequently make the most dangerous attempts at escape. In this, though extremely difficult, three convicts had lately succeeded; and also in making their way to the far Bush, by traversing which they hoped to find their way to some point on the coast, where a vessel might possibly pick them up, and carry them either to India or Europe.

“ On their route to the Bush they had each contrived to furnish themselves, feloniously,

with a hatchet, but with nothing more. For the first three days they struggled onwards without either food or drink; and on the fourth, famine and despair could be read by each in the glaring eyes of his companions. Simultaneously a horrid thought struck them all: namely, that one must fall to satisfy the furious cravings of the survivors; and then, also, simultaneously, each was seized with the horrid fear that he was marked out as the victim by the other two. All day long they walked abreast, neither of them daring to leave his companions in his rear, and each manœuvering, by side-way movements, so as not to be the centre of the line, lest he should be cut off from flight, both to the left and right. Night came, but they dared not sleep; and in the morning they moved on in silent but terrible agitation as before. At last one of them made a sudden leap, and with the blow of his hatchet brought down the man upon his left.

“I cannot go through the details of the worse than Cannibal-feast which succeeded. The survivors fed their full, and resumed their journey; but, though their appetites were for awhile appeased, they made no approach to companionship. They felt that *they were only two*; and that, when the dire necessity recurred, there was no alternative for them but to murder, or be murdered, to satisfy it. Neither of them dared to remain within arm's length of his fellow traveller, lest he should be unawares attacked; and yet, neither of them was willing to allow the other to get at a distance from him, lest his prey should escape. At last, after two wearisome days, and sleepless nights, one of them sank to the earth from utter exhaustion; the last man sprang upon his prostrate body, but when he had butchered it, he was seized with an unaccountable loathing for the feast he had so long been craving for, and fled in horror from the corpse. He was now alone! No, not alone; for his sick

and fevered brain conjured up his slaughtered companions, who seemed on either side to accompany him, and with fixed and glaring eyes to be watching for an opportunity to inflict the same fate upon him, as they had suffered themselves. How long he wandered under this maddening hallucination is not known. He was found by some stockmen on the borders of a forest in a senseless state; and to them, when he was restored to consciousness, he confessed all that he had done and undergone, and implored them to deliver him up, that he might terminate his miserable existence as soon as possible by the gallows. His wish was, of course, complied with; and, at the time that we were assembled under our hospitable friend's roof he was awaiting the execution of his sentence.

At an early hour we retired to rest; the guests, who had each brought his own blanket, contenting themselves with a shake-down of clean straw on the thrashing floor of the barn,

and making their saddles serve as pillows for the *nonce*. At dawn we turned out into the stock-yard, thoroughly re-invigorated, though of course we had dispensed with the refreshing luxuries of the toilet; and here we found a strong accession of neighbouring stockholders to our party, who had dropped in with their horses and dogs before day-break. A substantial breakfast was soon dispatched; and then presto! every man was in his saddle and prepared for the stock-hunt. Our 'field' consisted of nearly thirty horsemen, with a pack of upwards of a hundred dogs, such as I have before described, and without further delay we dispersed ourselves into the Bush to *tail* the cattle, and drive them into the Camping-Ground. This is mostly achieved without much trouble, for the Camping-Ground is generally a shaded and well-watered spot, to which the cattle have been disciplined by the Stockmen to resort to during the heat of the day, and the gathering, therefore, is effected

without much difficulty by noon, except when a scarcity of grass has induced the cattle to roam in search of better pastures at a distance from their 'run.' But then comes the tug of war. The cattle have now to be driven from the Camping-Ground into the Stockyard, where they have to be drafted into separate partitions, in order that the stockholder may 'take stock' respectively of his cows, bullocks, heifers, and calves, and also baptise the latter into his herd with the branding iron. Urged on by the sharp, pistol-like, cracks of the stockwhips, and by the incessant barking of the dogs, the cattle, at first, appear to obey with much docility; but no sooner does the sight of the stockyard recal to the recollection of some of the more sagacious old ones the rough treatment they have formerly received there, than they set an example of resistance which is, of course, followed by the whole herd. With one consent they turn round, and in every direction attempt to break through the

cordon of horsemen and dogs, which, up to this time, they have allowed to close in gradually upon them; and then commences an uproar of bellowing, and barking, and hallooing, and swearing, and a *feu-de-joie* of stockwhip thongs, which makes the welkin ring again over the visible horizon. Not one must be allowed to escape—but see, there is one off, and bounding across the ‘run’ like a land-porpiose. A couple of horsemen and their dogs are after him; but the beast has got a good start, and now is the time to prove the horsemanship of the Bushman! A flowing rein is given to his steed, with a simultaneous plunge of the spurs into his flanks, and away he thunders over the ‘run’ after the fugitive, while his rider, his gaudy ‘Belcher’ fluttering, and his long hair streaming, in the wind—for his hat seems to be towed after him by the string which secures it to his jacket—urges him furiously over fallen timber, and perilous fissures on the earth, and through rocky gullies and swampy creeks,

which a Centaur himself might reasonably hesitate about 'taking!' Ah! he has headed his game, and is driving it homeward—but no—the beast has doubled like a hare, and is off once more for the far wilderness! Quick as thought the well-trained steed has spun round too, and is after him—the same manœuvres are repeated again and again, the beast never doubling until the horse is running him neck-and-neck, until at last the former is completely exhausted, and is compelled to make his way back, foaming, panting, and bleeding, as the only means of obtaining a respite from the Bushman's knout, which at every stroke has cut him to the flesh. Within your field of view twenty such scenes as these are being enacted at the same time; and the excitement of the *melée* is occasionally increased by a *wild* bullock, who has found his way amongst the herd, and who, scorning either to obey or fly, fights like an Andalusian, and only yields when he is pinned, nose and heel, by half-a-dozen of the dogs.

“ When the cattle are once got into the stock-yard, the sport may be said to be over. In drafting, the poor creatures receive a plentiful measure of goading and cudgelling, and tail-screwing, as a punishment for not comprehending the wishes of their masters; but there is not much amusement in this, and still less in the branding and cutting of the ‘ rising generation ’ among the herd which follows. It is late in the day before all these labours are completed, and then they are wound up in the evening by the ‘ Bushman’s Feast.’ ”

“ With the exception that our party was more numerous, and perhaps somewhat more bent upon enjoying themselves, this evening was spent pretty much in the same manner as the last. I gathered, however, a ‘ new wrinkle ’ as to Bush life in the course of it. I found that the stock-holders of the Bush—of which class our party was exclusively composed—not only regarded the drudgery of sheep-breeder as vexatious, but its pursuits as comparatively

ignoble. Indeed, the life of a stock-holder is by far the most romantic, as he is constantly on horseback from morning to night, and ranging far and wide with some exciting object in view—tracking stray cattle, or exterminating the wild dog—while, on the other hand, he has nothing to do with that filthy and everlasting torment of the sheep-run, the *scab*. The feeling of the thorough-going Stock-holder towards the duller and more tiresome, but more profitable occupation of sheep-breeding is somewhat akin to that which the military adventurers of the era of chivalry may be supposed to have entertained for the plodding and exacting but more lucrative pursuits of commerce. I need hardly tell you that my election was made at once, and that I have since sought health and wealth in the tending of my herds.

“Our party broke up the following day; but Mr. Smith, aware that my more immediate object was to acquire information, which might prove valuable to me when I should determine

to settle down in a 'Run,' invited me to prolong my visit *ad libitum*. I gladly accepted the offer and for more than a fortnight attended him in the overlooking of his extensive concerns. Nothing could be more admirable than the vigour, the regularity, and what was of equal importance, the liberality of his management; for it is of the utmost consequence to the success of a large Stock-holder that, while he keeps his Stock-men rigorously up to their work by his vigilance, he should also attach them to his interest by the well-timed generosity of his treatment. And, would you believe it—this same Mr. Smith was in England nothing more than a linen-draper! Finding, as he informed me, that the old game in that trade of buying job-lots of draperies, which had become depreciated by the superannuation of their patterns, and then blazoning them forth to the public as the effects of a bankruptcy to be cleared in a few days at a stupendous sacrifice,' had grown

‘flat, stale, and unprofitable,’ he resolved to capitalize his assets, and try his fortune in the yet unreclaimed wilds of Australia. You must not, however, suppose that Mr. Smith was an aboriginal cockney. In fact, there are very few stirring men of business in the middle walks of life in London, who have not, in the first instance, pushed their way up from the country—younger sons, and others, who are compelled to make up, by enterprize, for the accidental disadvantages of birth, or station—and these men never forget the pursuits and the sports amongst which their boyhood and youth were past. Mr. Smith had been one of these *cadets* of the agricultural order; and, therefore, although his *genuine* cockney friends shrugged up their shoulders at the wildness of his Australian adventure, he was not quite so unfitted to prosecute it with success, as, in their ignorance of his real character, they supposed.

“Indeed he was the better fitted for it,

from not having become bigoted, by force of habit, to any of the provincial systems of farming, in favour of which such strong, local prejudices exist at home. His mind was open to square his own system with the necessities which he might have to encounter; and, by the advice of his friend, who was an old settler in New South Wales, he selected such servants as he chose to take out with him, from classes who would have still less to unlearn in the new world they were going to, than himself. ‘That fellow,’ he said to me one day, pointing to a man who was working in the best ordered kitchen-garden to be found within fifty miles of his station, ‘is worth his weight in gold to me. I knew that I should want a gardener; but, instead of selecting one of your blue-apron professionals, who can shave lawns and trim hedges and box-borders as neatly as a barber will shave the chin and trim the whiskers of a dandy, I fixed upon a cobbler, whom I accidentally observed one Sunday morn-

ing planting cabbages and hilling potatoes on on a few perches of a large piece of waste, opposite the old church of St. Pancras, which had for years been abandoned to any one who chose temporarily to cultivate it, until customers could be found to take it upon building-leases. This man was, of course, in his way an example of the 'pursuit of knowledge under difficulties,' had learned how to make anything do for a tool, when he was not master of a proper one, and to make a thousand shifts which an educated Scotch gardener would never have dreamed of—and in fact was just the man for the Bush, where few things that are wanted in the way of implements are at his hand, and where, if his mother-wit cannot find a substitute for them, he is of no more use than a man without hands. A kitchen garden is invaluable here; but I never should have had one if I had trusted to one of your scientific gardeners, who can do nothing without a whole out-house full of tools.'

“Ultimately, as our intercourse proved mutually agreeably to us, it was arranged that I should serve my year’s probation with Mr. Smith; but, as the nearest distance at which an unlicensed ‘Run’ was to be obtained was nearly two hundred miles further into the interior, he kindly proposed to accompany me thither, for the purpose of advising me in making a prudent selection. This is a matter which requires great knowledge of the country, for there are many places which, at certain seasons, would tempt the eye, by the luxuriance of their verdure, but which, at other seasons, would become nothing more than arid plains, or swampy marshes, from the drying up, or overflowing, of the streams upon which they bordered. Our excursion—which Mr. Smith assured me cost him nothing on the score of time, as he only sacrificed to it a long visit which he had intended to make to Sydney, and which would have been productive to him of less pleasure—occupied us more than six

weeks. Of the nature, however, of the reception and adventures we met with, you can form a tolerably correct idea from my description of the past. To me the scenery and mode of life would have been charming without alloy, had it not been for the total absence of the greatest of all the charms of civilized life—I mean female society. After we had left Mr. Smith's station fifty miles behind us, we did not meet with one European woman during the whole of our future travels into and about the 'Bush'—an unfortunate feature of life in the Bush, which I have since observed with a more painful feeling than one of simple regret, to be as productive of moral evil, as it is fatal to real domestic enjoyment.

“With such a Mentor as Mr. Smith I could not fail to secure an eligible ‘Run;’ and, this object being accomplished, we turned our backs on the still untrodden wilderness to the north, and returned, by a direct route, to the home where my short apprenticeship as a

Bushman was to be passed. The time seemed to speed as rapidly as it was spent pleasantly, and I may say profitably, also; for Mr. Smith's tuition, together with the active part which he took in selecting my stock, and household outfit for the Bush, enabled me to commence the career of a Stockholder without suffering any of those losses, impositions, and obstructions, which generally fall to the lot of what, in Bush-patois, is called a 'raw arrival.' And here I am now enjoying the labours, the sports, and the pleasures of life in the Bush with as much zest as I did the first day that I set foot upon it. I can say, my dear ———, that I am neither a disappointed, or discontented man; and who among our friends in that *blasè* old world of theirs can conscientiously say as much.

"Yours, &c.

"J. O."

CHAPTER XII.

WHALE FISHERIES, THEIR IMPORTANCE TO THE COLONIES.—AT SEA.

MANY thanks for the parcel, my dear——, of papers, reviews, &c., which in due course reached me yesterday, just before we dropped anchor for our present excursion; and especially for your kind consideration that the pamphlet on our Fisheries in this part of the world would be peculiarly interesting to me. It is a strange coincidence that many of the views on this subject, which Mr. Enderby has

set forth in his proposal for the re-establishing our Fisheries in the Southern Pacific have been for some time elaborating themselves in my own head, which, since my last trip to the Whaling Grounds, has been full of vague conceptions as to the riches which our hardy seamen might reap there, if our enterprising merchants could only hit upon some more inexpensive mode of gathering in the harvest, and transporting its fruits to their own warehouses in England. This idea first struck me from noticing the advantages which our Whaling expeditions from Australia possessed over those sent out from Europe or America, although their products had to be realized in the same distant market, and, in spite of their inferiority on the score of Capital. All these advantages are directly referable to their contiguity to the scene of the Whaler's labours; or rather, I should say, all the disadvantages under which the Southern Whale Fishery has been gradually abandoned by the merchants of

Great Britain are directly referable to the great distance of the place of outfit from the actual field of enterprize—an economical consideration which I am surprised should have escaped the notice of a class of men who are accustomed in all their mercantile operations to take into strict account the smallest items of profit and loss, and especially as in this particular matter the waste of labour, time, and materials, under the old system, was such a large figure in the balance-sheet of every voyage, that it could hardly have failed to be suggestive of the question, whether there were no means of avoiding it.

