

OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

By Mrs. BREWER.

THESE colonies are, perhaps, the most interesting of all our possessions. A little of the past history is necessary to enable us to appreciate their present condition, and on our way thither we shall have ample time to consider their origin, their wonderful progress, and their vast contributions to the necessities of the mother country.

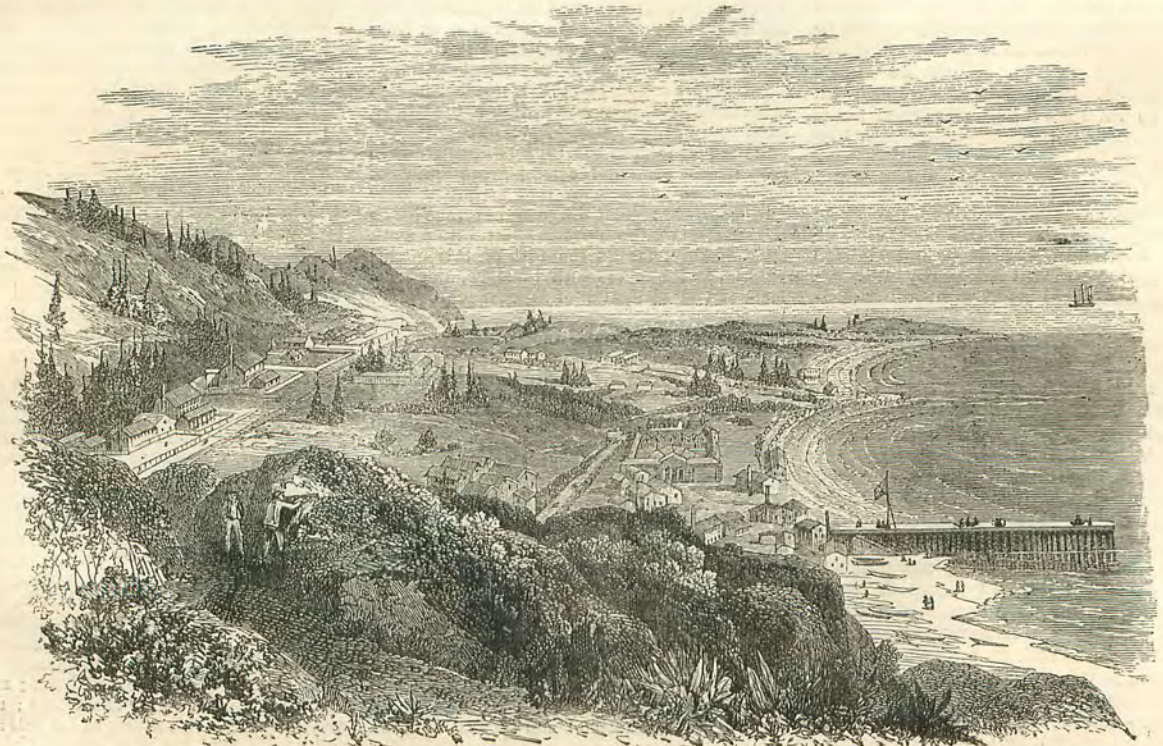
We, passengers in the "Girl's Own," have a special interest in this visit beyond the enjoyment we anticipate in seeing the beautiful works of Nature and Art. We desire to see personally some of the girls who have already made their homes in these colonies, and to inquire what chances of remunerative labour and independence exist for girl immigrants in the future.

The voyage will be a long one, and before starting some few arrangements must be made. Our time must be fully and usefully occupied, according to the special knowledge which each may possess. Some of us will take charge of the kitchen, and if any very good dish should be sent to table, we will dot it down for the use of those who by-and-by may have homes of their own. All will take part in keeping our beautiful ship—the "Girl's Own"—clean and pure. We have decided to take with us wools, needles, plain and figured muslins, long cloth, edgings, ribbons, and prints, so that in the after-part of the days, when household or shiphold duties are over, and we meet

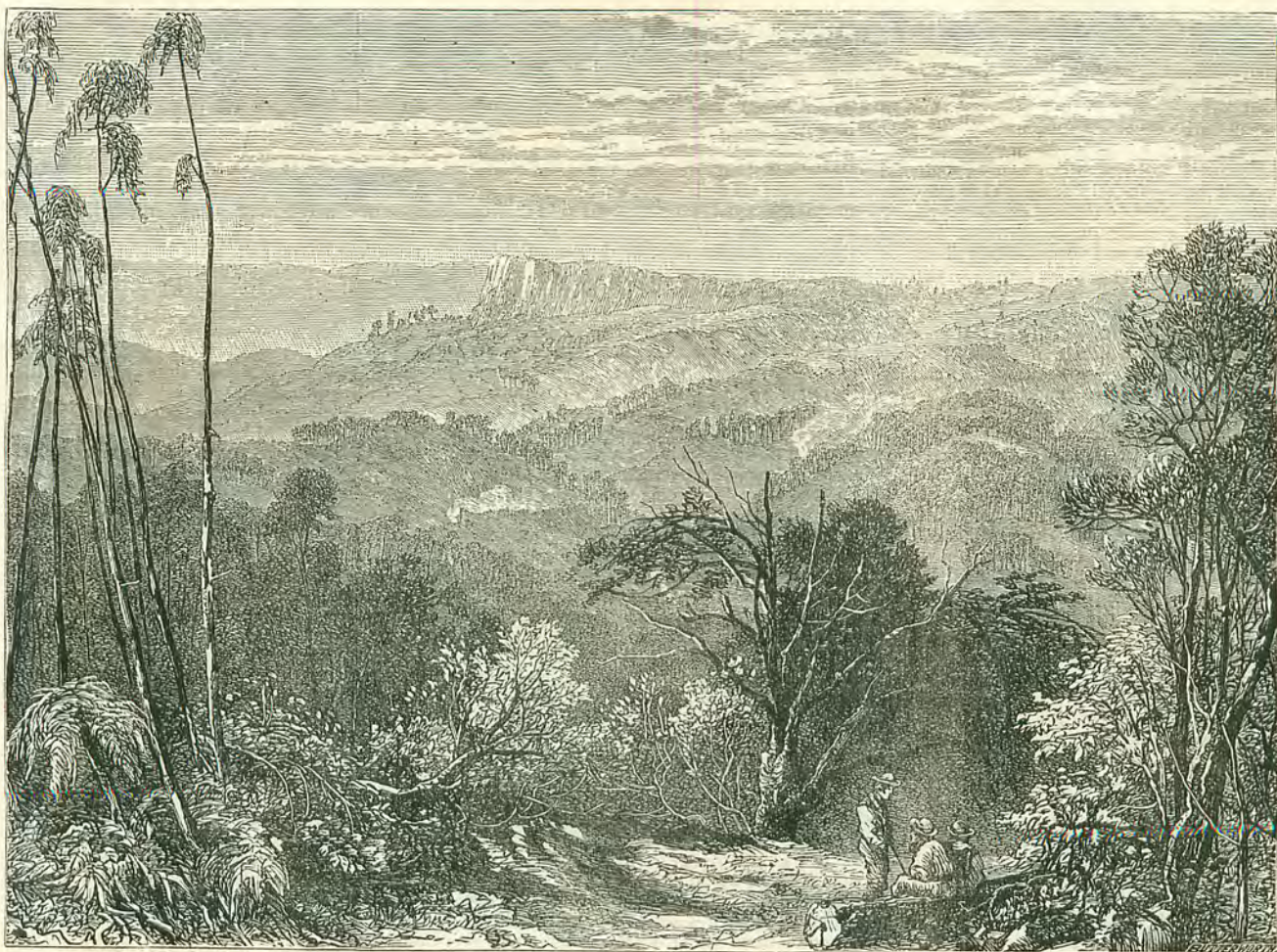


on deck to talk about the countries whither we are sailing, we may employ our hands in making up useful and attractive articles of dress for servants, who have not the time

to work for themselves, and who, in their desire to look pleasant and attractive, spend more than they can afford in buying very unbecoming articles of wear. We also intend



NORFOLK ISLAND.



DANDENONG RANGES, VICTORIA.



MELBOURNE.

to make dresses and dainty little articles for children, and offer them for sale to mothers whose busy life prevents them from keeping their little ones as well dressed as their means would allow. We shall take our packets of finished work about with us, offering them at the various farmhouses we may pass; the money over and above the cost of material we shall put by to help some girl to pay her passage out.

Each girl coming on board must have a warm serge dress and one of thin llama or saaten, so that she may be provided against the variety of temperature which must of necessity occur in a voyage of 16,000 miles; these dresses should be made as simple as possible, neither flounced nor tied back, otherwise we shall lose our healthful exercise of walking up and down deck.

Our farewells are spoken and our ship is off, but not until England is lost sight of can we settle down to our daily tasks. As we look back we talk of those girls who have been compelled to leave the dear old country, and take upon themselves the responsibilities of life alone and in an unknown land, and we honour them for being courageous enough to break away from the old life, in order to lessen the burdens of those they love. We think it just possible that the information we may glean on this tour may make separation less painful to those left behind as well as to those who go, for knowledge always clears away doubts and difficulties.