Curiously enough, this idea first struck me as I stood gazing over the Pacific from one of the Hills of that very island which Mr. Enderby proposes to convert into a *depôt* for the produce of the Southern Fisheries. In the month of April last, the Whaler to which I was engaged stopped at Auckland Island, not to refit—for your Colonial Whalers only being out one

season, are *not* subject to such inconveniences and delays—but simply, *pour passer le temps* for awhile, because we had ascertained that we should otherwise be somewhat too early on the Whaling Ground, and of course I did not lose the opportunity of making myself as much as possible acquainted with the spot which may be considered as one of the *solecisms* in the order of nature. Few spots have been discovered, even in the most barren and secluded quarters of the globe, in which some Aboriginal, or migrant race has not been found, or in which traces, at least, could not be detected of their having at some former time been inhabited by man. But in this island there is no sign whatever of its having been a habitation of the human species before it was discovered by one of Mr. Enderby's Whaling ships in 1806. There is something imposing in the thought that you are penetrating into such an undoubted primeval solitude; the excitement of curiosity is dashed by a feeling of awe as the imagina-

tion suggests that you are about to trespass on one of the sanctuaries of nature, hitherto undisturbed from the date of its creation, except by the tuneful choristers of the woods; and I have wandered whole days moralizing, and philosophising, or dreaming, of Alexander Selkirks and Robinson Crusoes, while I thought I was simply investigating the botany and ornithology of this *terra incognita*.

But how, my dear ———, the poetical, even in a reverie, gives way to the utilitarian, when a glorious scheme is suggested to the acquisition of riches! When I had made myself master of Mr. Enderby's splendid project for converting this hitherto uninhabited spot into a flourishing seat of cheerful industry and active commerce, I could not refrain from discussing the subject with myself in the following strain:—After all, I reasoned, there is little cause for wonder in this island having been so long doomed to the neglect of man, and still less for regret that it should be at last brought

within the sphere of civilization. For how many ages have the most wonderful secrets of nature been hidden from man, because he has been too incurious, or too indolent, or too bigotted to deviate from the beaten track? And when, at last, some accident, or some adventurous, or inquisitive, spirit has brought them to light, of what a large accession to the aggregate of human happiness they have been productive! If some wizard were to afford us, by his magic speculum, a prophetic exhibition of the changes which will some day be effectuated in that island, what a great and happy transformation would he foreshadow! First, he would exhibit it to us as a little desert in the ocean, walled in against the aggression of the waves by precipitous, basaltic cliffs, and clad in a defensive dress of rampant verdure matted with thick and tangled underwood, as if to ward off the intrusion of man. Suddenly the scene dissolves away, and another is gradually lighted up within the

field of view. The wild, choking, vegetation, and the impervious brushwood of ages seems to have retired at the approach of man, and a broad belt of fertile gardens, fruitful orchards, luxuriant pastures, and golden corn-fields, encircles the Bay in which a whole fleet of Whalers are lying ready to discharge the rich products they have gathered on the Whaling Grounds of the Southern Seas, or in the Western Coasts of Africa, or the sea-board which stretches along the shores of the Americas. Silence has been affrighted from her retreat of ages, and the air is resonant of business and life. Around the head of the harbour rise warehouses, and docks, and wharfs, and quays; and crowds of happy, or anxious wives and children awaiting to receive the adventurous whalers after the perils and labours of the season are over, and welcome them to repose and enjoyment, until the song of the April bird again warns them that the harpoon must hang no longer idle on the wall. Hark!

from beneath yon spire, which towers above the humbler dwellings of the settlement, there is wafted a sweet strain of holy harmony—it is the hymn of praise and thanksgiving, which the hardy mariners are offering to the Most High for his past mercies to them amidst the perils of the deep! Who would wish that your Magician—and his name is TIME—should restore the picture to its original state, however wild and picturesque it may have been?

The extent of the field, which is comprised under the term of the Southern Fisheries is generally misconceived in Europe. The popular impression is, that the prosecution of the Southern Fisheries is only followed in the high latitudes towards the South pole, just as the Northern Fisheries are prosecuted in the high latitudes towards the North. But this is a mistake. The field of the Southern Fisheries consists of nearly two-thirds of that broad central zone of the globe, which is in width

nearly ninety-five degrees of latitude, and only indented by the Southern projections of the Asiatic and African Continents. It stretches from 50 South to 45 North latitude ; and from 75 West, to 18 East longitude ; embracing the coasts of Chili, Peru, the Polynesian Islands, Japan, New Zealand, and the Eastern Archipelago. They are simply called the Southern Fisheries because ships from Europe must sail Southward to reach them.

And a fine, free, and easy trade, it is which they offer to the adventurous Mariners. To be sure, there is occasionally some labour in vain ; but there are no tariffs or treaties, to perplex them ; or quarantines, or Custom-house squabbles, to detain them. They roam over the waters in search of their game as free as the birds of the ocean themselves, and, were it not for the irksome length of the voyage, a sea-faring life would present no more seductive adventure.

Another popular error on this subject

amongst you is, that your Fisheries have fallen off in consequence of the introduction of gas-light; whatever diminution in the demands for oils may have arisen from this cause it has been more than doubly or trebly compensated for by the increased demand for them in manufacturing processes. The total quantity of fish and vegetable oils imported into Great Britain in 1821 was under 50,000 tons, and in 1845 they considerably exceeded 100,000 tons—the increase being thus accounted for, that while the quantity of fish oils fell from 32,000 to 22,000 tons, the quantity of foreign vegetable oils increased from 16,000 to 82,000 tons. Nor is this to be wondered at, seeing that Sperm oil in England has been 82*l.* per ton, while Olive oil has only been 47*l.*, and common oil 29*l.*, while Linseed oil has been only 27*l.* The vegetable oils, therefore, at such relative prices have naturally had the preference; while in America, where Sperm oil has only

been 56*l.* per ton, and common oil 21*l.* per ton, the vegetable oils meet with no such favour.

The question, therefore, in a Mercantile point of view, appears to me to be this—could not our Southern Whalers compete with the foreign vegetable oils, as the Americans do, by affording it at the same price as they do? According to the present system of course they could not; but, could they not, by adopting the Colonial plan of fitting out vessels of a more moderate size, from a station contiguous to the Whaling Grounds, and shipping the produce of each season annually for Europe, instead of waiting to bring home the accumulated produce of those seasons at the end of the fourth year from setting out? I have made some calculations for the solution of this problem, which may be worth the attention of some of your mercantile friends in England.

“Your present system is to send out a

vessel of 350 tons, fitted for a four years voyage ; that is, for three years on the Whaling Grounds, and a year for their voyage out and home. The ship will cost you 18*l.* per ton, and 2*l.* per ton per year for stores, provisions, &c., in all 9,100*l.*, to which you must add interest at 5 per cent., or 1,820*l.* for the four years, during which you are without any return for your capital. Your whole cost of equipment, therefore, is 10,920*l.*

On the other side of the account, your crew will be thought to do well if they ship *fifty* tons of sperm oil in each season, or, 150 tons during the whole cruize, which, at 80*l.* per tun, would yield 12,000*l.* Of this the crew's share (32 in number) would be 3,500*l.*, so that you would *net* only 8,500*l.* You may also consider your ship still worth half her prime cost, or 3,150*l.*, so that you will have 11,650*l.* standing in your favour against 10,920*l.* the cost of equipment, which shews a balance of

730*l.* in your favour, or a profit rather less than 7 per cent.

But a ship sent from a station contiguous to the Whaling Ground to fish only for a season, need not exceed 250 tons, which at 18*l.* per ton will only cost 4,500*l.*; and her fitting out with stores and provisions for four successive seasons at 2*l.* per ton per year, would come to 2,000*l.* more — altogether to 6,500*l.* Moreover, as two years would elapse before a cargo could be realized — one year for collecting it, and another for carrying it to Europe, and remitting the proceeds — two years interest, or 650*l.* must also be charged to the ship, making her total equipment 7,150*l.*

On the other hand the ship will make *four* voyages in the four years, and, therefore, collect 200, instead of 150, tons of sperm oil, which, if sold in England at the American price of 56*l.* per ton, would produce 11,200*l.* But from this you must first deduct 6*l.* per

ton for freight to England, or 1,200*l.*; and, secondly, the share of the crew who, being only 22 in number, would be better paid by 2,500*l.* than the crew of the 350 tons vessel were by 3,500*l.*; these deductions would reduce your assets to 7,500*l.*, to which you would have to add 2,250*l.* for the then value of your vessel (half of its prime cost); so that you would have resulting in your favour 9,750*l.* against 7,150*l.*, which is something more than 36 per cent.

From these comparative statements, the reasons why it would pay so much better, at the American price for oil, to prosecute the Southern Fisheries from a station in the vicinity of them, than to prosecute them from England at the extravagant price, under which the oil cannot now be afforded there, are obvious.

A ship setting out from a Colonial station need only be *five-sevenths* the tonnage of a whaler from England, and a crew in propor-

tion; and she not only makes an annual return of her produce, but makes four seasons, while the other makes three; but there is another consideration still further in favour of the Colonial vessel which is only absent one season from the first of her departure. It is an established fact that the oil which she makes in a season exceeds more than *one-half* the quantity which an English whaler makes; nor is this surprising, when we consider the difference between the two services. Neither on board the English or American whalers does the monthly pay, earned by the seamen, amount to anything like that given on board of ordinary trading vessels; and hence, instead of experienced seamen, their crews are made up of "green hands," who, after having acquired a knowledge of their calling, during their four years apprenticeship to the whaling trade, of course quit it for some other branch of the merchant service, in which the wages are higher, and the privations of shorter

duration. Indeed, no small portion of them anticipate the period of their emancipation from the whaler by desertion, an occurrence which so frequently takes place as to cause the most serious obstruction to the prosecution of the voyage. With the crew of a Whaler, on the contrary, fitted out from a station in the South Pacific, for a single year's voyage, circumstances are entirely different. Instead of *one fourth* of their time being unprofitably occupied in going to and returning from the Whaling Grounds, they are in them at once, and are fishing every hour that they are out. This greatly enhances their part in the venture, and as that is only for a twelvemonth, they never think of deserting it, but work like Turks to make the most of it ; hence, they are neither disgusted by the length or unprofitableness of their voyages, but rather become enamoured of them as short, enterprising cruises, and the service is never in want of practised and trustworthy hands. And again ; it is

utterly impossible to prevent the master of an European Whaler, which is out four years, from neglecting his owner's interest by employing the time which ought to be devoted exclusively to fishing, in trading on his own account. An Esculapian brother assured me that he was once in an English Whaler, which only spent 850 days in these parts, and that during 310 of them he was lying to at one place or another, to traffic on his own account with the inhabitants. This abuse cannot be practised in Whalers fitted out from a port in the South Seas, because the masters would have no apology, except on extreme occasions, to put in anywhere. It is no wonder, therefore, that Colonial Whalers make such better yearly returns of oil than those from England, or even from America. In 1845, it appears that the Australian Whalers made 88 tons per annum, while British Ships made only 50; but, supposing that the former, in a series of years only averaged 70 tons, the account of expenditure

and returns, given at page 29* would assume the following form:—

280 Tons of Oil at £56 per ton . .	£15,680
Deduct	
Crew's Share	3500l.
Freight to England at 6l.	
per ton	1680l.
	5,180
	10,500
Value of the Vessel	2,250
	12,750
Equipment as before	7,150
Profit	5,600

which is upwards of 78 per cent.

* Vide the able and explicit pamphlet of Mr Enderby, entitled a "Proposal for re-establishing the British Southern Whale Fishery," published by Effingham Wilson, which clearly demonstrates the immense advantage that must accrue to England, and her Colonial possessions, especially Australia, in the event of the Fisheries in the Southern Latitudes being prosecuted upon the plan proposed therein. The Americans employ between 600 and 700 vessels,

We must not forget, however, that there are two features in this trade, which render it rather repulsive to individual enterprise—namely, its uncertainty, and its liability to abuse, when carried on by agents at a distance. The owner of a single ship may incur a very serious loss, by its making what is termed a *clean voyage*—that is, by its falling into a track from which the fish have been disturbed, and coming home with its deck unsoiled by the blubber of a single whale. Some other ship, of course, will fall in with the fish in more than usual abun-

manned by upwards of 18,000 seamen, in these Fisheries; and the oil produced between 1838 and 1845 was 37,459 tons, one third of which was exported. The capital employed by our transatlantic friends in this branch of industry amounts to £1,500,000; while the produce of Great Britain during the last year—including the Greenland Fishery—was only 5,565 tons, or one-eighth of that of America, which represents a capital of only £249,181. The balance in favour of Jonathan, in capital employed in the Whale Fisheries is, therefore, £1,171,266.

dance ; and if the two ships belong to the same party, the gains of the one would make up for the losses of the other. In short, a number of ships should be employed, so as to mutually ensure each other ; and this mode of imparting certainty to the trade can, of course, be adopted only by a confederation of capitalists, who agree to divide the aggregate profits of the whole of it amongst each other, according to the amounts which they have invested in it. I need hardly say that a company alone could organize an agency, under such checks and responsibilities as would prevent speculation, or any other malversation.

To such a company the high rate of profit which I have shown to be possible, from prosecuting the fisheries, from a station contiguous to them, offer a most inviting prospect ; supposing the rate of profit to be only 40 per cent., instead of 70 per cent., it would leave, after making a liberal allowance for the foundation and management of the station, a *net*

profit to the shareholders, larger and more certain than any other speculation of modern days.

Nor is this any new conception. More than seventy years ago, the capacious and penetrating mind of Burke comprehended the vast riches which are to be gathered from this source, and foresaw that we were allowing our American brethren to pre-occupy the field, where they were to be gathered, before us. In his speech on American affairs in 1774, he reproached us for our envy and indolence in the following terms—

“As to the wealth, which the Colonists have drawn from the sea by their fisheries, you had all that matter fully opened at your bar. You surely thought those acquisitions of value, for they seemed to excite your envy; and yet the spirit by which that enterprising employment has been exercised ought rather, in my opinion, to have raised esteem and admiration. And pray, sir, what in the world is equal to it?