It is the nature of girls to look forward and to hope, and we are not surprised that the sad thoughts have passed, and that the party assembled on deck is a bright and happy one. Our captain says his ship looks like a beehive; some of us are cutting out, some sewing, others knitting or crocheting, and all desirous of imparting what we know, one to the other, of Australia; it will be a patchwork history, but if the facts fit in, and there are no incongruities, this will not signify. Most of us have friends in one or other of these colonies, and according to our tastes we have picked up and remembered certain facts concerning them.

These colonies,* now seven in number, lie midway between America and Africa, and at the extremity of Asia. Of their origin and discovery so many opinions have been formed, and some so fabulous, that it would not profit us to dwell upon them. One fact is important, viz., that a hundred years ago they had no existence as far as we were concerned. It was in May, 1787, that a ship left England (Isle of Wight) for Port Jackson, laden with 565 male and 192 female convicts. With these were sent 200 officers and soldiers, 65 women and children, together with 81 free emigrants, chiefly mechanics to instruct the prisoners. Unhappily, no one thought of sending out a clergyman with them, but one good man offered himself and was accepted, and well he did his work. After an eight months' voyage this ship arrived at its destination in January, 1788.

As soon as the passengers were landed, the British flag was hoisted on the shore of Sydney Cove, then wooded and abounding in kangaroos; the silence and solitude of the forest were soon broken by the sound of the axe; the ground was cleared and huts constructed of wattle branches and clay; the live stock, consisting of one bull, four cows, one bull calf, one stallion, three mares, and three colts, together with the stores, were brought on shore, and the little colony established.

Up to 1821 it was little more than a convict settlement, and to a great extent unproductive; since that period, however, the progress made has no parallel in history.

In founding the colony, all the land was de-

clared Crown property, to be sold to settlers at a certain price, 5s., 10s., or 20s. per acre. The rights of the Aborigines were quite overlooked. Many of the prisoners, whose good conduct gained for them a conditional pardon, received free grants of land to enable them to gain an independence, many were thus reclaimed from error, and being possessors of land, even though it were but forest and scrub, made them defenders instead of enemies of society. In every ship taking out convicts the Home Government tried to send also free immigrants, and as these increased, the colony became more prosperous and more productive. A settlement was formed at Norfolk Island of twenty-two people, for the purpose of cultivating the flax plant; they took with them tents, tools, and provisions for six months; the time came when the food was finished, and they would have died of starvation had it not been for a flight of aquatic birds which alighted on the island to lay their eggs; both birds and eggs were so numerous as to supply them for two or three months until help came: these birds have always been called Providence Birds. Farms were laid out at Paramatta and various other places to try and make the settlement self-supporting. The early fault of New South Wales was intemperance, which proved so destructive to life as to cause a doubt of its healthfulness. The chaplain who went out in the first ship did what he could to correct this vice, but he had very little help; for nearly seven years Divine Service was celebrated in the open air, and then at his own expense he built a temporary place of worship, which was opened in 1795. Many of the convicts, by the system of "ticket-of-leave," obtained good situations at high wages without difficulty; they were often preferred to newly arrived immigrants, because of their knowledge of the country; they filled situations of trust, and the better educated among them were employed as superintendents of estates, as tutors, and as clerks; many of them married free women and became wealthy and good citizens, and thus from this convict population gradually arose a free people. Under the twelve years' good government of Lieutenant Macquarie New South Wales made great progress, many public buildings were erected, roads constructed, the country over the Blue Mountains explored, and many Government farms established. Many of us have heard of Lady Darling; she was the wife of the governor who succeeded Macquarie. By her example Sunday was observed for the first time in Government House; by her influence the social condition and domestic happiness of the colony were raised and increased. She stands forth in its history a bright example of what one good woman can do to make people happy and successful. We do not think she is dead, and, if not, we should like her to know that the voyagers in the "Girl's Own" honour her.

It was in 1832 that women and girls were for the first time specially encouraged to immigrate, and during the subsequent three years, 2,972 female emigrants were sent out to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania), at a cost of £42,070 (about £14 9s. 10d. each).

The colonists now began to manifest an earnest longing for more religious teaching, and a better education for their children; churches and schools sprang up, and clergy and well-qualified masters and mistresses were invited to come from England.

Such is the little history we have collected among us of the Mother Colony of New South Wales. The time came, however, when her household became too large for her to manage, and she did what many another mother has done before and since, settled her children in homes of their own and started

them in life with a new name. The first to leave the mother's care was "Tasmania," the most beautiful of all her children. She has done well, and gradually obtained the confidence of all who were attracted to her home. In 1834 the most exemplary of the family took her place in the world under the name of South Australia; she gave no trouble as a child, and her course has been one of steady industry and integrity, and none have had cause to repent becoming her subjects. The rebellious, ambitious child was Victoria, who wanted to assume the reins of government before the mother thought her capable, and, therefore, without the mother's leave, she asserted her independence in 1850, and took her place in the world as Victoria. The youngest child, who was launched under the auspicious name of Queensland in 1859, is making progress in wealth and position, and offering a home to the children of other lands who desire to work under her banner. We have left West Australia to the last, because from her starting in life in 1829 she has had many and overwhelming difficulties to contend with; she has been depressed and well-nigh crushed, but by her intelligence and perseverance she is coming out a conqueror and able to stand side by side with her prosperous sisters without shame. One law is common to all these homes, viz., that they will not extend their protection to the idle; all who seek them must be willing and able to work, and accept as their motto, "*Labour is honourable.*"

We have resolved to go first to the colony of Victoria, and have been busily engaged in looking over maps and charts. We find it is small compared with other Australian colonies, and lies south of the mother colony of New South Wales, from which it is divided by the river Murray. A chain of mountains traverse Victoria from east to west, and is called the dividing range, the rivers to the north falling into the Murray and those to the south into the ocean.

After a voyage of nearly fifty days we are naturally looking forward with great excitement and gladness to spending some time on land, and our eyes are strained to catch the first view of Melbourne; how very different is the picture we make in our minds of a place to that which we find on visiting it. During our voyage we have often looked at a sketch of Melbourne, taken twenty years ago; of course, we thought it would be larger, but we were quite unprepared for this Melbourne, which looks as imposing as London or Paris. As our ship draws up to Queen's Wharf, on the "Yarra Yarra" * River, the Custom House officers step on board, and, with great politeness, though with some amusement, we fancy, ask if we have anything to declare, and seeing we look puzzled, ask again if we have any goods with us on which duty should be paid. Of course, we assure them we have not, and they are civil enough to accept our statement.

Some of us are looking among the crowd hoping to recognise friends or relatives, while others of us are looking out for a gentleman to whom we telegraphed to secure us lodgings: His name is Mr. Whitworth, of 104, Collins-street, Melbourne, who, for a fee of one guinea, will get suitable accommodation for visitors, according to their means, on receiving instructions; this is a great comfort after a long voyage, and saves time and fatigue. He introduces himself, and conducts us to the Menzies, one of the best and largest hotels in Melbourne; the charge for one week's board and lodging for each is to be three guineas a week. There are good hotels of three classes in every part of the city; second class charges being two guineas and upwards, and third

* New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, West Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

* Means overflowing.

class under two pounds per week. Mr. Whitworth, seeing that we were pleased with the accommodation he had provided, took his leave, saying he should be happy to help us in any way during our stay. While quietly taking our tea, one or two friends have come to the hotel to see us, and amongst them one old gentleman, between seventy and eighty years of age, a relative of one of the girls. He is full of intelligence, and gladly answers any of our questions. He says that he came to Melbourne in January, 1838, a very different Melbourne to the present city; it consisted only of a few huts embowered in forest foliage, and looked very like an Indian village; two wooden houses were used as inns for the settlers, who frequented the place; there was one wooden building, which was used by all denominations for public worship, to which they were summoned by an old bell suspended from a tree. We ask him if there were any shops. "Not exactly shops, as you understand them," was the answer, "but two or three odd kinds of stores at which we could buy necessary articles. Beef and mutton were very rarely seen among us, our food consisted chiefly of the flesh of the kangaroo and wild fowl, and only one newspaper in the place, and that not printed, but in manuscript." Another of the early residents tells us that the progress of Melbourne has been so rapid that his memory has been unable to keep pace with the movements. This we hear on our first evening in Melbourne, and we are anxious for the morning, that we may contrast the Melbourne of to-day with that of 1838.