Pass by the other parts, and look at the manner in which the New England people carry on the Whale Fishery. While we follow them among the trembling mountains of ice, and behold them penetrating in the deepest frozen recesses of Hudson's and Davis' Straits; while we are looking for them beneath the Arctic Circle, we hear that they have pierced into the opposite region of polar cold; that they are at the Antipodes, and engaged under the frozen serpent of the South. Falkland Island, which seemed too remote and too romantic an object for the grasp of national ambition, is but a stage and resting-place, for their victorious industry. Nor is the equinoctial heat more discouraging to them than the accumulated winter of both poles. We learn that while some of them draw the line, or strike the harpoon, on the coast of Africa, others run the longitude, and pursue their gigantic game along the coast of Brazil. No sea but what is vexed with their Fisheries. No climate that is not wit-

ness of their toils. Neither the perseverance of Holland, nor the activity of France, nor the dexterous and firm sagacity of English enterprise, ever carried this most perilous mode of hardy industry to the extent to which it has been pursued by this people ; a people who are still in the gristle, and not yet hardened into the bone, of manhood."

I fear that *you* will have found this letter somewhat uninteresting, not being of the same rambling and anecdotic character as my letters usually are ; but you must, for once, forgive my taking the liberty of riding a hobby of my own, however dull it may be, and expect to be recompensed by a something more amusing in my next.

CHAPTER XIII.

SYDNEY.— MINING INTERESTS. DESTINY OF AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

I CANNOT but admit that I, in some sort, sympathize with the psychological yearning to which you give expression in your last. You say that you cannot reflect upon the wonderful discoveries in mechanical, chemical, and pathological science, which seemed to have marked the present as an epoch from which the march of intellect, after ages of desultory and digressive efforts, has in reality commenced,

without a curious longing for a spiritual privilege to revisit the world a hundred years hence, and note the startling changes which, by that time, MAN will have worked out in his condition, as lord dominant of the creation, by his progressive mastery of the secrets of nature. In like manner I cannot reflect upon the expansive power with which the colonization of this vast continent has begun to extend itself, without regretting that I am unable to pierce through the present, and have revealed to me the destinies which are in store for it, within even the very brief term of a few fleeting generations!

When I remember, too, the happy geographical position of Australia, in reference to the Equator—that it is blessed with a climate which enables its soil, wherever it is fit for cultivation, to yield in abundance not only all the cereal and esculent vegetables, which are indigenous or naturalized within the more temperate latitudes of Northern Europe,

but the wine, and oil, and other productions of its more genial "garden-lands" in the South, and even the cotton and the spices, and other rich fruits of the Tropics—I am at times seduced into a belief that we shall almost see her leap, *per saltum*, as it were, into a position from whence she may face proudly the immemorially inhabited regions of the ancient West. But these flights of fancy are soon curbed by the obtrusive truth, that the growth of communities of men, like that of the individual, must be slow; and that a wilderness is not to be peopled by the human species with the same rapidity, as it frequently is by the lower orders of creation, to whom it is capable of furnishing all the necessaries of life without any exertion or preparations of their own. The adventurous race which is reclaiming Australia must be content to toil through the usual stages which have marked the progress of every new community to an established state of material prosperity; for many of the

most essential resources of that prosperity must be created by themselves, before they can hope to attain it. When they have intersected the located parts of the country with roads and canals, which, with commodious harbours and quays, are the first objects to which their surplus means should be applied; and, when they have accumulated capital to assist nature by art in preparing the soil for the finer operations of agriculture, which cannot be done until, by the increase of population, labour becomes more abundant and cheaper, then it will be sufficient time for them to turn their attention to the vine, to the olive, and the cotton tree; but for many years to come they must look to the more primitive occupations of the soil for the acquisition of that wealth, without which, if they hurry precociously into more expensive *exploitations*, they will only verify the proverb of the "most haste, the least speed."

To this, however, as a general economical

principle, for advancing the progress of the colony, there is an exception.

The colonization of South Australia was first commenced at Adelaide in 1835; but, although there was no deficiency in the quantity or quality of land available for settling, the colony was in a state of general insolvency—the government as well as the people—before the end of 1842. These were the consequences of the impolitic restrictions of the *Wakefield* system, by which no grants of land could be made in less quantities than a square mile, or at a less price than 1*l.* per acre, and by which, therefore, all small capitalists were proscribed from becoming owners of the soil, and they must have been fatal to the colony, had it not been for the fortunate discovery of the Great Burra Burra and Kapunda copper mines in 1843. From that time the colony has wonderfully revived; and if the mineral wealth, of which the Burra Burra have afforded the first indication, is industriously

tracked through the mountain range which runs from the south towards the north, not only will the capital of the colony rapidly increase directly from this source, but indirectly, also, from the demand which will be created not only for the agricultural products of the colony, but for foreign imports, by which the internal trade will be encouraged and extended.

Hitherto, however, the South Australian Miners have not had fair play, having suffered much inconvenience and loss from an entirely useless privilege, with which the British Shipowner finds himself invested to their cost. The importation of their ores into England is prohibited except in British Bottoms; and the commerce between Adelaide and England has not attained such a degree of magnitude and regularity that freights in British Bottoms are always to be engaged there. In fact, the exportable produce of South Australia is not yet sufficient to supply employment for a constant

line of trading vessels to and from the Mother Country, and, as the Colonists are prohibited from sending it in foreign bottoms, their opportunities of forwarding it to England are both rare and precarious. So situated, the Mining Agents in South Australia are compelled, either to allow a large stock of ore to accumulate on their hands, by which their employers suffer a great loss of interest in the Capital which it represents, or to forward it in any old brig or bark to Sydney, and there re-ship it for the English market, by which the expense of freight is considerably increased. Of course this is only a consequence of that principle of the navigation laws by which (wisely or not) it is sought to secure to the British Shipowner the carrying trade between the Mother Country and her Colonies; but as the British Shipowner himself does not think this particular branch of it to be one which it would be worth his while to undertake, it is very hard that the Government

should play the dog in the manger in his behalf, and refuse the Colonists the privilege of getting others to do for them what *he* declines doing for them himself. Some time since the Colonists petitioned the Government at home that German ships, which imported mining labour from Germany into the Colony, might be permitted to return with the produce of such labour to England; but the boon was refused. It would have been a contravention of the Navigation Laws, which Lord Grey thought inadmissible, though the case was one to which the framers of those laws could never have dreamed of its occurring, and calling for their application.

The principal miners in South Australia are Germans, many of whom came out from Bremen last year, and they live in a village, almost in an isolated state near the Kapunda mines, which is some distance from Adelaide. They have a pastor of the Lutheran church, who presides over their spiritual interests; and

their temporal affairs are almost exclusively confined to Mining operations, few of them being connected with the agricultural industry of the Colony. They are a quiet, industrious, and slow-working race ; but, in the absence of good, stout English miners, whose strength and capacity is about double to that of the Germans, they have proved of great utility in developing the resources of the Colony. These Germans understand the process of smelting the ore, according to the manner of the Hartz-smelters, which is expensive when compared to that of England, as pursued at Swansea ; the first using wood, while the latter have plenty of coal, to say nothing of the superior skill and capital employed in England in such operations.

But the great difficulty to overcome, in Australia, is the transport to England, which I have already remarked upon ; nevertheless, to give you a clearer conception of its injurious effects upon the interests of the Miners, and of

the Colony also, I shall note down a few facts which must carry conviction with them, even to the most prejudiced mind. In the course of the year 1846 there were raised, and sent to England, from the Kapunda Mines alone from 1,200 to 1,500 tons of copper ore, of first-rate quality—200 tons of this quantity having been sold at Swansea at an average of 19l. 3s., and another 300 tons averaging 21l. 9s.—notwithstanding the great impediment to its transport, occasioned by the navigation laws.

The Burra Burra Mines have been equally productive, and more successful in some of the sales, as regards the price realized for the ores—some of the latter having sold as high as 31l. 6s. 6d. per ton at Swansea; and when a regular communication shall be established with England—the most effective and practical suggestion yet made for so desirable an object is that of a central *depôt*, where the ore can be deposited as freight homewards; which must have the effect in a still greater ratio of in-

ducing freights outwards, the return cargo being the great *desideratum* with the merchants and shipowners in this country—the copper mines of Australia may vie with those of Cuba, and other slave-holding states, and will have, also, a tendency to solve that knotty problem—the slavery question—which so strangely perplexes our statesmen, however experienced and weighty may be the amount of their knowledge. There is, certainly, a growing conviction that the most effective blow which can be aimed at the slave-trade, is to prove that free labour is cheaper than that of slavery; and when the Mines of Australia shall become more productive, as they cannot fail to do when the ores can be more easily transported to their proper market, then it will be seen that the copper of the Antipodes will supersede that of Europe, and also that a simple incident in the industrial and commercial interests of the world will prove more potent in suppressing a great crime, and in wiping out a moral stigma on the

enlightenment of the nineteenth century, than the proud and gigantic schemes of your politico-economical statesmen, with almost unlimited resources at their command.

Oh, man ! how impotent, after all thy display of power and ingenuity, appear thy works, when compared to *His* who moves in a way so simple and so grand, that it seems to rebuke the ostentation of thy efforts ; and while you have been straining your nerves to the utmost, and wasting your means most prodigally, in the non-attainment of a single object—the suppression of slavery—from an opposite, and unlooked-for quarter comes the true solution of all your difficulties !

I have often heard it doubted whether society in Australia did not receive an original taint which will, for a long time, prevent it from settling down into that gradation of orders for which the Mother Country is, beyond all others, remarkable ; and there certainly does exist a serious obstacle to wealth

raising itself into an indisputable Aristocracy, as it does in reality everywhere else, whatever may be the form of Government. The Emigrant who brings a large capital here has rarely any other view than that of repairing or improving the fortunes of his family, and has seldom any idea of making the Colony his future hereditary home. Those, too, who have left their father-land voluntarily in search of that independence, without which no man can feel comfortable in England, are prompted, by pride as well as love of country to return to it when the object of their ambition is accomplished. Hence the opulence of the Colony will for a long while be represented by the most successful of that class who would rather banish every idea that is associated with their mother country than otherwise. But then, on the other hand, it will be long before the "Colonial origin" of these people will be forgotten, and the resident wealth of the Colony

command the respect and influence which is the cement of civil society.

And there is also another question under this head, which it is as painful to speculate upon as it is difficult to solve. What, as the inroads of the white man take a deeper and broader range, will become of the Aboriginal possessors of the soil? Reasoning by analogy from past experience, we should conclude that they will be unavoidably exterminated; for such has been the fate of the savage in almost every quarter of the world; and, of all savages hitherto discovered, the Australian seems to be the very lowest in the scale of humanity. We found him in what philosophers have supposed to have been the rudest and primeval state of our species. He had not the least idea of rendering the soil tributary to his subsistence, or of contriving defences even against the climates, by which he was continually harassed. He had no conception of any mode

of social government, not even the patriarchal, and was utterly devoid of all religious, or even moral, impressions. Even of the rudest conveniences and contrivances, common amongst all other savage tribes, he was utterly ignorant; his invention, not having soared even so far as a vessel for holding water, or the bow, the sponge, and the net, for supplying himself with animal food. In the latter respect, too, he does not seem to have been endowed with a taste to make any distinction, devouring insects, reptiles, fish or flesh, clean or unclean, indifferently; and his culinary art extended no farther than roasting the flesh of animals, under hot embers, alike ungutted and unskinned. And, lastly, so circumscribed were his ideas, that he had no terms to express any but visible objects, or divisions of time, or quantities, beyond the number *three*. Whether a race so deplorably backward can survive the introduction of a highly civilized people

amongst them, may, indeed will, be doubted, when we reflect upon the extinction, under the same circumstances, of other uncivilized races, who had arrived, comparatively speaking, at a higher pitch of savage refinement.

A P P E N D I X

CHAPTER I.

THE unlooked-for discovery of the mineral riches of California, made long after the preceding pages were in print, has imparted a new interest to that quarter of the globe. The *auri sacra fames* has resumed its magic influence on the mass of mankind, and thousands are hurrying, under the excitement, to participate in the discovery of the treasure. Over seas and continents, through morasses and deserts, traversing the highest mountains,

fording the most dangerous and rapid rivers—in short, no obstacle is too great, no difficulty too appalling, for men to attempt when hurried on by greed, and blinded by avarice. They will neglect the treasure which lies immediately beneath their feet, to hunt after that which tempts the eye at a distance upon the surface of the earth; it is the old story of the Tortoise and the Hare retold—the craving desire of the many to gratify their wishes without the necessity of labouring for the means, or, in other terms, the hop-step-and-jump process of procuring a competence, in contradistinction to the old, steady, refreshing, and healthy-toned habit of acquiring it by well-directed industry.

As the public mind is too strongly bent towards the Californian *Eldorado* for our feeble voice to influence it in a contrary direction, we shall endeavour to act in the same way, as though we were unfortunate enough to be placed in a vehicle, with the horse rattling down hill at a neck-or-nothing pace—in short, running away—and simply content ourselves with pointing out the best route to arrive at the scene of wealth, to prevent a useless sacrifice, and an immense amount of suffering,

on the part of the treasure-hunters, just the same as we should coolly guide the reins of the horse—to diminish the chances of having our own neck broke.

Every now and then the world is awakened from its ordinary and even movements by some startling event or other; but it must be something to strike the million, to flash on the 'mind's eye' of the many to produce such a result. It is not your scientific discoveries that have the desired effect, although in reality the incipient cause of such phenomena, for they are confined to the choice and limited few, and are only palpable to the multitude when embodied, perchance, in the form of a locomotive steam engine, for the first time let loose upon the world—a flying, thundering, screaming monster, tearing along and snorting fire, with tons of weight and whole towns of people in its rear. Such a phenomenon strikes upon the senses of the vulgar many in too unmistakable a manner—they look, they wonder, they are astonished; while your informed mind, without any such excitement, can easily reason, by an inductive process, to so magnificent a result. A revolution, for instance, which smashes

a throne, and scatters a dynasty, is an event which may properly be called a "startler," especially when we see the fragments before our eyes, in the shape of a 'discrowned king,' white-haired and worn-out, rudely thrust from his imperial abode, and even glad to shelter his feeble frame from the rough and ugly storm in an old pilot coat. Who is so blind as not to see such an event as this, in its befitting amplitude? Again, the discovery of the gold on the banks, and in the estuaries, of the Sacramento in California, must naturally be deemed a 'startler;' as it hits the latent desire of the heart of man, the darling object of his aspirations—power, in one shape or other—either to exercise an influence, or to indulge a passion—"to be the observed of all observers," be they what they may.

Having eased our mind of these bits of sentiment which somewhat clogged the even current of our practical ideas, we shall now proceed, as briefly as possible, to indulge in a few observations upon the several suggestions which the *gold-event* has naturally given rise to.

First, let us turn finger-post, and point the way to the "dust."

The country in which the precious metal has been found is called Alta-California, to distinguish it from lower California, in which the 'metal' is supposed to exist as abundantly as in the former. So say the geologists, and who will question their *dicta*, based, as it unquestionably is, or ought to be, upon the most scientific data? This country forms a portion of the western part of America, and the eastern shores of the Pacific, and extends from north to south about 700 miles.

In the text we have already described the various phenomena of the country, as far as our knowledge and observation extend; therefore shall content ourselves with having recourse to other authorities, from whose scattered accounts we may be enabled to combine a brief, intelligent, and practical summary.*

The *Sacramento* river is the largest of West California, and the only navigable one. It

* We ought to except the Notes to Wyld's Map on California, which comprise all the useful information necessary to an Emigrant, in addition to a number of facts and observations not found elsewhere. The map is also the most faithful and accurate of any yet extant.

rises in the mountains on the borders of the Oregon territory, and is about 200 miles long. It is fed by a number of tributaries in its course, and in the *debris* of the mountains and sands washed by this stream is found the gold. The Sacramento is navigable for boats for 150 miles, and for ships about 50 miles; it also abounds in salmon, and runs through a highly productive country, upon which the principal establishments of the foreign settlers are planted. There are numerous harbours and bays on the coast, which afford excellent shelter for shipping; the principal, and the most capacious we have already described, San Francisco, and it must ultimately become the point for all settlers who make the ocean the highway of their journey.

The topography of the Gold and Mining districts is principally confined to the Sacramento and its tributaries, or more properly the district of the Sierra Nevada, the high mountain range which intersects the Country from North to South. It is from this range that the precious metals are supposed to be washed; other minerals, such as silver, mercury, and platinum, are also said to abound in the Sierra, and will ultimately be turned to profitable

account. On the shore of West California minerals are also stated to be found. At St. Francisco, copper, iron, and marble have been long known (vide Wyld's excellent notes and map). At Santa Cruz there are traces of coal; and, as we have already remarked, this mineral abounds in Vancouver's Island, which might be easily coasted down to the mining operations. The quicksilver mines of New Almaden are on a spur of mountains 1,000 feet above the level of the Bay of St. Francisco, twelve miles south from the town of San Joseph. They belong to Mr. Alexander Forbes, English vice-consul at Tepic, and are worked by miners from Mexico. The ore is cinnabar, found in a large vein, dipping at an obtuse angle to the horizon. The mineral is mixed with lime, and volatilized. In the spring of '48 four ovens were at work, and the yield in one day was above 300lbs. of quicksilver, worth 1 dol. 80 cents in Mexico. The second mineral province is in the South, but little known, although it is considered to abound in metaliferous ores. In 1825 the St. Isidore gold-mine was worked. In the year 1840 M. Baric, a Frenchman, found a thread of virgin gold near the Mission of St. Ferdinand, which he worked with considerable

effect, having yielded him an ounce a day. Whether gold-mining, as distinguished from gold-washing, will succeed, is doubtful, as the mineral is mostly found in small threads or specks thinly scattered, and the outlay in removing large masses of rock, which are in themselves worth nothing, is always a great drawback to profitable production.

The *Gold-Mining-Works* are divided into two classes—dry diggings and wet diggings. The dry diggings are, as their name imports, in the higher banks, and have been hitherto less productive, but more healthy, than the other. The wet diggings, on the contrary, are in the beds of rivers and streams, and are generally more profitably worked; but as the diggers stand in the water, under a hot sun, they are subject to attacks of ague and fever.

CHAPTER II.

THE VOYAGE TO THE GOLD COUNTRY.

THE routes to California from Europe are three: first, through the United States; second, across the isthmus, which separates the two continents; third, round Cape Horn.

The first route is through Boston, New York, or Philadelphia, to the Ohio, and then up the heads of the Missouri, across the Rocky Mountains, to the Sacramento. The overland journey is of three months' duration, without accommodation, beset with Indians, and in some places there is neither food or water. Travellers go together in parties, carrying their goods in waggons

or on the backs of mules and horses. Travellers from England may go to New Orleans, and up the Mississippi and the Missouri. The people of Texas have a way by the Rio Bravo del Norte into New Mexico, thence across the Rocky Mountains.

The second route is by the West India mail-steamers to Porto Bello or Chagre, in the state of Ystmo, New Granada, and thence by an overland journey of fifty miles, or two days to Panama on the Pacific. A steamer is to be put on the Chagre river. The road between Chagre and Panama has been recently repaired by the local authorities, by means of a loan from the Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company. The town of Chagre is the unhealthiest in the world; that of Panama tolerably good. At Panama the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers arrive from Valparaiso and Callao; and an American mail-steamer runs to California once every six weeks, but after April next it will start once a month. Passengers can therefore go by this steamer, or by a sailing-vessel, to California, which is reckoned a three months' journey, but it proves a very expensive one, and very little luggage can be carried by the vessels.

The third route is by ship throughout from England to California, round Cape Horn, a six months' voyage at least. The English have a settlement in the Falkland Islands near Cape Horn, which is likely to prosper by the increased trade in the Pacific.

Passengers by sea may get round Cape Horn most readily, by taking a berth for Valparaiso in Chili, for which place many vessels go out, bringing back copper-ore, guano, hides, and tallow; while ships for California must be chartered for that purpose. From Valparaiso passengers may get to California, either by coasting-vessels trading in the Pacific, or by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's steamers to Panama, and thence, as before remarked, by the American government steamers to California.

CHAPTER III.

THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF THE PRECIOUS METALS
INTO SPAIN, THE PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF THE
DECLINE AND DECAY OF HER INDUSTRY.

The sudden influx of the precious metals into Spain, upon the discovery of the rich mines of Mexico and Peru, was the principal cause of her manufacturing and commercial decline. Previous to that period she was supreme in the skilled arts of industry, and supplied the whole of Europe with the rich and costly products of her looms. The workshops of Cuenca, Cordova and Seville, with their "busy hum" of manufacturing enterprise, were infi-

nitely richer sources of national wealth than the golden mines of the new world ; and, had the Spaniards of the sixteenth century taken a juster view of the real value of the precious metals—had they not mistaken the means for the end, by estimating a lump of gold at a higher rate than a piece of cloth, although the same amount of labour should have been expended on both—her looms might possibly have been competing at this day with those of England, France, and Germany.

The following historic summary will fully illustrate our meaning.

From the middle of the fourteenth century the kings of Castille rigidly prohibited the exportation of the precious metals, under an impression that they alone constituted the wealth of the nation. The great truths of political economy had not then dawned upon the minds of statesmen, and revealed the laws which define the precise value of gold and silver among the material productions of the earth. While kings and ministers were taking counsel, and racking their brains to keep the precious metals within their dominions, the latter were quietly oozing out in spite of all their schemes, and in obedience to a law which is beyond human con-

trol—the desires of man. The Spanish statesman could not be supposed to be in advance of the age, and it was perfectly natural, with their limited notions of the subject, to apprehend an internal derangement of industrial occupations, were the gold and silver—which they mistook for the end instead of the means—to leave their country. In these days we may smile at the ignorance which prevailed in the sixteenth century on the subject of Political Economy; nevertheless, we may as well bear in mind that it has caused us a vast deal of trouble and labour, and no little sacrifice of national wealth, to arrive at a clearer notion of its sound and useful laws.

In 1480 the Cortès of Toledo formally demanded of Ferdinand and Isabella a stricter application of the prohibitive laws against exporting the precious metals, and it was declared highly penal to export gold in any shape, or under any conditions. Not only bars of gold were specifically named, but coined money, vessels, ornaments, and articles of luxury, into which the precious metals largely entered, were strictly forbidden to be sent out of the country. But, upon the discovery of the Americas, when the gold poured in so abun-

dantly to the mother country, it became impossible to maintain the prohibitive laws against its exportation ; nevertheless, it was preserved in the country as effectually as it could be, and every device, threat, and denunciation, was called into requisition for that purpose. In lieu of exporting the gold to the markets of the world, in exchange for commodities, which would have enriched her people, and diffused the former more equally among her manufacturing neighbours, Spain pursued an opposite course ; and the vast accumulation of the precious metals among her own people, soon augmented the price of raw materials, raised wages to a corresponding height, and prevented her manufacturers from competing with those of other countries. Instead of being an exporting, she soon became an importing nation, dependant upon the foreigner for her supplies, and compelled to give her dearly-cherished gold, which she vainly imagined the be-all of industry and enterprise, for the very commodities which her own looms had previously produced. The cheap labour of Flanders, Spain, and Italy, soon attacked her manufactures, which could not breathe in such a golden at-

mosphere; and the very source of what she deemed her riches and power, became the most effective cause of her ruin.

It is impossible to ascertain the quantity of the precious metals imported from Mexico and Peru by the Spaniards; a rough estimate is the utmost that can be achieved. Under the reign of Charles V., the royal functionaries allowed ten years to elapse before they rendered any account of their stewardship; and the documents in the provincial Treasury of Potosi have no records beyond the first year of the reign of Phillippe II.,* therefore the statements of Moncada, Ustaritz, and Ulloa, must be considered somewhat apocryphal, as they are too often based upon very incorrect *data*. The researches of Humboldt have reduced the extravagant estimates of the Spanish writers to their just value, and may be safely relied upon, as the nearest approximation to the truth.

He states that the importation of the precious metals into Spain was in the following sums: — from 1492 to 1500, there were

* Hamboldt, livre 4, chap. xi.

250,000 piastres* annually imported; from 1545 to 1600, eleven millions; and from 1600 to 1700, there were sixteen millions. Thus, in the space of two hundred years, the quantity of the precious metals imported into the mother country was about seventeen millions and a half of pounds sterling, of English money, which must have had an immense influence on the price of commodities, considering the value of the precious metals at that period, throughout the markets of the world, and especially in Spain, where it was hugged and hoarded with the utmost tenacity.

Some idea may be formed of the effects which this vast influx of gold must have produced upon the Spaniards, by collecting the scattered notices of the luxury, the grandeur, and the wasteful extravagance, which seemed to dominate among all classes, from the throne down to the common artizan, in all the writers who have touched upon that period. The king, the court, and the grandees, seemed to vie with each other in lavish expenditure, and

* De l' Influence du Gouvernement d' Isabelle. Memoire inséré dans la collection de l'Académie de l'histoire de Madrid, t. vi., p. 293.

in costly display. Philip II. spent six millions of pistoles* in the construction of the Escorial; an enormous sum at that period, when the precious metals were comparatively scarce. The marriage of Marguerita of Austria with Philip III. was celebrated in the most sumptuous style; a million of ducats was spent upon that occasion, or nearly half a million of our money in pounds sterling. The grandees imitated the court, and scattered their newly-acquired wealth from the new world, with vicious profusion. Their palaces, dependents, and vassals, were upon a scale of magnificence that dazzled *Bossompierre*,† albeit, not unaccustomed to the splendour and display of a court. The income of the Duke of Lerma was 600,000 ducats (200,000*l.*); on his death-bed he bequeathed to pious purposes 1,500,000 ducats, or nearly half a million of pounds sterling. Then there were the Mendozas, the d'Enriquezs, the Pachecos, and others of approximative grandeur, of whose wealth some notion may be formed, when it is related that

* Nearly 2,000,000*l.*

† *Journal de ma vie.* p. 536.

upon the death of the Duc d'Albuquerque, it took six weeks to complete the schedule of his vessels of gold and silver, working two hours each day. There were 1400 dozen of gold plates and dishes; and forty steps of solid silver, to serve as ladders, by which he could ascend to the top of his lofty *buffets*.

“ When they told me of this opulence,” says the writer,* from whom we are quoting, “ I thought they were quizzing me; but when I enquired of Don Antonio de Toledo, son of the Duc d'Albe, he assured me it was true, and that his father, who did not consider himself rich in plate, had six hundred dozen of dishes of gold, and eight hundred of silver.” The citizens imitated the nobles, and disdained the manual arts, and other industrial pursuits, as beneath their dignity; and the folly descended the intervening degrees of all ranks of the people, until even the water-carriers of the capital abandoned their humble pursuit, and luxuriated as long as they could in the golden showers which had so suddenly poured down

* Relatim du voyage d'Espagne fait en 1679, t. ii., p. 119.

upon the nation. This feeling pervaded all Spain, after the precious metals had become sufficiently diffused; and in the course of a century they declined in value about four-fifths, according to the most accurate authorities.* The merchants of Seville, who had the monopoly of trading with the new world, aggravated the evil, by the conviction and belief that gold was more profitable to import than other commodities; and disdained to bring home a cargo of anything but the precious metals.† They treated with superb contempt the drugs, the indigo, cotton, leather and wools, which were the first articles of necessity, and the prime support of the Spanish manufactures. The foreigner instantly availed himself of the ignorance of the Spaniard, and quietly crept into a lucrative commerce. In the seventeenth century the Dutch were masters of the island of Curaçao, and the English had established themselves in Jamaica; the ships of these enterprising traders began to dot the oceans

* The Value of the old Piastre was about four shillings and two-pence of our money.

† Mancipantes se ipsos fertilitati. Campanella, p. 128.

of the world, and while the stately galleons of Spain, with their rich argosies from the Indies were proudly sailing into port, the former were quietly picking up the crumbs which the latter, in their ignorance, had disdainfully flung from them. The English traders purchased in the markets of Panama and Porto Bello, re-sold their commodities in the markets of Europe, and realized a good profit.*

The Spanish manufacturers soon began to decline in their energies; workmen became scarce; and the raw materials rapidly advanced in price. The Merchants of Seville were obliged to order, sometimes, five or six years beforehand, what they wanted of the manufacturers, the price of commodities in a manufactured state, at the same time, were greatly advancing; while, in neighbouring countries, where the precious metals were in less profusion, labour at a much lower rate, and workmen plentiful, the progress of manufacturing industry was making rapid strides, and ultimately inundated the markets of Castille, Valentia, and

* *Mémoires de la Société économique de Madrid*, t. iii., p. 264.