And now for our experience: We have been down to the river. Melbourne is built on both its banks, and connected by two substantial bridges; we have crossed from one bank to the other by means of a ferry (of which there are several) for one penny. The water is yellow and muddy, and we are glad to hear that we shall not have to drink it. The city itself is about a mile square, intersected by eight wide* handsome streets, well-paved, and well lighted. It contains 11,795 dwelling houses and a population of 65,859. As to the shops in Collins and Bonder streets, they are equal to any in Regent-street, London. There seems an absence of anxiety in the faces of those we meet, more health and vivacity among them than we have seen hitherto in our journeys; they are most kind to us. We said to some of the older residents that we admired the beautiful streets, and they called to mind the time when they were afraid to go out of doors after dark owing to the badness of the roads. One told us that in 1842 the streets and byways were often impassable owing to the weather and ceaseless traffic of heavy bullock drays; thick stumps of trees and deep ruts and the gutters of temporary water-courses, he said, made it neither safe nor pleasant, at that time, to take one's walks abroad. There are coffee stalls in all directions, handsome coffee taverns, and restaurants for poor as well as rich. We went into one of the very poor, and saw them eating a good dinner of soup, meat, vegetables, and pastry for 6d. We have heard repeatedly since we came here that this is the first port in the British colonial possessions, and we can well believe it; it is a magnificent city. There is a public library of 100,000 volumes; there are cathedrals, churches, grammar-schools, public baths, asylums, hospitals, theatres, handsome government offices and houses of parliament, fish-markets, fruit-markets, and botanic gardens more than beautiful; in fact, everything except that which we are most interested in—viz., a home to receive girl immigrants on their arrival. We know that such

* 90 feet wide.

a home has existed here, and we had always heard that it answered well, many girls whom we ourselves knew having enjoyed its benefits. After consulting together we make our way to the government offices, and, being admitted, we state our difficulty. The officials were all very polite, but were sorry to inform us that there was no such home now; formerly one had existed, but being no longer needed for its original purpose, it was put to some other use. Seeing our astonishment and disappointment, they explained that since her separation from New South Wales, Victoria had spent upwards of £2,000,000 on immigrants from the United Kingdom; that of late years the sum so expended had been gradually decreasing, and that now it had almost ceased. They then placed in our hands some figures of Mr. Hayter to show the decline of free immigration:—

IMMIGRANTS FREE OR ASSISTED.

Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
1871..	1,413	1,792	..	1877..	9	8	
1872..	468	625	..	1878..	8	10	
1873..	456	407	..	1879..	7	8	
1874..	64	85	..	1880..	—	5	
1875..	50	52	..	1881..	—	—	
1876..	34	37					

On our saying, "Then you no longer desire the immigration of girls to your colony?" "On the contrary," was the answer. "Good and intelligent girls are always valued, and can obtain better wages here than at home, but they must come out at their own risk, or at the invitation of friends who will receive them and place them out; the rate of wages, with board and lodgings, in Melbourne being, for cooks from £35 to £60 per annum; for general servants, £30 to £35; for housemaids, £25 to £35; for nursemaids, £35 to £40; for milliners, 20s. to 30s. a week.

The immigrants most valued now in Victoria are evidently heads of families with little or much capital, who can buy some of the unoccupied land; and these seem willing to go, for in 1879 there were 44,369 such. The area of the colony is 56,245,760 acres, and if we deduct the land already granted, sold, and selected, which amounts to 19,201,780, there remains 37,043,980 acres. Deduct from these the roads, state forests, and lagoons, there remain for the immigrants' selection nearly 11,000,000 acres. The amount obtained by the sale of the land forms a very important part of the revenue of the colony. We thank Victoria for what she has done in the past to lighten the burdens of the mother country, in giving so many of her girls a start in life, and we must consult as to the establishment of a Home to which respectable girls can go direct on landing. It was some little satisfaction for us on calling at the post-office to see girls employed in the various departments. We called upon Mr. Whitworth, and begged him to point out to us how we could visit places of interest in a short time, and to ask him to accompany us. Accordingly, we first go to Williamstown, the seaport of Melbourne; it is about twelve miles distant, and the journey there is performed partly by rail and partly by steam across Hobson's Bay; fare for each, 9d. Only a short time ago this was a mere coast village, and now it is a busy prosperous town. We gladly avail ourselves of the permission obtained for us to visit the Sailors' Rest, which was opened in June, 1878. The sailors of the many ships lying off the pier found it difficult to get to Melbourne to spend their leisure hours, and consequently passed the time in the public-houses of Williamstown. A few clergy and laymen met together to see how this could be remedied; the result was that an old Wesleyan chapel was bought and fitted up. There are three compartments—viz., a large hall, a smoking-room and cooking house, and offices; the first of these will hold 200 people; it is

fitted up with tables and chairs, and very tastefully ornamented; there are stands of ferns making it look like a garden, and globes with gold fish, and cages, with various kinds of birds, hanging from the ceiling. There is a library to suit the taste of all, a piano, English newspapers and journals, and Melbourne papers. A concert is given every Wednesday evening, ladies and gentlemen of the place giving their services. It is open from seven in the morning till eleven at night, and during these hours food is provided of the very best quality, well cooked and exceedingly cheap. Those who do not want to buy are equally welcome, and the sailors' wives, sisters, or sweethearts are not refused admission. This Rest is doing a good work in diminishing crime, and gradually raising the tastes and character of the sailors' enjoyments. We wish we might copy a sketch from the *Illustrated Australian*, which has just been put into our hands, it so well describes the place. We do not quite know the laws, but we do not think the editor would object to one of our girls taking a rough copy.

We return by rail through Footscray, a busy manufacturing town, occupying a large number of people in its tanneries, its boat and its carriage building. On reaching our hotel we were tired, but well-pleased with what we had seen, sadly conscious, however, of the absence of special work for girls. It seems to us that it would be just as easy to find employment in London as in Melbourne and its environs; we may change our views as we go inland.

Our next trip is to Ballarat, the metropolis of the gold diggings, and the second city of importance in the colony; the distance from Melbourne is ninety-seven miles, and our second-class railway ticket, 10s. 6d. On our way we pass through Geelong, built partly on the picturesque cliffs of the harbour and partly on the river Baron. There are beautiful vineyards among the hills round about. It was thought at one time that Geelong would be the trading capital of the colony, but while some obstruction was being removed from the harbour, Melbourne took advantage of the delay and secured the trade. Arriving at Ballarat, which in 1851 was a single hut built of wood and roofed with bark, we find it no infant city, but one well developed, full of vigour and beauty, and with a population of 22,414; like the other towns we have visited, there seems so little to remind us that only a few years ago they had no existence. The Victorians are very wise in their generation; they do not sit down and live at ease on their capital; on the contrary, they lose no opportunity of increasing it, and that not by speculation, but by legitimate common-sense means. Take Ballarat as an example: she might rest content with the gold and quartz, which have made and sustained her; but one would think that her existence depended upon her foundries and her cloth factories, so vigorously and extensively are they worked; her eyes scan the country round, and she sends out lines of railway from every side of her, that, like mighty arms, they may collect the productions of the remotest corners of the colony. Nothing comes amiss to her, whether it be wool, hides, tallow, sheepskins, or agricultural produce, she knows exactly what to do with everything; all is well thought out and nothing allowed to waste. It is this very principle which has created the new trade of sending out frozen meat. We can see how it is that up to this time no poor law has been needed in Victoria; we girls think it might not be amiss if we individually could exercise the same intelligence and perseverance in our own homes. Of course, it is clear to us why so many men come from the old country here—there are so many trades requiring so many hands that they



ON LAKE
WELLINGTON.

A gentleman, hearing our question, said, laughingly, "They are found in the gizzards of wild duck;" and really it is true that a short time ago a fine blue sapphire was so found.

Mr. Hayter, whom all the world knows as the gentleman who keeps the accounts of Victoria in such splendid order, has kindly sent us his "Year-book," from which we must dot down one or two figures as striking proofs of the progress of Victoria, a progress which an American describes as "quicker than lightning." The number of acres under cultivation is nearly 1,700,000. There are 1,199 miles of railways at work. The value of goods she exported to us at home last year was £5,901,351. The number of churches and chapels 3,307; schools 2,500; the number of letters sent and received in one year exceed 24,000,000. Everything is of so gigantic a character that our heads can scarcely take it in. As this is the last evening of our stay in Melbourne, we may express our admiration of this wealthy, intelligent, and prosperous country, and also our thanks to its kind hospitable people. We should have no thought of sorrow connected with Victoria if we dared hope that some day, not far distant, the girls who left the old home for this colony, poor and friendless, but who are now in comfortable and even wealthy positions, would of their intelligence and abundance obtain a respectable, well-managed Home for those who still desire to try their fortune in this favoured colony. So we bid farewell to the first Australian colony on our tour, and go on board our ship away from the turmoil and excitement of city life.

(To be continued.)

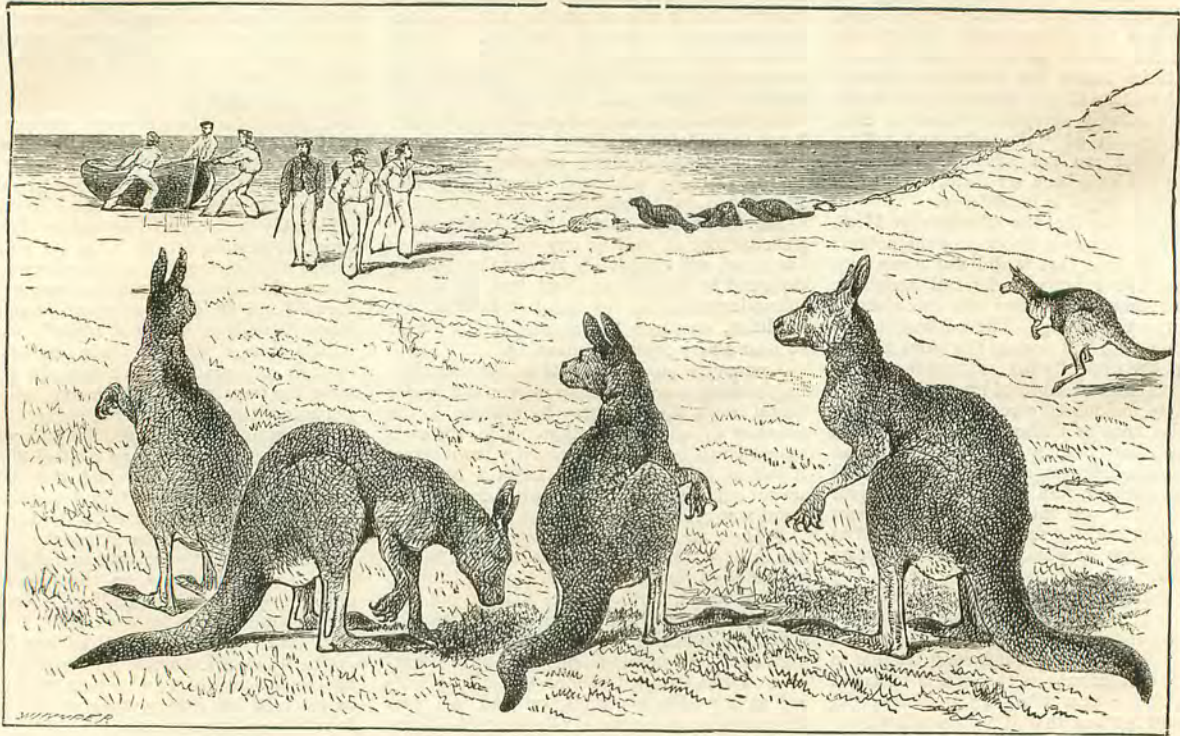


is scarcely a chance of a good workman remaining idle. Back in Melbourne, we are desirous of seeing Gippsland; this a very few years ago would have been difficult, but now a railway has been made a distance of 127½ miles to Sale, a town built in the midst of a primeval wilderness, from which place steamers carry us through the lakes to Bairnsdale. Rail and steam cost us 24s. each. What is this Gippsland, and where is it? It is a perfect garden lying between the sea and

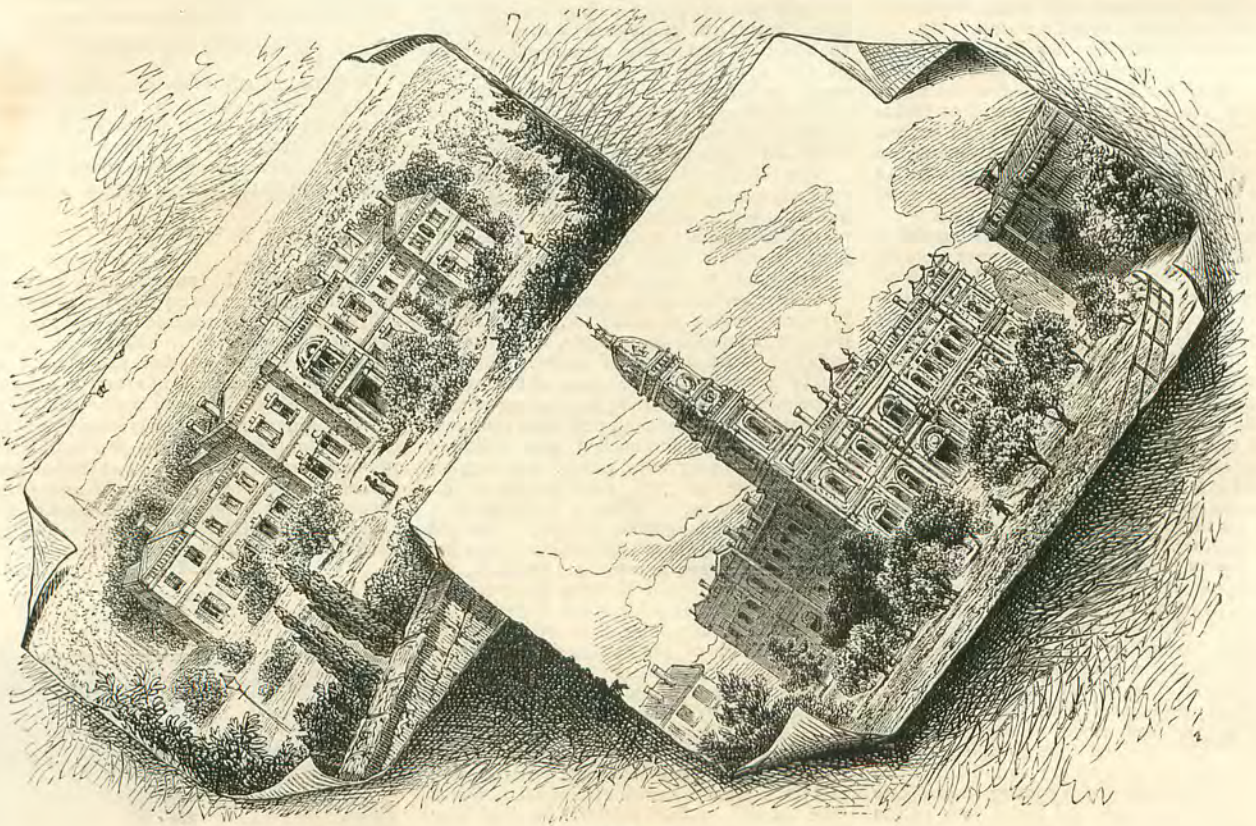
and arithmetic. On our return to Melbourne we started again for the Kilgounda Coal Mine, near Western Port headland. The coast seems very little known, but it is wild, stormy, and exceedingly beautiful. We found a fine jetty erected for the shipment of the coal, which is considered of very good quality. We inquired if precious stones were found in Victoria, and were told that in and about Beechworth, 171 miles from Melbourne (one of the gold centres), they had frequently been picked up.

OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

By Mrs. BREWER.



KANGAROOS.



ADELAIDE.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

It is the privilege of the "Girl's Own" to visit the Colonies in any order she pleases, without regard to age, wealth, or distance; so after a quiet night in the harbour we ask our good captain to steer for Adelaide, the capital of South Australia,* distant from Melbourne 505 miles. This colony has a most interesting history, and, perhaps more than any other, is an example of the colonising character of the British people. An opinion given by Captain Sturt, after strict investigation, that "the soil was rich, that there was abundance of fine pasturage and plenty of water, and that an exile might hope to build for himself and family a peaceful and prosperous retreat," created in England a desire to found a colony there, and the result was that in 1834 this portion of the Australian Continent was declared a British Province and one or two simple rules laid down; 1st. That for two years the minimum price of the land would be 12s. per acre; that subsequently it would be raised to 20s. an acre. 2nd. Collision with the natives was by all means to be avoided, and the wild animals on the land to be regarded as their property. 3rd. That if at the end of ten years the colony should not contain 20,000 inhabitants, the Crown would resume the estate. The Government at home evidently considered that in so large an area as that of the new province it would not be possible to develop the resources of the country without a full tide of immigration, or, in other words, the introduction of labour; it therefore applied the proceeds of the sale of land to emigration.

It is hard to imagine that in 1835 there was not an Englishman in the colony, yet so it

* A misnomer now that the northern territory has been added.

was. Not until 1836 did the first vessel of emigrants land at Glenelg, about 15 miles from the present town of Adelaide. The selection of a site for the capital is a matter of great interest to immigrants whose future home it is to be. No sooner was the spot definitely decided upon than the new-comers drew as near to it as possible. Encampments were formed on the banks of the River Torrens, which was soon dotted about with huts made of mud and interlaced branches, or of turf, brushwood, and reeds, with roofs of canvas—and the usual way of cooking was a blazing fire outside the tent with a large pot hanging over it in gipsy fashion. A gentleman who was in Adelaide in 1839 says it looked then like a collection of booths, such as one sees at a country fair at home; he was struck also with a certain air of comfort with which many of the immigrants had surrounded themselves, but he was bound to confess that this was more conspicuous where women were of the party. These tents soon gave way to the neat cottage or two storied house, and when the Colonial Treasurer built himself a cottage and fenced it round with an English iron fence and put a handsome knocker on his door, the colonists thought it a triumphant proof of the progress of civilization among them. We are all interested in the fact that the very first tenement erected in Adelaide, when a few stakes or pegs were all that distinguished it from the surrounding forest, was a printing office which issued a newspaper containing the latest intelligence of the geography and capabilities of the new land. We cannot help thinking that the immigrants began their new life well in bringing with them a clergyman and in having a wooden church over from England as soon after their arrival as possible, with accommodation for 350 people. Neither

did they rest content with this, but in 1838 laid the foundation of Trinity Church. It was a beautiful text they selected to engrave on the plate: "the Lord of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build." Surely God has blessed and prospered this colony!