Seville. This was the death-blow to Spanish industrial supremacy. The Genoese, to whom Charles V. had accorded certain commercial privileges, poured in their goods in almost overwhelming quantities; and, conjoined to the persecutions of the Jews by Philip II., the most industrious and useful portion of his people, their competition completely ruined the manufacturers of Cuenca, Segovia, and Toledo, who alone had previously furnished the Colonies with their productions.*

Nevertheless, Spain might have struggled on with its *embarras de richesses*, had her statesmen turned a deaf ear to the ignorant clamours of the people, who seemed determined to plunge deeper and deeper into the slough of error. The high price of commodities was attributed to the exports to the Colonies, and the Cortès were solemnly adjured to put an end to all exportation, as the exchange of the gold of Mexico and Peru, for the products of national industry, was deemed an injury. The document which embodies these extraordinary opinions, is worth citing, as it furnishes a curious insight

* Mémoires de la Société de Madrid, p. 289.
Jovellanos, Coleccion de verias obras, t. i., p. 110.

into the spirit and intelligence which then prevailed, regarding commerce and manufactures; and in these days of trading freedom, and commercial enterprize, when the last blow has been struck at the old giant of monopoly, it will be perused with pity or derision, according to the disposition of the reader. The petition was presented to the Cortès of Valladolid in 1548.*

“Every day,” say the petitioners, “we see the price of cloths, of leather, of silks, and of other articles of necessity, which are manufactured in this kingdom, rise in price. We know, also, that this rise of price is occasioned by their exportation to the Indies; and the evil has now become so great that the people cannot struggle against the growing dearness of commodities—even the first articles of necessity. And, as it is notorious that America furnishes, in abundance, wool superior to that of Spain; why don’t the inhabitants make their own cloths? Many of their provinces, also, produce silk; why don’t they manufacture their own satins and velvets? Does not the

* Cortès de 1548. Petic. cciv.

New World produce plenty of leather, not only for its own wants, but also for the whole kingdom; we therefore pray your Majesty to prohibit the export of these Articles to America."

It is difficult to conceive the ignorance which must have existed in those days regarding the laws which regulate human industry, had we not so many and such palpable proofs before us; and, by way of completing the picture of economic wisdom in the sixteenth century, we shall add a few more touches, which are equally as characteristic as the preceding sketches. The petitioners had not the slightest conception that the precious metals, which they estimated as the real riches of the country, were the cause of all the evils they deplored; and the government, equally ignorant, shaped their measures in unison with the misconceptions of the petitioners. A law was passed, limiting the departure of galleons for the Indies, to the guild of Seville; and an absolute prohibition of trading with the Colonies could not have had a more fatal effect upon the industry of the country than that partial measure.* In the

* *Memoires de la Societe economique de Madrid*, t. iii., p. 289.

meantime the wise statesmen of that day passed a singular law, in the hope of diminishing the price of commodities—they enacted that the exportation of “corn and cattle were hurtful to the kingdom, as it enhanced the price of food, to the detriment of the people;” and threatened with confiscation of their goods, whoever dared to violate that law. They also, in their wisdom, prohibited the export of cloth, of woollens, silks, &c.;* and from that time forward, as it will be readily conceived, the manufactures languished for want of markets, and ultimately declined altogether. The government also fixed the price of leather and other articles, which gave a fatal blow to those industries; they also prohibited the export of raw and manufactured silks, which diminished the amount annually consumed about 50,000lbs. and gave the *coup de grace* to weaving—the markets of Genoa, Florence, and even Tunis, being supplied by the Spaniards.†

By these absurd and destructive measures the Government of Spain inflicted an irrepara-

* Influence du gouvernement d'Isabella. Nueva Recopilacion, ley 27.

† Jovellanos, Collección de varias obras, t. i. p. 112.

ble blow upon her great industrial pursuits; and in lieu of lowering the price of commodities, which was their immediate aim, they had exactly the opposite effect. As money became more abundant, the price of commodities advanced, and the laws which prohibited the export of the precious metals had no other result than to restrict production, and ruin the home manufacturer.

From the preceding facts the following important inferences may be drawn—

First—That every increase of the precious metals in a country has a tendency to diminish its value, if there be no corresponding augmentation in the amount of commodities; and, *vice versâ*, every increase in the amount of commodities without a corresponding increase of the circulating medium, has a tendency to augment the value of the latter.

Second—That the supply of gold and silver is regulated by the same laws as that of all other commodities. So long as an adequate price is paid, sufficient to yield a profit, the supply will be continued; and upon any increase of the value of gold and silver, additional exertions will be made to furnish larger supplies, not only from the mines in working

order, but also from new sources. On the other hand, as the value of gold and silver diminishes, the least fertile mines will be abandoned as unprofitable, as those in Europe were, after the discovery of the more fertile mines of America.

Third—When the currency of a country is sufficient for the circulation of commodities, any addition to that currency does not augment the national wealth, or the sum of necessities and conveniences of life. Luxuries, it is true, may be increased by a greater supply of gold and silver; but in so trivial a degree as to be scarcely deserving of notice. But a sudden influx of the precious metals has a tendency to produce this serious evil—that, when currency is abundant, the prices of commodities are enhanced beyond their value in other countries; consequently, every advantage which the possessors of the abundant currency could derive from employing it, is completely frustrated, as the price of raw materials, of machinery, and, also, the rate of wages, advance in proportion to the diminished value of the currency, therefore preclude it from being profitably employed.

The decline and decay of Spanish industry

clearly illustrates the truth of the preceding inferences, and ought to be studied with the deepest interest, especially as the newly-discovered mines of California *may* pour into the markets of the world an augmented stream of the precious metals, whose effect upon the great industrial interests of mankind can scarcely be estimated.

CHAPTER IV.

FLUCTUATIONS IN THE RELATIVE VALUE OF GOLD AND SILVER.

THE relative value of gold and silver has experienced some strange fluctuations since these metals have been selected as the standard of value for all other commodities.

Heeren relates that the value of silver was tenfold greater than that of gold in *Arabia Felix**, when the Phenicians discovered the mines in Spain, and exchanged their produce—silver—for the gold of Arabia. The only authority which he cites is a note of *Bochart*;

* Historical Researches—Phenicia.

and adds, "that the conjecture of the latter is not destitute of foundation."

At the time of the second punic war, the relative value of gold and silver was 1 to $17\frac{1}{2}$, according to the authority of *Jacob*; but the reason assigned for the relative high price of gold is not well-authenticated. The cause most probably was, the successful workings of the Spanish mines by the Carthaginians, whose wealth and enterprise had enriched the whole western world; and the comparative difficulty of procuring the gold from the East, when the commercial intercourse of the Carthaginians with the Arabians had diminished.

Silver, for several centuries previous to the reign of Justinian had held in general the proportion of 10 to 1 of gold, when it suddenly rose to $14\frac{2}{3}$ to 1. Gibbon attributes this fall in the value of silver to the inroads of the Barbarians in the fifth century who happened to throw themselves on countries which produced the gold. The produce of the Austrian Gold Mines, he says, had long averaged £1,000,000 per annum: they were ruined by the Visigoths, and have never been re-opened since.

The proportionate value of the two metals is not at any time a correct index of the actual

proportionate quantities of them. Silver is at present nearly sixteen times less valuable than gold, but when we consider how very much the former is used in manufactures, there can be no doubt that its quantity exceeds that of gold in a greater proportion than 16 to 1.

The relative value, or price, of gold and silver has long been fixed by all civilized nations, and bears a corresponding* ratio throughout the

* When I say that the Mint *fixes* the relative prices of gold and silver, I merely use the ordinary expression ; but, as there seems to be a great misconception of that expression, it may not be inopportune to explain what it really means. The Mint does not fix the price of gold ; but merely says, by fixing the standard, that a *Conventional pound* shall mean the same thing to-morrow as to-day—the same a month, or three months hence, when I am to be paid for my goods as on the day I sold them. All the *fixity* amounts to this—A sells B certain goods to-day for one pound *sterling*—that is, so many grains of gold ; and B is to receive in payment the same number of grains of gold when the day of payment arrives, or what is equal to it, a Bank Note for which he can go and demand those number of grains of gold. The truth is that a *fixed price* of gold only means a *fixed quantity*. This is the error which the Liverpool Reform Financial Association commit, like many others who will not take the trouble to understand, or who have not the clearness of intellect to perceive it, commit, which leads them, necessarily, into all manner of currency crotchets and blunders.

world; and the fluctuations, hitherto, have been but slight, as the cost of producing the precious metals is generally a fixed sum, which, from the nature of things, admits of little or no diminution. From the reasoning in the preceding chapters it may be safe, therefore, to infer that the cost will not be greatly disturbed by the recent discoveries in California.

CHAPTER V.

HOARDING, ONE OF THE CAUSES WHICH MAINTAINS THE VALUE OF THE PRECIOUS METALS.

THE passion of mankind for the precious metals is as intense now as it was at the earliest recorded instance of exchange, when simple barter was superseded. It is superfluous to dwell upon this point, as there are so many evidences of its reality and truth. But the passion for hoarding may not be so obvious to the ordinary observer, as it is to those who are occupied in watching the varied phenomena which it exhibits, and which assume so many

forms in the actions of mankind. Hoarding is practised to as great an extent in the most civilized nations as it is in the comparatively barbarous ; and, singular to relate, it arises from the same cause—namely, *the insecurity of property*. In France* the passion

* Chevalier has made an ingenious calculation of the circulating medium of Europe, and fixes it at 8 milliards of francs. Estimating the population at 250 millions of inhabitants, and France having 35 millions, he gives as her share of the medium, 1,120 millions, whereas she has upwards of 4 milliards, which entails upon her an enormous expense, annually, in coinage and interest. He estimates the circulating medium of England, 1,200, with which she transacts the enormous amount of her business. France loves the bullion, under a mistaken impression that it is more valuable and safer, as an instrument of exchange. —“ Il règne dans toutes les classes un amour exclusif de la richesse métallique,” says Chevalier ; and he proves clearly that she pays precious dear for it.

Of the 825, kilogrammes of precious metals, produced annually by America and Europe, France has coined, since 1830, 360,000 kilog., almost half. Her custom-tables also show that her import of silver, since 1816, has exceeded her export by two milliards of francs. What with the cost of extraction, mercury, and the expenses of coinage, she pays annually about 3,600,000, or nearly four millions of francs for her circulating medium. She still adheres to her barbarous method of delegating the *royal authority* to a company, who, at their different *Hotels des Monnaies*, strike off 80 millions of francs annually ; the reason

for hoarding is greater than any other country of Europe, which may be easily traced to the uneasy and unsettled condition of property. The revolutionary ploughshare has so completely furrowed up the settled habits of her people, and destroyed that mutual confidence in each other, which alone can inspire a high tone of credit and security, that there are but few investments to attract the surplus earnings of her industry. And even that few are looked upon by the mass of the French with distrust and apprehension; hence the almost universal concomitant of parental dissolution—the hoarded

is simple—the *directory* get a handsome per centage upon the coinage.

A great portion of this annually increasing coinage is hoarded, which has become a settled passion with the French, especially among the working and middle classes.

M. Chevalier does not go deep enough; he wishes, I presume, to spare the feelings of his countrymen by merely glozing over the causes of the intense passion for hoarding which has long characterized them. I would respectfully refer him to *Les Causes Célèbres*, wherein he will find abundant evidence of the fact, and of the diabolical results to which it frequently leads. In most of the cases of murder, there is generally an old stocking of five franc pieces prominently in the fore-ground, as one of the exciting causes of the perpetration of crime.

stocking of five-frank pieces. The criminal tribunals of that, in some respects, fine and intelligent people, exhibit some dark and mournful incidents; indicating too unmistakably the wide-spread passion for hoarding which exists among them. In other parts of Europe, where property is not respected, the same passion must exist, although, perhaps, not to the same extent as in France. The inhabitants of the East Indies have long been noted for hoarding the precious metals; and the bulk of the enormous sums which find their way to that quarter of the globe, never returns into the great circulating arteries of commerce, but lies in a state of unprofitable and unhealthy congestion. Their passion for hoarding is a natural result from the political institutions of that country, and must always exist under similar conditions; the Indians, even now, under the comparatively mild and paternal sway of the East India Company, are not permitted to hold land, therefore have no inducement to cultivate it to a profit, which would naturally wean them from hoarding their wealth. If their property, formerly, was too palpable to sight or touch, it was safe to be mulcted; for Asiatic rulers are not,

and never have been, over nice in their scruples
*as regards the law of *meum* and *tuum*, as their
subjects can too plainly prove. I except the
Company, of course, from this remark ; whose
rule is a blessing compared to the native
chiefs of India, although the conditions of the
land-question, as it stands at present, require
very grave consideration.

The hoarding of the precious metals must
rather increase than diminish, under the dis-
turbed state of the world, and the protracted
political struggle of the present age ; and any
increase, therefore, from the *mines*, to any
considerable extent, would meet with a coun-
teracting check in this strange, but in some
respects pardonable, passion of mankind.

CHAPTER VI.

WHAT EFFECT WILL THE DISCOVERY OF THE
MINES IN CALIFORNIA HAVE UPON THE IN-
DUSTRIAL RELATIONS OF THE WORLD?

BEFORE a satisfactory answer can be given to so important a question, it is necessary to consider the conditions under which it has risen.

First.—The discovery of a new source for the production of the precious metals, must naturally create an impression that the general quantity in the world will be greatly augmented.

Secondly.—A sudden increase in the quan-

tity of the precious metals will have a tendency to derange their relative value to other commodities ; and such derangement must naturally disturb the commercial dealings of nations, the pecuniary settlements of society, and the equitable relations of debtor and creditor.

First.—Will the discovery of the California Mines—the new productive source—lead to an augmentation of the quantity of the precious metals ?