We do not require to ask whether South Australia completed its number of 20,000 in the ten years, for we know that in 1850, which was fourteen years after its formation, there were 50,000 inhabitants, 5,000 of whom were Germans, and all happy, prosperous subjects of our good Queen. In the year 1882 there were 272,375, without reckoning the north territory lately added; so that if it be true that population is the heart and wealth of a country, then South Australia is in a very healthy condition. As we gradually approach our destination, we see, lying about twelve miles from the mainland, Kangaroo Island, and on asking how it came by its name, our captain said it was in consequence of the many kangaroos seen by Mr. Flinders, its discoverer, who, with his party, killed thirty-one in a single day, the smallest of which weighed 69lbs. The curious thing is that the kangaroos made no resistance, mistaking the men for seals, with whom they lived on friendly terms; and in like manner the seals showed no fear, evidently thinking the men were kangaroos. Not very complimentary to the men! When our vessel arrives at Port Adelaide we are still seven and a half miles from the city, which we reach by means of a railway, and then drive to the Prince Alfred, in King William-street, one of several good hotels in the town. We are greatly pleased with Adelaide, which ranks very high among colonial towns; its situation is beautiful with its background of hills; it is divided into two distinct parts, socially as well



AN AUSTRALIAN FARM.

as physically, by the River Torrens; the north being the aristocratic and the south the commercial; they are united, however, by means of three bridges; the last new one we are able to sketch as we are down below on the banks of the river. The whole city is surrounded by a broad belt of parkland, which is laid out with great taste, and affords a pleasant recreation ground for the people.

In no city that we have visited are the public buildings so grand; the colonists seem to have spared no expense in their erection, and we will get one of the girls to sketch the Post Office, which is conspicuous among these buildings for its beauty, so that our friends at home may judge of the elegant taste displayed here. The Government House stands in well kept grounds, and has the appearance of an English country mansion.

It has been a great pleasure to us to go to the Girl Emigrants Home in Flinders-street. We have so often heard of it, and so many whom we have known and cared for have enjoyed its benefits, that it seemed like going to a friend's house. We had a hundred questions to ask of the kind matron as to what had become of Eliza — or Jane —. Did they get good situations? "Oh, yes," was the answer, "but they are married now and keep servants of their own." To explain the work of this home, we must for a moment in thought go back to London. When respectable girls desire to emigrate, they must call at 8, Victoria Chambers, Westminster, and express this desire. They must expect to be questioned and have their character inquired into, for Sir Arthur Blythe, the Agent-General, who is most earnest in promoting the emigration of girls, has equally at heart the welfare of his colony, and will not send out at his Government's expense those who would dishonour it. Let him see that all is right, and he leaves nothing undone that can protect and help the girls till they get to Adelaide. We called at his office before we left London, and he expressed a wish that we should see the home provided at Plymouth for the emigrants, and also the arrangements on board ship for the single girls, who are shielded from harm in every way and placed under a good matron. Much as we desired to accept this invitation, we felt obliged to postpone the pleasure, as it would have delayed our voyage hither.

On the arrival of the girls at Adelaide, there is always a responsible person ready to receive them and conduct them to Flinders-street Home; here they may rest and mend or make their clothes and prepare themselves to accept a situation; it rarely occurs that a girl has long to wait, for in consequence of the care exercised as to the character of those sent over, the home has gained the confidence and respect of the colonists. Many ladies of high position in Adelaide take a deep interest in the girls and the home; and should they be in any difficulty or in sickness, they may come to the matron, and through her to these ladies, whose help and sympathy are always ready for them. Many of these girls marry well, and in their turn require servants from the home. The immigrants are allowed to have their letters addressed here, so that they get news from home much quicker. It has been established twenty years, and has received and placed out many thousand girls. On our inquiry of the matron if they ever had too many sent out, she answered that that would be impossible in a country as large as South Australia, which has an almost unlimited power of absorbing labour. Good girls may, if they desire it, get an assisted pass for friend or relative by paying a small fee. An emigrant, even when her passage is free, must provide her own outfit; the very least which she may take is stated on the form which she obtains from 8, Victoria Chambers, in

London. It is for this outfit in the case of the deserving poor that we should be glad to apply any money we may make by our work. This colony spent last year on immigration £17,837, and we should like to express our opinion that if the work in the various Government offices here is as well done as in that of the office for emigration, it quite accounts for its prosperity and success. We have ascertained the average rate of wages, thinking it would be useful to those at home:—General servants, with board and lodging, £26 per annum; housemaids and kitchenmaids, 10s. a week with board and lodging; laundresses, 14s. a week with board and lodging; cooks, 16s. a week with board and lodging; collar-makers, 10s. per day; cigar makers, 8s. a day; dairy workers, man and wife together, £1 7s. per week with board and lodging; dairy-maids, 12s. per week.

Having, we think, done a very good day's work, we come home to dress, intending to dine at table d'hôte; some of the young ones among us who do so for the first time are rather excited, declaring that it is exactly like going to a party. We have enjoyed it, however, exceedingly, and by listening to the conversation at table, have gleaned a good deal of information on points of interest; some of the guests were discussing politics, from which we learned that no matter how many houses or properties a man may have in South Australia, he can have but *one vote*. Others were speaking with great pride of their wonderful line of telegraph which from Adelaide goes overland northward a distance of 2,200 miles, to Point Darwin, and sends a branch out to Western Australia. Seeing that we were listening very attentively, they kindly explained to us many of the advantages of this great work; and, on our venturing a question about Point Darwin, one gentleman said he had a very good picture of it in the "Australian Sketcher," which he would send to our rooms, and that on the morrow, if agreeable to us, he would take us to the Central Telegraph Office, where we should be able to see practically some of the advantages they had been speaking of.

A German, sitting at table, asked if we had tasted the Australian wine, and, on our answering in the negative, begged that we would do so, as he had large vineyards and was specially interested in our opinion. We thought it very nice, and expressed surprise that we had not seen it in England, to which he answered that in consequence of the duties being so heavy it had not paid to send it over, but he hoped that would be different by-and-by. He spoke to us in German, and we were very thankful to have been able to understand him.

The morning has arrived, and after breakfast we go out shopping, finding that our dress, which has looked very well for country places, is somewhat shabby for this clear, bright, cheery capital; and while we are inside the shops spending our money, one of our girls is outside with her pencil and paper in order to give friends at home an idea of the grandeur of the places of business here. We next go to the Central Telegraph Office, where the officials take the utmost pains to explain to us how by means of the Great Overland Line it is possible to determine the southerly march of the north-west monsoon which prevails on the north coast from the middle of November to March, and how since the completion of the telegraph to Western Australia it is possible to ascertain the prevailing state of the weather every day all round the Australian coast. We should like to have sent a telegram to Port Darwin, but the price was a little above our means, being 14s. for ten words. We take our leave of this interesting office with many thanks to the kind officials, and start off for a long walk in the country.

We find ourselves at the tunnel and viaduct on the Nairne Railway, seven and a-half miles from Adelaide; the view is very beautiful from here. We can see Adelaide in the distance, the cultivated plains between us and it together with a view of the ocean westward. We ought, after this long walk, to be very tired, but the air is so invigorating that we scarcely feel any fatigue; on mentioning this to friends they are not at all surprised, as the climate they say is very healthy, and proves beneficial to those suffering from diseases peculiar to the mother country. A lady friend, who has lived here many years, says that in the hot season the heat is so intense that the brass door handles cannot be touched with the bare hands. Of course, in so large a territory, the soil varies greatly, but a celebrated analyst has given it as his opinion that the soil in and around Adelaide contains all the elements necessary for the production of plants. We have visited several of the farms and vineyards around the city, and they are certainly very productive. In some of the gardens, we saw with surprise the banana and the gooseberry growing and thriving side by side. We have met in our wanderings some of the Aborigines, who, as a rule, are occupied on stock stations on the banks of the Murray, or on the river itself in their peculiar raft canoes spearing fish; they bear every mark of being well cared for; missions are formed among the elder ones, and schools are provided for the children; this colony seems to do all its work well. While resting in our hotel this evening after a long day of walking and driving, we were drawn to the windows by a peculiar sound, and on looking out crowds were pouring into the city from the suburbs; they were very well dressed, and bent either on business or pleasure; the streets and shops were brilliantly lighted with gas, with here and there a pretty coloured lamp, making altogether a peculiarly bright and pleasant picture. On questioning the landlord, he says it is always like this on Saturday evenings from 7 to 9. We congratulate ourselves upon having seen it, as it is considered one of the sights of Adelaide.

Railway communication is being extended; indeed, a Bill has just been introduced for the construction of one between Adelaide and the Victorian border, which will place the two capitals in direct communication. We have been partly by train and partly by coach to see the Granite Island at Port Victor, near the mouth of the Murray. We saw here large ships receiving their cargoes of wool which are to be despatched direct for London. A breakwater is being constructed on this island to protect shipping from the Southern Ocean.