It is barely possible that the supply of the precious metals from California may be so abundant that they will be materially depreciated as compared to other commodities, and their utility, as instruments of exchange, and a standard of value, greatly impaired ; and were this inconvenience to arise, gold would simply take the place of silver, and silver that of copper, in their relative exchangeable values—in short, copper would be useless, as silver would exchange for the smallest computable quantity of commodities. But these are not probable events—and we ought to limit our hypotheses to the *probable*, and not extend them to the *possible*, range of contingencies—for if any fertile mines of either gold

or silver were discovered, or even the present mines to yield far more abundantly, it would soon be found, that, owing to the increased quantity of these metals, their value would be diminished in proportion; and the least fertile mines, whose produce would be no longer equal to the expense of working them, would necessarily be closed. This happened in the 16th century, when the Spaniards discovered the mines in South America, and procured unusual supplies from that quarter; the greater part of those in Europe were soon abandoned, as the cost of working them was too great for the value of their produce in the markets of the world. And the same results will again obtain in the event of unusual quantities of the precious metals being found in California; the least productive mines, now in operation, must naturally cease to be worked.

Again, there is an *a priori* argument against the immense quantity of the precious metals alleged to exist in the newly discovered regions of California. All history attests that gold has been found in small quantities—indeed, it seems an essential result from the condition of its existence—and in similar states, from the most remote period to the present tim

Heeren, the able and learned historian, enters elaborately into the condition of the Mines of Spain, when first discovered by the Phenicians, trading to that country. That adventurous people found the silver lying upon the surface of the earth, the natives having no means of exchanging it, and only estimating its value by its utility; but when the adventurers had exhausted the first supply which was of so easy access, they were compelled to dig deep into the bowels of the earth for the second, and to expend a great deal of labour, involving a vast outlay of capital, before they could obtain additional supplies of the metal. At length, according to the natural laws which govern production, mining in Spain became a laborious, expensive, and exceedingly precarious undertaking, which barely paid those whose capital was embarked in it; and, upon the discovery of the Athenian Mines shortly after, when silver became depreciated in the market, the Phenicians abandoned those of Spain, from the fact of the outlay being too great for a profitable return. I have already remarked upon the abandonment of the European mines, when those of America were dis-

covered, from the same causes, precisely, as those which closed those of ancient Spain; it will only be necessary to state another event in the history of the precious metal-discovery, to illustrate simply and clearly, the point at which I am aiming.

The discovery of gold in the Ural Chain of Siberia led to the most exaggerated estimates of its quantity, and suggested many enquiries which have resulted in a more correct knowledge of its positive conditions. In the gullies and ravines of the water-courses the precious metal was found in abundance; but in the wide estuaries, formed by the rivers, over which the *dèbris* of that high mountain range had been washed for ages, it was scattered about in comparatively diminished quantities. After the first gathering was accomplished, it became a settled form of labour, involving a definite outlay of capital, and yielding an average, but not an enormous, rate of profit. Indeed, the profit barely exceeds that of the Brazilian and Mexican Mines, which have been long in operation.

Nor has the working of the Ural mines materially changed the relative value of gold, which

was confidently anticipated*, as the quantity annually produced approximates to a given sum—about £ 2,000,000 odd—but with this drawback, that the amount of labour is almost annually increasing, while the quantity of metal produced is not augmenting in the same ratio. Again, when we consider the conditions under which the precious metal is generally found, it will be readily inferred that the quantity must be exceedingly limited; and that the expense of obtaining it must always keep up its relative value to other commodities.

“ In the lofty chain of mountains running

* The reader may feel some interest in knowing to what extent the mines of the Ural and Siberia have proved productive. In the year 1837, the gold produce of the Ural mountains exceeded 304 poods; this portion is considered the richest of the mountain-chain, as all the other mines only produced 104 poods. In 1842, the total amount had already reached 100 poods—nearly double that of 1838—and in the last year, 1843, it swelled to the enormous quantity of 1342 poods. Taking the pood at 43 lbs. 103 dwts. troy, and estimating the ounce of gold at 3£. 17s. 10½d., and the fineness of the gold at the British standard, the sterling value of the last year's produce of Russian gold amounts to 2,751,962£. Vide, *Murchison's* “observations on the Ural mountain.”

nearly due north, which form as it were the backbone of Central America, shoot out an infinite number of elevated spurs; these, running in a N. E. and S. W. direction, form either deep ravines or elevated table lands. The plains are composed, at the Base of the Rocky Mountains, of limestone overlying granite. In a lower latitude they are superstratified with serpentine, and greenstone trap; and in the Sierra Nevada, the rocks are composed of granite—consisting of white quartz, feldspar, and black mica—porous trap, or basalt. The granites of this part of the world are nearly all auriferous (California—but the geological phenomena are nearly the same in the Ural chain,) and from their granular and loose structure, undergo rapid decomposition. During the winter season, the crests of these mountain-ranges are deeply covered with snow; and at the periods of thaw, and during the rainy season, which lasts from November until March, torrents of water sweep from the mountain-tops down the deep gullies and ravines into the valleys, and carry with them the disintegrated rock, and the particles of gold. Thus the valleys of the region are annually inundated, and masses of decomposed

rock are scattered over their surfaces. The rich gold deposits are found in the heads of the ravines, and although the valleys may yield large returns, the richest accumulation will be found at the heads of the deepest gullies. Hence the pursuit of gold-finding is very uncertain, although throughout California and Upper Mexico the washings of the mountains have accumulated since the creation of the world, yet in valleys the gold is seldom found below a few feet from the surface, and the smallest undulations upon the surface of the valley may considerably lessen or increase the residuation of the metallic grains. Thus, therefore, in most parts of the world where gold deposits have been found, the superficial working has been successful: but as the pursuit is extended, very large tracts are often explored unsuccessfully. This has been the case in the Ural, in Columbia, in Costa Rica, and other places." (Wyld's notes.)

It may readily be inferred from the preceding observations, that no great quantity of the precious metals will be obtained in California; none, at least, that will have any great disturbing influence on its relative value in the markets of the world, as many alarmists

apprehend,* from too limited a view of the nature and conditions of the question. The cost of the labour to obtain it will soon assimilate the *Sierra Nevada* to the conditions of the *Ural Chain*; when the cream is swept off—if we may be pardoned such a phrase—the “diggings” will gradually diminish, and the

* Vide the pamphlet of a *Merchant*, entitled “Reflections on the manner in which property may be affected by a large influx of Gold in California!” The following may be taken as a sample of the writer’s reasoning powers—“In all the gold mines hitherto discovered, circumstances have imposed a limit on the extent to which they could be worked. In Africa, the impediments are a bad climate and a barbarous people. In the Oural mountains the sterility of the soil prevents any increase of population. In South America and other countries, where the metal is obtained exclusively by excavation, that very circumstance restricts the number of miners, as few can be employed at a time in a shaft.” In all these instances of the “merchant,” a wrong cause is assigned for the limited production of gold. The cause is simply this—*mining will not repay the cost of labour employed in it.* In Africa, Mehemet Ali found that the forced labour in the gold mines of Darfour and Nigritia cost him more than the gold was worth—therefore abandoned them as unprofitable undertakings. The Emperor of Russia, or rather the Prince Demidoff, and the owners of the Ural mines, find that no more labour can be profitably employed upon them; the sterility of the soil has little to do with the question, even were it in that

“diggers” will be gradually reduced to the skimmed-milk state, as the labourers are at present in the Russian Mines.

Having treated of the first branch of the proposition which I set out with, I shall now consider the subject in another form, so as to meet the conditions of the second branch.

Let us assume, for the sake of argument, that a large influx of gold from California will take place. What effect will that quantity have on the monetary relations of the world? The possessors of the precious metal, like other people, will be desirous of employing advantageously the greater part of their property; an increase of currency, which would naturally ensue from a large influx of the precious metals, would therefore cause more competition for its employment, and, consequently, the nominal price of commodities would rapidly

condition, which is not confirmed by intelligent observers. (vide, Murchison.) In South America also, the mines would have been more extensively worked, had they yielded a profit; and not simply because “the metal is obtained by excavation, that circumstance restricting the number of miners,” which could soon have been obviated by a profitable return. We have one word for this species of reasoning—*Niaiserie*.

advance. I assume, at the same time, that the quantity of commodities has not increased *pari passu* with the gold. After prices had advanced, a new relation would be established between the circulating medium and commodities; and the competition for the extra currency would immediately cease. An augmentation of the precious metals in any one country will advance the price of commodities in that country, but not always in proportion to their excess, as a part would most likely be exported for profitable employment elsewhere; and, as prices advanced, the inducement to import foreign goods would increase, which would be paid for in the precious metals, until a more equable relation was established between the importing and exporting countries, as regards the price of commodities.

Many people regard the importation of gold and silver as a benefit greater than results from that of other commodities, and consider the exportation of them as a national detriment. A superabundance of the precious metals is no proof of the increase of national wealth. An individual possessed of a large quantity of these metals may be considered opulent, but if he does not ex-

change them for other objects which can add to his property, it will continually diminish by all the amount of expense that he incurs. So it is with the aggregate of individuals constituting the nation. Every superfluity of wealth, not employed usefully for the reproduction of another value, is placed in a state of total consumption, and the national wealth accordingly diminishes. Were an increase of metallic currency to afford additional facility to the circulation of goods, then production might be encouraged, and a greater supply of gold and silver would be desirable; but every excess, beyond what can encourage production, proves useless, and occasions wasteful expense. Let us pursue this argument a little further, as many are smitten with the notion that the acquisition of the precious metals is the acquisition of wealth. Such reasoners do not bear in mind that the foreigners, who send gold and silver to this country, take away what they deem of greater value; in like manner, the exporters, also, of the precious metals to other countries calculate, as if they sent other goods, upon obtaining from thence a greater value

in return, and were no benefit to result, the exportation would cease.

The importation or exportation of gold and silver does not, necessarily, imply the transfer of capital from one country to another for the sake of permanent employment. Either of these, like the importation or exportation of any other commodity, is most frequently the exchange of the excess of one kind of capital which cannot be so usefully employed where it is, as if it were forwarded to another country, for the acquisition of a different kind of capital, from which the owners expect a greater benefit.

Every advantage, therefore, which may be supposed to arise from the augmentation in the quantity of the precious metals in any particular country, is altogether without foundation.

No country can retain an excess of them in circulation, greater than would occasion a diminution in their value, equal to the risk and expense of conveying them to other countries, united to a moderate rate of profit. The augmented value attainable from other nations, which are in comparative want of the precious

metals, beyond what they will exchange for where they exist in superfluity, must always prove an inducement to export them for commodities of greater value, and even to carry on a contraband trade in them, too powerful to be controlled.* Spain furnishes a memorable example of this fact.

+ *Nueva Recopilacion*, ley 27, Madrid 1548. There were several laws of this kind passed before and after the period cited, prohibiting the exportation of the precious metals. In consequence of that prohibition Spain suffered two disadvantages. First, every possessor of gold and silver in the kingdom could obtain less for them than he otherwise would, had he been permitted to send them freely to the best market. Secondly, foreigners received additional encouragement to carry on a forbidden trade with the Spanish colonies, as all goods sent from Spain to the former were a percentage dearer than those sent from other countries, in as far as the price was enhanced by the prohibition of the export of gold and silver. The colonies returned raw produce to Spain in payment for what they received, then the price of the returns in the mother country would have been sufficiently enhanced to equalize the advance on the goods sent out. But the result was different when returns were made in coin or bullion, which was more valuable to foreigners than to Spanish Merchants, by the per centage of prohibition imposed

We must also bear in mind that the circumstances of the world are vastly different to what they were when the Spaniards discovered America, and inundated Europe with the precious metals. The elements of production were comparatively limited, and commodities, therefore, but few; and the means of diffusing those commodities throughout the world, and carrying on an extended commercial exchange, were but scanty and meagre, as compared to the present day. A voyage across the ocean was a marvel and wonder which few could undertake; and even from town to town, not to say from country to country, a communication was of but rare occurrence. The influx of the precious metals into Europe at that period, therefore, must have had an instantaneous effect upon prices, as commodities were but few, and not capable of rapid augmentation. The manufactures were almost exclusively confined to Spain and

on the latter. The prohibition of the exportation of gold and silver from Spain was consequently a tax upon the trade both of the mother country and of the colonies. The design was to preserve a large quantity of the precious metals in Spain; but the effect was to diminish their importation into that country, and to ruin her manufactures and commerce.

Flanders; France and England, at that period employing but few hands in such occupations. There were then no Manchesters, Glasgows, Birminghams; no Lyons, Paris, Rouen, St. Quentin; no Strasbourgh, Elberfeldt, Mulhausen, Abbeville; no Milan in Italy for manufacturing renown—no Berne in Switzerland for its ingenious devices; all these busy hives of industry had not awakened into existence, to send forth to the world the marvellous prodigies of their power, to excite the cravings, to indulge the tastes, and to satisfy the wants of mankind: at the period to which we refer population was thinly scattered over the globe, its desires few and easily supplied; its power of satisfying its wants were exceedingly limited. Gold must, therefore, have been but little in request among the mass of the community, and seldom used as an instrument of exchange, although it was adopted, as the precious metals have been in all ages, among civilized nations, as the standard of value, by which every article in its saleable capacity was measured. The merchants of that day—those of Grenoble, Venice, Barcelona and Seville, had a measurement of its value, and minutely watched its fluctuations in the markets of the world, as far as

their limited knowledge of the rise and fall of the precious metals at that period, would allow them; but the mass of men—and even the governing few—knew little about it, or cared for comprehending the laws which governed its value, although it was almost daily affecting the relations of their whole property. Contrast the present state of the world with what it was in the 16th century, when the influx of the precious metals affected so great a change in the relative value of commodities. In these days we can produce commodities much faster than we can dig or delve gold from the earth, and were mankind to discover a real *Pactolus*, with nothing but gold for its sands, the spinning-jenny in our great hives of industry would keep pace with it, and produce as rapidly as the value of the metal could possibly fall, so that the standard measure would not be greatly disturbed by the discovery. The ships now off the coast of California, to omit those announced for that quarter, even in this country alone, contain more exchangeable commodities than the relative value of the discovered gold is worth, and must quickly absorb it; so that the chance of a

large importation from thence is but remote, except in exchange for commodities, and any surplus quantity that may reach either Europe or America will be instantly diffused by the multiplicity of articles awaiting a profitable exchange, and the many wants of mankind which are only scantily gratified. To sum up these few remarks—the productive power of our manufacturing and agricultural industry is much greater than that which produces the precious metals, as is clearly demonstrated by the fall in the price of commodities in relation to silver and gold; while, on the contrary, the production of the precious metals in the sixteenth century was much greater than that of commodities, hence the great fall that ensued in the value of the former, as compared to the latter. *The positions are precisely reversed.*

If any large increase, therefore, of the precious metals result from the discovery in *California*, the absorbing power is sufficiently great to counteract the effect of depreciation in those metals; and it may be safely inferred that the disturbing influence will not be so great as many alarmists are disposed to believe,

which fulfils all the conditions required in the proposition.

* Should the influx of gold from California into Europe ultimately prove as large as it is at present expected to be, it would produce two effects, according as we consider it, first—as increasing the whole aggregate of the coined monies circulating throughout Europe; and, secondly, as we consider it, as merely altering its own relative value to that of silver. With respect to the latter effect, though it may not be so serious as anticipated, yet the consequences which will flow from it, will be of a most momentous character. Let us suppose, for instance, that gold, instead of bearing as it does now a relative value to that of silver, as $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, should become so depreciated by its abundance, or rather by its cheapness of production, that it should be only twelve times the value of silver. It would thus be depreciated about one-fifth; and the 113 grains of fine gold in our sovereign would be only worth *sixteen shillings*. In fact, it would require four shillings-worth more of gold, at that price, or 28 grains more, that is, 141 grains to discharge an obligation of one-pound sterling. In all our existing contracts, the bond between the creditor and the debtor is, that for every pound sterling of obligation, the former shall demand, and the latter shall not be called upon to pay more than 113 grains.

The operation of such a change will not only effect the public creditor, but all those great social institutions, Life Assurance and Reversionary Companies. For instance, the former, at some distant date, on being called upon to satisfy a Policy,

after having taken for a series of years of the Insurer gold which was worth twenty shillings, would pay his representatives in gold which would be only worth sixteen shillings. And, on the contrary, a Reversionary Society which had advanced a sum of money in gold worth twenty shillings for the distant Reversion of a larger sum, would, when that Reversion fell in, have to receive it in gold worth only sixteen shillings. In fact, all the calculations which these Institutions have made during the last two generations would be stultified to the immense gain of one class, and the immense loss of the other.

CHAPTER VII.

ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

THE accidental development of mineral wealth in the far west, has naturally directed public attention to the Isthmus of Panama, which seems on the map like a thin line of thread uniting the two great continents of America. Nothing seems easier than to snap it asunder, and force a passage for the two oceans to join their masses of water together, so that the ships of the world might sail proudly through, instead of having to sneak some thousands of miles round Cape Horn, not only to their great

endangerment, but also at an immense sacrifice of time, one of the most important elements in an economical calculation. Yet, so it is. Science, with all its gigantic accomplishments, seems appalled at the effort to remove this obstacle to the world's enrichment; she can fill the earth with her wonders, and has enabled man almost to outstrip even time and space, yet she cannot annihilate the distance between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans—a mere forty-five odd miles—which would immediately bring the East and West into polite proximity to each other; at least, if brother *Jonathan* would leave off his “tarnation go-a-head intrusiveness,” and John Bull would not insist upon thrusting down the throat of the fastidious Chinaman his commercial rules and regulations. But this will never be, although the Isthmus should cease to-morrow, under the magic mastery of a Stephenson or Brunel; it would simply precipitate the great *destiny* of modern discovery, that the Anglo-Saxon branch must ultimately subdue the whole human race. On—on—is the instinctive watch-word which echoes in the heart of England and America; movement is the law of their existence; the ends of the earth will

ultimately recognise their presence and give evidence of their sway. When? Let time answer; in the meanwhile we may speculate on the events which will lead to the precise period when that answer will be given.

Ever since the discovery of America the project of cutting down the Isthmus of Panama has been entertained at one time or other. Old Christopher Columbus was the first to estimate its importance—the discoverer of that new world saw at a glance that it would immensely assist maritime intercourse between the Eastern and Western hemispheres, were that barrier knocked down; but all the Kings of Spain, nor all the wealth of their sumless mines, could not accomplish it; and there it stands, like an ugly eye-sore, to reproach the boasted exploits of man, and to humble the otherwise superb flights of his soaring and scientific mind.

Humboldt has penned even a sublime summary of the advantages that must accrue to mankind, were the Isthmus knocked on the head; and Monsieur Michel* Chevalier has

* Vide Journal des Debats. July, 1846.

drawn up, most ably, the report of M. Garella, who surveyed it in a very scientific manner, and the former concludes that it never can be accomplished in our days—at least, upon the plan projected by his countryman.

M. Garella proposed to cut a canal through the solid rock of the Isthmus at an elevation of 140 metres (460 feet), which would require a lockage for every three metres—or 48 metres on the one side, and 54 metres on the other, on account of the difference of tides in the two oceans; or to pierce a tunnel at the same elevation, of dimensions sufficient to let ships of 1,200 tons burthen pass through with their lower masts standing. Of these two projects M. Garella inclined to the latter, and estimated the work as follows:—

Height from the bottom of canal to crown of the arch	37 metres (122 feet)
Breadth	21 metres (69 feet)
Total length 5,350 metres or 5,900 yards.	

M. Garella considers that the tunnel would be cut through a solid rock of porphyry, and calculates the expense:—

For Canal, tunnel, conduits, and ports—139 millions of francs, or in English money—5,560,000*l*.

Several objections to this project were soon started; and most of them well-founded. Like others, of a similar nature, it died a natural death. Since then the Americans have surveyed the Isthmus, but nothing, at present, has resulted from their survey.

The most feasible, and, at the same time the most practicable, is the plan proposed by *Don Jose de Garay*, who caused the survey of the Isthmus at Tehuantepec to be made, under the sanction of the Mexican Government, in 1842.

M. Moro, to whose scientific skill M. Garay is indebted for the survey, declares the Isthmus at Panama to be impracticable, from the enormous expense that it would involve.

He next examines the plan projected of cutting a canal to the lake of Nicaragua, or making the river St. John, which runs a distance of 93 miles, navigable; and finds the physical obstacles so great, that he abandons it in despair.

M. Moro then proposes the Isthmus of

Tehuantepec, as the most eligible point for constructing a canal, the greater part of the distance which separates the two seas, being occupied on the south by lagoons and extensive plains, and on the north it is traversed by the river *Coatzacoalcas*; so that the principal works to be executed would be comprised within a space of about fifty miles in length. He calculates that the canal would be navigable for ships drawing twenty feet water; will ensure excellent ports at both extremities; and alleges that the materials for construction cannot be more abundant, superior in quality, or better distributed in any part of the Isthmus. In point of health, *Tehuantepec* is exceedingly favourable; while, on the contrary, *Panama* is a complete pest-honse, so much so, that Messrs Loyd and Falmarc could not complete their exploring labours, which they undertook in 1827 and 1828, by order of Bolivar.

Besides these purely local advantages, *Tehuantepec* is more favourable for navigation, offering to vessels proceeding to Asia or the N. W. coast of America, a communication more direct, and through a more genial climate. On their return, they are now obliged

to keep in northern latitudes, and direct their course towards the Californias, in order to escape the influence of the trade-winds, and for these also the route would be less circuitous. Lastly, the fresh but not dangerous north and north-easterly winds are common to the whole of the American Isthmus, but *Tehuantepec* is not subject to the protracted calms, which at some seasons of the year, paralyze navigation at Panama.

M. Moro estimates the cost of the undertaking as follows:—

Cost of 150 locks at £8000.....	£1,200,000
“ 50 miles of canal at 30,000	1,500,000
“ 15 miles of trench.....	400,000
“ 3 miles of trench.....	120,000
Regulation of the Coatzacoalcos lakes, and Bocca Barra.....	160,000
	—————
	£3,380,000
	—————

The estimated returns to repay this outlay of capital, are based upon the maritime commerce of the four principal shipping nations of the world—England, United States, France,

and the Netherlands. M. Moro states that the aggregate quantity of tonnage, conveyed round Cape Horn annually, amounts to 1,500,000 tons, relying upon documentary evidence: this, with other items of profit, would produce—

For transit duties.....	£600,000
Sale of lands, and steam navigation	50,000
Timber, &c., &c.....	550,000

Total.	£1,200,000

We shall leave to others the task of analysing these statements, simply contenting ourselves with placing them prominently before the public; nevertheless, we may be allowed to observe that, from our slight experience in such matters, the proposal of M. Garay appears the most practical of all that have been as yet submitted to public adoption, and promises as great advantages as can possibly accrue from such an undertaking. Surely England will not be backward at this important crisis; the requirements of her commerce, and the adventurous instincts of the age, demand that she should be prompt and decided. The same policy that dictated the necessity of

making *Aden* a station to protect the Overland-route to India ought, we must presume to remark, to prevail as regards the Isthmus of Panama; and there can be no great difficulty about the matter, if pursued with promptitude and energy. We hold Gibraltar, the key to the Mediterranean, and wisely too; then ought we to lose the opportunity of securing the key to the Pacific, in whose waters we have so many and such mighty interests? Common prudence says no—*emphatically, no.* *Jonathan* is already alive to the importance of the crisis, and has directed his keen and calculating eye upon the Isthmus, knowing well the immense advantage that must accrue to him, when a free communication shall be made through it; and it will be a hard race with our commercial and manufacturing interests and those of America, when the distance to the Eastern hemisphere shall be shortened to the former some thousands of miles. We must hold our power over *the* great maritime artery of the world, through which the life-stream of national enterprise must naturally and inevitably flow; and that artery must lie athwart the back of the Isthmus of Central America.

Again, the cutting a canal through the

Isthmus, at the most eligible point, would not absorb a large amount of capital, when compared to other works which have been effected to benefit our commerce, the profitable returns of which have been more than doubtful; we allude more particularly to the Caledonian Canal, and the Exploring Expeditions to the North Pole. Indeed, a free passage through the Isthmus for our mercantile marine would, in a great measure, supersede the advantages of a North-west passage, even could the latter be effected; we allude, of course, to the mercantile advantages, and shall not presume to undervalue its scientific results, which are justly appreciated by all. We feel confident that the British Government will lose no time in the matter, as the Central States have been always ready and willing to dispose of the beneficial interest to any party who would undertake such a noble work. The late King of Holland seriously entertained the idea of a canal, before the revolution of 1830 shook him from his purpose; and the state of Nicaragua proposed the same measure to the Belgian Emigration Society, which was abandoned from a similar cause, and would gladly do the same to

England, with full and guaranteed right of possession.

In our next chapter we shall attempt to analyze a project which, from the sudden celebrity of its author, has largely attracted public attention.

CHAPTER VIII.

PRINCE LOUIS NAPOLEON'S PROJECT TO CONNECT THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS BY MEANS OF A CANAL.

IN the year 1846, Prince Louis Napoleon, then an exile in this country, circulated, among his friends, a project to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which excited considerable attention, not only from the singular position of its author, but also from the great practical knowledge which it evinced of the subject. The project, it appears, was first suggested to the "Imperial mind" by the following circumstance.

“In the year 1842, several influential persons of Central America wrote to the prisoner of Ham, through a French gentleman in Jamaica, with the view of inducing him to ask for his liberation and proceed to America, where, as they said, the Prince would be welcomed with enthusiasm, and would find occupation worthy of his name and active mind.”

The Prince declined the proposition; nevertheless, it made a strong impression upon his mind, if we may judge by the terms in which he alludes to it—“The more closely,” he remarks, “the body is confined, so much more is the mind disposed to wander in unbounded space, and to canvass the feasibility of projects which it would scarcely be at leisure to entertain in a more active existence.” And a French Naval Officer, who was about to start for Central America, having paid Louis Napoleon a visit in his prison, was directed by the latter to make observations on the practicability of cutting a ship-canal that should join the two oceans, especially through the lakes of Nicaragua and Leon. This incident was duly communicated to Head Quarters at Paris, and the Citizen King whose microscopic mind unduly magnified the mole-hills that came

within its range, instantly despatched M. Garella to make surveys for a contemplated cutting across the Isthmus of Panama, not with the most distant view of carrying it out, but simply to check-mate a rival whose power he affected to despise, and whose apparent influence, at that period, was at *zero* on the political scale. What a singular destiny is that of Louis Napoleon!

It was a favourite saying of his uncle—"there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous," and many have remarked that Louis Napoleon has always taken that step. The Strasbourgh and Boulogne affairs partook largely of the "ridiculous" portion of the apophthegm; they certainly embodied but a trifling amount of the "sublime." The projected cutting of the Isthmus, which has engaged so many and such marvellous minds, and yet unaccomplished, must stand upon its own merits—it is simply in print, and will be judged accordingly. Has Louis Napoleon put his "ridiculous," or his "sublime," foot foremost in stepping into his present position? He has never yet taken a right measure of his movements; not from want of pluck, but from failing to perceive that there is an immense distance

between the conception and the execution of a scheme.* Be that as it may, we have no right, perhaps, to introduce political dissertation while considering a plan which is purely commercial and scientific, therefore shall proceed to analyze that of Louis Napoleon as fairly and justly as we are able. In a preceding chapter we have already alluded to the surveys of M. Garella, and pointed out their impracticability, even had the French Government been desirous of seeing them completed.

* The avowed policy of the President, among his friends in this country, is to break up the *Centralization-System*, which was the grand aim of his Uncle to accomplish; the first, wishes to scatter the fiery spirits of the Capital over the provinces, on the principle of *divide et impera*; the latter did all he could to concentrate them on one point, in order that he might the more effectually rule them. Napoleon was in his element when directing the collective wit and wisdom of his empire; and Louis Napoleon, we can imagine to be anywhere but in his element, when attempting to direct either one or the other. Has he the grasp to "hold in leash" the fiery and subtle spirits which encircle him—to say nothing of the dare-devil and desperate few who oppose him? Has he the genius to start the right game, and keep them well on to the scent? He stands, in our opinion, a much greater chance of realizing the fable of *Actæon*—nor will he be the first, by a great many, who has fallen a victim to his own followers.