Just as gold was the basis of success in Victoria, so copper and corn are the chief means of wealth here. For many years after the formation of the colony, no idea existed in the minds of the Government that it contained mineral wealth, and therefore when they sold land they sold it and all beneath it. We have just been to the thriving town of Kapunda by rail, a distance of about fifty miles, and have heard on the spot some curious facts about it, and how only a few years ago it was a wilderness. It appears that, in 1842, a boy gathering wild flowers on the plain found a piece of green carbonate of copper and took it home to his father, Captain Bagot. A short time subsequently a very intelligent settler named Dutton, a friend of Captain Bagot, while looking for sheep after a thunderstorm, came upon a rock which he supposed to be covered with green moss; fortunately he had some knowledge of mineralogy, and he and Captain Bagot, keeping their secret, joined in buying the 80-acre plot on which this occurred at £1 per acre—(they refused subsequently in the London market £27,000 for this very plot). Some Cornish miners who were occupied in

agricultural pursuits in the colony were brought to work the land, and this town of Kapunda is the result, with all its employment to the mining immigrants. In like manner mine after mine was discovered rich in mineral, affording wealth and employment to so many who were seeking both the one and the other. These discoveries developed other industries, and quickly arose furnaces for smelting the copper and lead, and refineries for separating the silver from the ores. In the meantime agricultural and pastoral pursuits have not been neglected; the corn is of the very best quality, and the quantity of wool for exportation is yearly increasing: the quantity of fruit grown is enormous, and of the superabundance the colonists make jam to such an amount that last year they exported it to the value of £5,459. Think how many 9d. pots that means.

Religion and education generally go hand in hand, and therefore we are not surprised at the number of schools in the colony, which are well attended by 40,578 scholars. We have this morning paid a visit to the Training College, of which the Adelaideans are justly proud. 20,000 acres of land are set apart for its endowment and provision of scholarships; the most valuable prize being the South Australian, which is worth £200 a-year, tenable for four years; the owner must become a student at a European University, and we are pleased to hear that four such students are now in the English Universities. Many other institutions of like character there are in this beautiful city, but the last day of our stay has arrived, and we must not delay. On taking our leave of this pleasant and hospitable colony, we cannot help confessing one to the other how fragmentary is the knowledge we collect on our way; there is so much to see, to hear, to learn, that we leave much unseen that we would gladly carry away in our minds. One great advantage, however, is that the colonies and colonists will never be strangers to us, but always our friends. To South Australia specially are our thanks due for its large contribution to the prosperity and happiness of the girls who have sought her for home and protection. We have just seen part of a letter written to our Government at home, which expresses in so few words the state of the colony that we dot it down:—"Fifty thousand men, supporting thrice their number of women and children, occupy 200,000 square miles of pastoral country, and possess 6,000,000 of sheep; own 6,000,000 acres of land, and grow 12,000,000 bushels of wheat; conduct an external commerce of £9,000,000, and raise £1,000,000."

(To be concluded.)

GIRLS' OWN PETS.

By GORDON STABLES, M.D., R.N.

PART IV.—FOREIGN BIRDS (concluded).



None can pay a visit to any of the larger bird emporiums of our commercial naturalists, in the metropolis or other great cities and towns, without being struck with surprise at the number and beauty of the various members therein displayed of the parrot family.

They are of all sizes, from the tiny parakeets, no larger than robins, to the gigantic macaws, almost rivalling in size the eagle itself.

If we would trace the history of the parrot as a cage bird or domestic pet, we should have

to go a long way back indeed. In India, for example, they have been known and treated with reverence, not unmixd with superstitious awe, from time immemorial.

From India parrots must have been imported into Egypt, and thence probably into Greece and Rome. They were held in great esteem in Rome in very early times; not so much as pets, however, but as articles of luxurious diet. We in this country would look rather askance at a curry or stew of parrot. Polly as a cold side dish would not find many admirers; but, nevertheless, in many parts of Australia and in the West Indies parrots are regarded as wholesome additions to the cuisine, quite as much so as pigeons are here at home.

My object, however, in writing this paper is not to recommend poor Polly for the pot, but Polly as a pet; and I feel quite sure that my readers will learn something from what I have to say, for neither the feeding nor the general treatment of parrots is sufficiently understood by many who keep them.

Macaws are very beautiful in plumage, but I cannot recommend them as pets. They are exceedingly destructive in their habits, breaking and chewing up everything within their reach, including the perches on which they rest, unless these are well guarded by means of a coating of zinc or tin. The noise they make and seem to delight in is most ear-splitting; so, taking them all and all, perhaps they are best left alone.

Talking of noise reminds me that I have been asked more than once if there be any good plan of breaking a parrot or cockatoo from the tiresome habit of screaming. I only know of one, and that is kindness and gentle treatment, with occasional reprimands. But they should not be fed for some time after giving vent to those unearthly yells, which they do at times to cause annoyance. Some parrots and cockatoos are as fond of mischief for mischief's sake as monkeys are.

The Indian parrot proper is the rose-ringed, or ring-necked parakeet. One of the self-same kind is also indigenous to Africa, the Indian being known by its red and the African by its black beak. It is a very affectionate and tame little pet, and when once fairly acclimatised it will live for quite a long time, and if well tended and treated, keep perfectly healthy and in good plumage. It can be taught to speak, and is rather celebrated for the distinctness of its intonation. It is not in a very great hurry to learn, however. With the exception of the ring around the neck, the beak and eye, and a feather or two of the wings, this bird is entirely green. It eats the ordinary seeds.

From India we get also the plum-headed parakeet. It is also a long-tailed, green bird, with a purple-red or plum coloured head. Though somewhat delicate at first, it in time gets used to the country. It is fed on canary-seed, maize, millet, and, as a change, a little biscuit and milk sop. It makes a quiet and affectionate pet, but is not very famous as a linguist. Perhaps it can speak, but won't. Well, there is only one way of making it, and that is, keeping it well fed and loving it.

The Malabar parakeet is a bird of very great beauty of plumage, but it is years before it assumes its gay colours, when it stands by grey, green, and blue, and has a splendid tail of the two last-named colours. Its beauty is its principal recommendation; but it is docile and affectionate, and is said to be very jealous in its disposition. I have never had one. There is a charming wee parrot that rejoices in the name of white-eared conure. It is prettily shaped and splendidly coloured, without being over gaudy. They are said to be hardy, lively, and gentle, and without any propensity to make disagreeable noises. But, indeed, all the conures or wedge-tailed parakeets get the name of bold, fearless birds,

often fighting with each other, but more especially with other species of parakeets, but on the whole gentle and affectionate to their owners.

I have come to the conclusion myself that it is best not to believe all you hear or read about the character of any kind of bird or beast as a species, but to speak of an animal as you find it, for there are as great differences in individuals as in families.

The blue-capped mountain lory is one of the most beautiful of all parrots, and it is at the same time amusing, tricky, and affectionate. But this is not all I have to say in this pretty bird's favour; for the lory talks—although some doubt this—and that, too, very distinctly, and also mimics the voices of animals it happens to live within hearing of. There has been a good deal of dispute and argument about the proper food of the mountain lory. It is undoubtedly a seed bird, but soft food in the shape of figs, oranges, ripe apples, and grapes, as well as sop, should be given now and then; only care must be taken that it does not relax the system, else the bird may die off very soon in a fit. It must be confessed that the lories are given to screaming at times, but the greatest drawback to having these red mountain pets is the fact that they are very expensive. Green food, by the way, should be given but sparingly to lories; but a morsel of dandelion or lettuce will not hurt if they care for it, and a little honey and water or milk and honey is much relished by them.

From Southern Australia we get many very lovely parakeets and lorikeets, none more beautiful probably than the beautiful parakeet and the swift-lorry.

There are many kinds of cockatoos; and although most of them are extremely affectionate and docile, and some pretty in crest and plumage, none of them, with one exception, make such nice pets as the red-tailed African grey parrot. The one exception is the South Australian white cockatoo. Not a very pretty bird by any means, but highly amusing, albeit somewhat mischievous; and I really know nothing which a bird is capable of that this species of cockatoo will not learn, whether dancing, singing, laughing, whistling, or playing all kinds of mischievous tricks. These latter if required, cockatoos will perform to order, and thus many a hearty laugh may be had at their expense; and if there be anything in this world better for one's health than laughable amusement, I have yet to learn what it is.

I may here remark that there is a great art in teaching animals to perform little amusing tricks, or in teaching them to speak. First, as to tricks. You must never expect any creature to do anything which is unnatural to it. The body of a poodle, for example, is far better formed for standing on the hind legs than that of the St. Bernard. You may expect the former, therefore, to beg or to walk, to balance itself on the edge of a chair, holding a pipe in its mouth, wearing hat or cap, etc.; but not the great St. Bernard. But the St. Bernard or Newfoundland are in the habit, when pleased, and when they want to ask a favour, of stretching out the four paws and lowering the body between them. I take advantage of this, and when any of my dogs put themselves in this attitude I say, "Good dog; he is making a bow," and probably I throw him a tit-bit.