The Prince states, after a few preliminary remarks upon the condition of Central America, "that five principal points have been proposed as eligible for the opening of a communication between the two seas. The first, on the northern side, through the isthmus of Tehuantepec; the second, through the isthmus of Panama; and finally, two other projects, through the gulf of Darien. Of these, the passage through the isthmus of Tehuantepec presents almost insuperable difficulties, according to the surveys of General Orbegoso, and the valuations of M. Garella;* besides, this canal would have the immense disadvantage of opening into the gulf of Mexico, dangerous to navigation, and also of lengthening, by several hundred miles, the route to South America. The opinions collected by *M. Chevalier*, are quite unfavourable to the adoption of the two proposed routes through the gulf of Darien. There remain only two available projects; one by the isthmus of Panama, the other by the river San Juan and the lakes of the state of Nicaragua. If all

* We have already observed that the surveys of M. Garella are not to be depended upon. They were got up to serve a political purpose.

these projects were available, the last is the only one that should be adopted, inasmuch as it is the only one conducive to the real interests of Central America, and the world at large. The proposed canal must not be a mere cutting calculated to convey from one sea to the other European produce simply; it must, above all, render Central America a maritime state, prosperous by the interchange of its internal produce, and powerful by its extensive commerce." A canal can only do this by running through a fertile country, with a highly-productive and numerous population, with many wants and plenty of means to gratify them. The prince commits a pardonable error in political economy—as many others have done before him—namely, in mistaking a *consequence* for a *cause*. Canals do not create the conditions required by the hypothesis, no more than railways through a sterile district create activity and industry; but *they* are created in consequence of those conditions being already in existence. When a people have produced commodities, then canals are highly useful to circulate them; but all the canals in the world are not able to create commodities, where the

people are deficient in the elements for their creation.

The Prince observes—"that if a canal could be made to cross this territory of Central America, situated on the Caribbean sea, and ending at Realego on the Pacific, that canal would completely satisfy the *required conditions* (?), for Realego has a good harbour, and San Juan offers a good roadstead, sheltered from the north-easterly winds, which are the only violent ones upon the coast. Neither at Panama, nor at Chagres, nor on any point of the same coasts, is there any moorage to be compared with that just mentioned."

We enter the more minutely into this project of the Prince, from the fact of the public mind being largely directed to the subject, as a natural result of the recent discoveries in that region of the globe; and we already perceive, by the announcements in the papers, that speculation will run strongly in that direction, and blindly too, if not cautiously, and judiciously instructed. The two oceans must be united through the medium of the Isthmus, at one point or other; the wants of the world will accomplish the union sooner or later.

The Prince objects to Panama for the

reasons frequently assigned—" at Panama such a canal could only cross a country marshy, unwholesome, uninhabited, and uninhabitable, which would offer a passage of but thirty miles, amidst stagnant waters and barren rocks, yielding no spot of ground fitted for the growth of a trading community, for sheltering fleets, or for the development and interchange of the produce of the soil."

The proposed canal between the Atlantic and Pacific, commencing at the port of San Juan, and terminating at the port of Realego, would be as follows—

	Miles.
Length of the river San Juan -	104
„ Lake Nicaragua -	90
„ River Tipitapa -	20
„ Lake Leon - -	35
Isthmus between Lake Leon and Pacific - - - - -	29
Total length	278

Eighty-two miles only of this length will need *exploitation*, as the lakes are navigable for

ships of the largest size. According to the most accurate surveys of the whole contemplated course of the canal, the following results have been obtained:—

	Above the Atlantic		Above the Pacific	
	<i>ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>	<i>ft.</i>	<i>in.</i>
Height of the Lake of Nicaragua	147	9	 128	3
Height of the Lake of Leon	176	5	 156	11
Height of superior level of land	231	11	 212	5

The difference of level between high-water in the Pacific and low-water in the Atlantic being, according to M. Garella, nineteen feet and a half, it will require less lockage on the side of the former; and not prove an obstacle to the construction of the canal, as many, unacquainted with hydraulic works, suppose. The Prince anticipates overcoming all the difficulties in the San Juan river, in spite of shallows, rapids, lockage, and 57,906 yards, or 33 miles of complete transformation; but, on this point, there appears considerable difference of opinion, and, as it involves the practicability

of the plan, we may as well cite other authorities, who seem to have thoroughly studied and mastered the question.

“The Isthmus of *Nicaragua* seems to offer many advantages; but upon a more minute examination there appear many difficulties, and these of an insurmountable nature. From the report published by the command of the Government of the State of Nicaragua in reference to the exploration of that Isthmus, effected during the years 1837 and 1838 by Mr. J. Bailey, it seems that the course of the river St. John, with all its windings, is about 93 miles in length, six and a half of which are obstructed by four rapids, caused by ledges of rocks stretching across the whole width of the river. These obstacles were considered such formidable impediments as to suggest the construction of a canal as an easier operation than that of rendering the river itself navigable. Towards the South, a distance of nearly 17 miles between the lake and the Pacific, the territory is occupied by a chain of mountains which, although not very elevated, would occasion works of extraordinary magnitude. It would be necessary to excavate a considerable portion of it to a depth much greater than has

been hitherto customary in works of this kind, and for $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles it would be indispensable to bore the mountains, and open a tunnel of sufficient dimensions to admit the large vessels employed in transatlantic navigation. Besides, on the side of the Atlantic, the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, into which the river San Juan empties itself over a bar with only three feet of water upon it, now only affords anchorage for a few vessels drawing 10 feet of water; and could not be formed into a harbour for large ships, except at an enormous expense; and the Port of St. John, South, on the Pacific side, is not adequate from its small dimensions for large shipping, as its access is difficult, if not impossible, when the North and North-east winds, which are common, prevail.”*

These are grave objections, and, in our opinion, which is also confirmed by other authorities, fatal to the scheme of the Prince; nevertheless, we shall lay the whole of it before

*Vide An account of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec by Don Jose de Garay.

the public, so that they may be able to judge for themselves, premising that the surveys of Signior de Moro confirm those of Bailey and others.

The estimated cost of the works is as follows—

Works on the river San Juan	-	£860,808
„ „ Tipitapa	-	318,760
„ The Isthmus of Realego	2,157,445	
„ At the extreme ports	-	80,000
Purchase of tools, engines, waggons		120,000
Other works	- - -	80,000
Casual expenses and reserved fund		399,987
		£4,000,000

After specifying the immense advantages that must accrue to commerce by opening a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific, as it would shorten the voyage from Europe to the wester coast of American 2,846 miles, and save, on an average, forty-eight days, he estimates his revenue upon the following *data*.

Of the 1,203,762 tons, which the commerce of the leading maritime nations measured in 1841. he assumes that 700,000 tons at least have doubled Cape Horn; in addition, he calculates upon an augmentation of 200,000 tons by the impulse that would be given to the enterprize of the world—

600,000 tons at	10s.	£300,000
300,000 „	20s.	300,300
Yearly revenue of the canal		£600,000

or 12 per cent upon the capital employed, after deducting 2 per cent., for repairs, and 1 per cent. for sinking-fund.

The difference of tollage of ten shillings per ton would be charged to the ships of the United States, as they would gain double, their voyage being shortened by two months; but how long *Jonathan* would submit to such a differential item, the Prince does not consider it worth while to consider.

The economy to the ship-owner he estimates thus—

In the maintenance of the crew	-	£120
Interest at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of the cargo, supposed to be worth £4,000	- - - -	60
Interest at 1 per cent. on the value of the ship, valued at £3,000	- -	36
Reduction of insurance at 1 per cent.		76
Total saving		£292

Equal to a saving of 19s. 7d. per ton.

The following calculations of time required for voyages to different points on the globe, will be read with interest, whether the project of the Prince be carried out or not, and clearly indicate the importance of piercing the Isthmus at one point or other.

VOYAGES TO CHINA, SINGAPORE, AND SYDNEY.

	Round the Cape of Good Hope.		Through the Proposed Canal of Nicaragua.	
	Distance in Miles	Days Required	Distance in Miles	Days Required
England to Sydney	14,030	133	10,828	105
England to Canton, during the S. W. Monsoon	15,590	137	15,878	120
England to Canton, during the N. E.	16,880	175	15,838	111
England to Singapore, during the S. W.	14,350	128	17,738	131
England to Singapore, during the N. E.	14,350	137	16,578	117
	75,200	710	79,860	584

The average voyage being round the Cape . . . 15,040
 " through the Canal . . . 15,972

Through the Canal the increase in Miles is 932, but 26 days will be saved.

VOYAGES TO THE WESTERN COAST OF AMERICA.

	Round Cape Horn		Through the proposed Canal	
	Miles	Days	Miles	Days
England to Valparaiso	.	.	8,978	106
Valparaiso to England	.	.	8,028	76
England to Callao	.	.	7,478	85
Callao to England	.	.	6,528	63
England to Oregon	.	.	8,178	74
England to California (St. Francisco)	.	.	7,178	66
The average voyage round Cape Horn	.	.	10,684	128
” through the Canal	.	.	7,838	80
The saving is also			2,846	48

For reasons stated in a preceding chapter we consider the project for the Tehuantepec route, greatly preferable to that of Nicaragua, as it will secure the same advantages to commerce, and will be much easier of being carried into effect.

CHAPTER IX.

SHORTEST ROUTE ACROSS THE ISTHMUS OF PANAMA.

THE following details from a traveller who has recently crossed the Isthmus, and upon whom every reliance may be placed, will be read with interest at the present moment:—

“ The route across the Isthmus from Panama to Chagres is perfectly easy at almost all seasons of the year, and may be accomplished in about 28 or 30 hours, with due diligence and energy on the part of the traveller. The land-portion of the journey is

about 21 miles, from Panama to Cruces; the remainder is effected by means of the river Chagres, which is navigable for small boats at all seasons, and admits even heavy-weighted canoes to sail on its bosom for a considerable portion of the year. The best route to take from Panama is to Gorgona, and not Cruces, as the road, except in the rainy season, is more easily traversed by the mules; while the latter is stony and in a roughly broken-up condition. The Cruces' road, as its condition clearly indicates—excellent materials lying scattered about in almost every direction shewing that it must have been expensively constructed—was the old route of the Spaniards, before the colonies were separated from the mother country, and the common high-way between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. Indeed, the jealousy of that secret and selfish government was ever opposed to a free and open communication across the Isthmus, from an apprehension that its influence would be lessened, and that the needy and prying foreigner would acquire too large an insight into the richly-productive power of its possessions. The instructions of the mother country to her viceroys

in America were highly characteristic of this feeling, as we may learn from Alcedo,* who informs us that the kings of Spain interdicted, on pain of death, the opening of the two oceans. "En tiempo de Felipe 2nd," he says, "se projecto cortarlo, y comunicar los dos mares por medio de un canal, y á este efecto se enviaron para reconocerlo dos Ingenieros Flamencos; pero encontraron dificultades insuperables, y el consejo de Indias representó los perjuicios que de ello se seguirian a la monarquía, por cuyo razon mando aquel Monarca que nadie propusiese ó tratase de ello en adelante, *pena de la vida.*"

The road branches off about three leagues from Panama, to the right towards Cruces, and to the left towards Gorgona. Before you reach this point you lose sight of the Pacific, which lies spread out before you with its indented shores, its islands, and its countless beauties, presenting, at almost every turn of the road, a fresh and enchanting landscape to the view. Gorgona is a small place

* Vide, Dic. Geo. Hist. de las Indias Occidentales, ad verbum *Istmo*.

comprising a few shabby tenements built principally of the reeds, which grow so abundantly and so richly throughout the Isthmus; and the occupation of the inhabitants is generally as muleteers, store-keepers, boatmen or *bagos*, the remainder are employed in agricultural pursuits, simply to gratify their limited wants. From Panama to Gorgona the road is excellent in summer, or the dry season, but impassable during the rainy season, which lasts from the end of July to the beginning of December. The distance from Gorgona to Chagres may be accomplished in about eighteen hours in favourable weather, that is when the currents of the river, which winds about in so many directions, are not effected by the winds which blow with terrific violence during the rainy months. The scenery on the banks of the Chagres, when it flows evenly on its course, is richly picturesque; its water is pellucidly clear, and you may trace the bottom with ease as you silently float along in the canoes, undisturbed by a single object, if you except the dip of the paddle or the buzzing nuisance of musquitoes. The cost of a journey from Panama to Chagres, with a

moderate allowance of baggage, is about 18 dollars—

	Dollars,
From Panama to Cruces or Gorgona, with two mules, one for saddle, the other for luggage - -	8
From Cruces to Chagres by a Cayucu	10
Total	18

The Cayuca is a small boat or canoe which is the quickest conveyance for a single passenger with little luggage; but a canoe is necessary if you have a large quantity of packages and of considerable weight. The latter are conveniently built for navigating rivers, and are worked by negro watermen who paddle them along with considerable dexterity; some of these canoes are laden with 60 or 80 bales, averaging 150lbs. weight each, besides a bed or two, luggage for the travellers, and an awning, or *toldos*, made of cane and leaves, to keep out the sun and rain, which adds considerably to the weight and draft of the canoe. The freight of goods is about as follows:—

	Dol.	Rial.
From Chagres to Cruces per Canoe.	1	5
Mule-hire from Cruces to Panama		
(7 leagues)	2	4
(On each bale of 150lbs. weight) .	4	1

Were a tram-line laid down from Gorgona, or better still, from Cruces to Panama, the 76 miles, which the windings of the river, and the detours of the road occasion, across the Isthmus, while its line measurement is only 32 miles, might be effected in a comparatively few hours, and to the immense advantage of commerce and civilization. One example will fully illustrate our meaning :—

Time required from England to Lima via Panama.		Time required via Cape Horn.	
	Days.		Days.
England to Jamaica		Average voyage	
by Steam . . .	23	from England	
Jamaica to Chagres	4	to Lima via	
Chagres to Panama	1	Cape Horn .	110
Panama to Lima .	9	Deduct Panama	
		Route . . .	37
Total... 37			
		Total... 73	

Therefore, the difference between the two routes, for travellers and light goods, would be 73 days! which requires not single word of comment.

THE END.

Time required from England to Java via Panama.	
Days.	
England to Panama	23
Panama to Colon	4
Colon to Panama	1
Panama to Java	3
Home	37
Total	73

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