In a very short time he comes to know what "making a bow" means, and does so whenever told. Taking advantage of the resemblance in sound to the word "yes" in a Newfoundland's voice when he barked low, I taught him after much trouble to articulate that word very distinctly, more so than a learned elephant could. Another dog I had, whose history I wrote for Webb's book on dogs, could articulate five or six words so distinctly as to be

OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

By Mrs. BREWER.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



WE are leaving the prosperous colony of South Australia for one that has endured many and great sorrows; the remembrance of this, as we draw near to its port, throws a gloom over us which is not lessened by the fact that the first land we make is Rotts-nest, or Rat's-nest, an island whereon is a prison for native convicts. We scarcely know what to expect as we land at Fremantle, behind the little promontory of Arthur's Head, but as our feet touch the earth we recover our spirits and look about us. Our first experience is that the hotels are very good and comfortable, and the second, that the town is not at all tumble-down and neglected—on the contrary, it is dazzling, for all the buildings are of white limestone; churches, chapels, government house, shops and houses are well built and very attractive; in fact everything is bright, comfortable, happy, and the reverse of sleepy; the climate too seems to us delicious. Whaling is actively carried on during the winter season, and we have been to see a very clever work, which shows the energy and activity of the people. It is a tunnel cut from the principal street in the town, through Arthur's Head to the whaling jetty, which jetty is built of Jarrah-wood, the timber of the country, and one of its chief sources of wealth. We shall know something about this wood in a day or two, as we are going to one of the forests. Rat's Island, by the bye, is not at all to be despised on a nearer acquaintance; its soil is mixed with guano, and a large portion of the reef on which it rests is composed of several varieties of coral, one of which is formed in the shape of huge fans spreading out from giant stems. On asking how the convicts were employed on this island, we hear that they extract salt from the lagoons on its eastern side. We should exceedingly like to go and see the mother-of-pearl fishery, which extends from Sharp's Bay to Nickol Bay, giving employment to very many of the natives and to Malays; but our time will not permit us to do this. We had no idea of its value—in 1876 Western Australia exported shells and pearls to the value of £83,292, and in 1878, £22,000. It varies in its yield considerably. We hear that

pearls have been found as large as peas, and that the worth of the shells in the market is from £20 to £70 per ton. On some of the islands off this coast guano is found equal to that of Peru. We have been much amused at being told that eight or nine years ago a merchant in Tasmania purchased from the West Australian Government the right to remove guano from two islands called Barker islands, on the coast, and when he went to get the guano, the islands were nowhere to be seen; what had become of them no one knew. When the merchant got home he sued the Government for his expenses and loss of time, but he could get nothing on this score. The principal supply comes now from the Lacedpede islands, high up on the north-west coast.

Delighted with Fremantle, we now wish to go on to Perth. How shall we do it? We can go by water, a distance of fifteen miles, but as a railway was opened last year from one town to the other (eleven miles), we propose to go by it. Perth is the capital of the colony, and an extremely pleasing town; it is situated about sixteen miles from the sea coast, and built on the north bank of a sheet of water formed by the Swan River, and called the Perth Waters. This river received its name in consequence of the number of black swans found in its neighbourhood. It takes its rise about eighty miles from the coast, runs north for 100 miles, and then, joining itself to another river, travels with it westward for fifty miles, and empties itself into the Perth Waters—a very sociable swan!

The cliffs of the coast near Swan River are covered with thousands of roots twisted together, which resemble the stumps of a dead shrubbery. Perth seems to us to possess many advantages: it has a sandy soil, it is true, but at the same time an unlimited supply of good water; it is exposed to the healthful sea breezes, and has an abundance of brick-clay, lime, firewood, and timber of the very best quality. On the west of Perth Water, Mount Eliza raises its rugged and precipitous sides, which are studded with pretty cottages, peeping out from foliage. We have been to the top, from which the view is lovely. Between the cliffs and the estuary are gardens, in which we see the banana, peach, nectarine, apple, pear, lemon, orange, fig, mulberry, almond, and melons, all as if they were the fruit of one climate, and then the terraces of vines and olives complete the picture.

We are now starting for the forest of Jarrah-wood, which is about eighteen miles south of Perth by road. What a sight for girls! A forest extending from north to south 140 miles, and from east to west four miles, many of these noble trees rising from among rocky boulders to a height of from fifty-one to sixty feet, perfectly straight and clear of branches; the foliage is evergreen, and, after the hot season, covered with large bunches of white scented flowers. We hear that in this forest alone there is sufficient timber to build 17,920 line of battle ships. We ask what constitutes its excellence, and are told that it defies the sea-worm, and is so durable that piles and beams, sunk twenty years ago, are as sound now as when they were put down. The sandal wood of this colony is also very valuable, and a lucrative article of export. The climate is peculiarly suited to the vine. Very good wine could be made under skilled hands; as it is, the raisins are dried, and thought equal to any in the world. Epidemic diseases are un-

known, and the climate is particularly favourable to consumptive people.

We are sitting in our hotel, and asking each other as to the impression West Australia has made upon us, after the few days spent here, and we are of one opinion, viz., that it reminds us of a magnificent mansion, standing in its extensive grounds, filled with goods of value and beauty, but shut up and left in the care of a few servants, who find themselves quite inadequate to the care of the estate, not from want of ability or will, but that they have not hands enough to do the work; they are naturally depressed at their want of success, and all things look so gloomy that no one cares to pay them a visit, nor even to be a servant on such an estate. But send down a host of indoor and outdoor servants; let the sunlight and fresh air penetrate every corner; fill the mansion with a bright and happy family, unlock the treasures, and then send out invitations, and see the result.

This colony abounds in wealth of every description, except population, which is the very life-blood of a country. Only let the tide of immigration flow rapidly in, and we think no colony we have visited would be its superior. Does this colony desire immigration? Is it inclined to welcome new-comers? Yes, indeed, though it has become cautious in offering premiums for it, because it has hitherto been treated so shabbily. It has frequently given free passage to people who, instead of returning this in labour, have speedily made their way to other colonies which they had a favour unto.

Again, an invitation is sent out for healthy agricultural labourers, female servants, shepherds, millers, woodcutters, gardeners, farriers, teamsters, and ploughmen, from eighteen to forty years of age. To these a free passage will be given; but they must each pay £1 for bed and bedding, etc. If these people accept, and remain two years in the colony, the adults have the privilege of selecting fifty acres of land, and those between sixteen and twenty-one years may have a selection of twenty-five acres; and after three years the property becomes theirs, if a few simple conditions are kept; and to a man who has paid his own passage, a grant of £15 worth of land is made. The wages are good, domestic servants getting from £18 to £50 per annum; carpenters, painters, builders, etc., 7s. to 10s. a day. Living is cheap, and the climate very healthy.

QUEENSLAND.

OUR good captain will next steer for Brisbane, the capital of the youngest and, just now, most popular of our colonies.

It is in Queensland that the young and active of both sexes of emigrants are inclined to make their homes, probably because it seems to offer a certainty of success to all who will work hard and be content to rough it. There is plenty of work to be done, and an abundance of room to do it in. When we, the voyagers in the "Girl's Own," think of what we are now going to see, and what that same place was fifty years ago, it seems little short of a fairy tale. We will just for a few minutes go back half a century.

It happened that the Surveyor-General of New South Wales desired to know something of the land which lay beyond the habitable parts of his own colony. To ascertain this, he took a long journey; a wonderful journey it was, far more so than he who took it could have dreamed. As he traversed the almost



A NEW CLEARING.

endless plains, or came upon scenes of such surpassing beauty that they might have been the gardens of the world, or as he moved with pain and difficulty over the savage wilds, terrified by the yet more savage cries, what would have been the effect upon him if he could have seen beneath his feet the treasures of gold, tin, copper, and coal only waiting for the intelligence and skill of man to bring them to light? Or as the longing for the sound of human voices came over him, to have known that the solitary wilds would in a few years resound with thousands of voices of men, women, and children, made happy by his discovery. At length, after much weary travelling, he came upon two white men who had

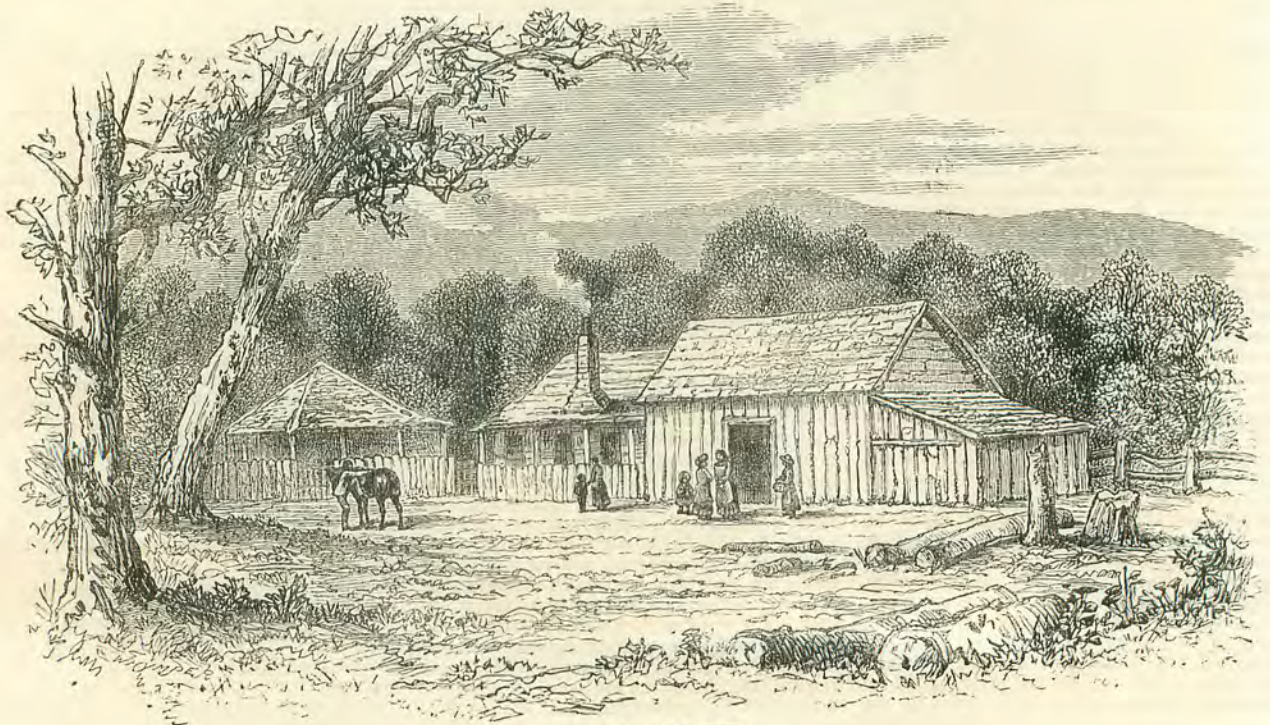
escaped from one of the convict settlements, and from some information which these gave him he pressed forward until he caught sight of a noble stream, which he named Brisbane.* When the interesting details of this journey were laid before the Government of New South Wales, one would have thought it would have made haste to profit by them. All it did was to quarter some officials and convicts at Brisbane and keep them supplied with provisions from Sydney. It was not until 1846 that people began to talk of a possible future for this little settlement, which went by the

* In honour of Sir Thomas Brisbane, then Governor of New South Wales.

name of Moreton Bay district, but, as a clever writer quaintly remarks, "they wondered, but they moved not."

It was Dr. Leechard's journey from Brisbane to the Gulf of Carpentaria and his relation of it which set practical people thinking and working, till at length this unknown, unloved, and uncared for district was transformed suddenly in 1859 to the lovely Queensland, whose history from that day to this has been one of continual progress.

Our thoughts are drawn from the past to the present by the announcement of the captain that the "Girl's Own" is entering Moreton Bay. As we all rush on deck he points out to us that it is sheltered by two narrow



A SQUATTER'S HUT.

islands, of from fifteen to twenty miles long, called Moreton and Stradbroke; that the extent of the bay is about sixty miles, and that it receives several rivers, the most important being the Brisbane. Having all our little packages ready for landing, we are able to remain on deck while we go up the river, and are surprised at the peculiar beauty of the scenery we pass through, and at the wonderful pine-trees on either bank. The Brisbane takes its rise in the dividing range of mountains about sixty miles in a straight line from Moreton Bay. At length, after a most enjoyable river trip of twenty miles, we are at Brisbane.

We find the port well lighted and buoyed, and extremely convenient for vessels landing at night. Our visits to the colonies have attracted attention, and it is no unusual thing to see a crowd collected on the landing places, drawn there partly by curiosity and partly in the hope of recognising among us relatives and friends. To-day a large portion of the crowd is of the male sex, who have come from the squatting districts or from homesteads far inland, with a strong hope that we may be induced to remain in the colony. It seems that many of these young men have by their steady, earnest labour succeeded in getting houses and a moderate amount of property, but neither wives nor women servants, for the depôts which receive the girl emigrants wisely, as we think, refuse to allow them to take service in the homes of single men; the consequence is that these men's lives are often lonely and uncomfortable—a state of things which they would gladly improve.

We find at our hotel several letters from friends, who have settled in various parts of the colony, inviting us to visit them, and this we hope to do, as we shall thus get a good view of the country and its people. We must first look about the town, which we see is divided into north and south by the river; the former, we suppose, is the most important, as the wharves, warehouses, shops, banks, and places of amusement are situate in it. Its principal street is Queen-street. We pass over the beautiful iron bridge called by the name of our dear Queen, Victoria, and we are in South Brisbane. It is a very busy place, being the high road to the agricultural districts, and has a line of railway to Ipswich, one of the towns in the coal district. The Botanic Gardens, situate on a bend of the river near Government House, are exquisite with their tropical vegetation, their ferns, orchids, and lilies. It is one of the favourite resorts of the people of Brisbane.

Ever since we first put foot on Australian soil the word "scrub" has resounded in our ears. On asking its meaning, we were told that it was dense forest, with an undergrowth so thick and matted as to be impregnable without an axe. Now we are in the way of beholding it with our eyes, for Queensland is essentially a scrub land, and it so happens that one of our invitations is from friends who have made a clearing in this sort of country. It seems that there is a range of mountains stretching from Victoria to the north of Queensland in an unbroken line, and that between this range and the ocean there is a belt of rich alluvial agricultural soil. The richness of that bordering the rivers which flow through this coast land is entirely concealed under a dense growth of timber. These river forests, or, as they are sometimes called, riverine lands, are scrubs, many thousand acres of which have been cleared and brought into a high state of cultivation. This, then, is the sort of place to which we are now on our way by coast steamer for the first twenty miles; the remainder we shall do by riding.

And here is the home to which we are welcomed. As soon as the first excitement of meeting is over, we have many questions to ask and answer, ours of course specially

relate to life in Queensland. Our friends, who left the old home twenty years ago, declare they have never regretted it; they have been very happy, and considering that they began with nothing are in very prosperous circumstances. They acknowledge that there are fewer luxuries and refinements to be had here than in some of the older colonies, but that to people who could work well and not object to plain living it was a splendid country, and that if some few thousands of men, women, and children would come over and live and work in it, there would be nothing left to desire. We ask them if it is a colony in which girls can do well, and the answer is yes, indeed, if only they will be true to themselves; they are well cared for in the passage over, and specially well looked after in the various depôts throughout the colony on their arrival. The danger is, that they are so much in request, and are treated with such an amount of kindness and attention, that they are apt to get conceited and troublesome, and a haughty temper does so spoil the happiness of a household; and then, after a moment's pause, they continued, if only the girls intending to emigrate from home would resolve in their own minds to do without stimulants on their arrival here, it is astonishing the influence for good they would obtain, for there is no disguising it—drunkenness is the vice of every place where English people settle, and "our girls" must do their part in getting rid of it. They apologise for what they call preaching on this our first evening, and after some pleasant chat we sing them some of the old songs of home, which have a specially sweet sound in the silence of this clearing. Before retiring to rest arrangements are made for a day in the scrubs, and, as we must rise very early, we say good-night to our kind friends.

The morrow is here and we are actually in a "scrub." It is not at all like a day's outing in an English wood; the air is damp and hot, the stillness intense, the vegetation rich and green; tall palms raise their graceful heads, the pine, the cedar, and every variety of timber in all the luxuriance characteristic of this soil; bunches of brilliant red berries here and there, and vines twisting in and out with every variety of colour in their leaves, the stems of which are like gigantic cables. Such ferns and passion-flowers; and canes running



AUSTRALIAN TREES.

straight up over the tallest trees and down again. Oh, if our friends at home could but see it all! We helped to search for a white grub, about the size of one of our fingers, in the dead trees, and having collected a good many, we want to know what is to be done with them. The answer is, "for our supper." This rather disgusts us; but, indeed, if we did not know what they were, we should think them delicious, as they taste like rich cream. Our attention is called to some beautiful so-called apple-trees, and we are advised to look about and see if any had a swelling on the trunk. On our finding one, our host took a sharp knife and a horn cup out of his pocket, and with the first made a slit in the trunk, and out came about a pint of sweet water which we drank with pleasure. After one of our happiest days we find ourselves again at home on the "scrub clearing." On expressing a desire to know and see something of squatters and their runs, our friends tell us that a schoolfellow of ours is married to one on the Darling Downs, and would be very glad to see us.

On our saying somewhat contemptuously, "Ellen married to a squatter!" our friends laugh, and say it is very evident we do not understand the position they hold in Queensland. They are among the wealthiest in the colony, and occupy, with the permission of Government, thousands of acres. Young men of good families and connections, and even members of the Government, are squatters. Their principal property is sheep, although they have cattle also. Their life is often hard and lonely, yet not an unhappy one. We bid farewell to our kind host and hostess and make our way to Ipswich, where we take the train to Toowoomba, a township on the Darling Downs, where we find horses to convey us to the residence or homestead of our schoolfellow and her husband. We find him in very rough dress, and doing some kind of menial work, but in manner and voice we see at once he is a gentleman, and Ellen, as she comes forward to give us a hearty welcome, looks so neat, so bright and active, that there is no doubt she has found her vocation. Their home, too, is very quaint and simple, and some of us help to prepare dinner; the funny thing is that out here one feels ashamed to be idle. During dinner we learn many an interesting detail of squatter life, of the caution which has to be exercised in the selection of a *run*, and the advantages and disadvantages of choosing it in settled and unsettled districts, together with the expression of dislike which every squatter has to the free selector.

The air here is so lovely that we believe the most delicate among us would get strong if we could remain a few months with these hospitable squatters; but as this cannot be, we wish them good-bye, and mount our horses for Toowoomba. This town, situated on the table-land, is the capital of the far-famed sheep and wheat district, known as the Darling Downs. There are large populations settled in and about this town, occupied in farming or grazing, and every year sees more and more land taken up. The climate of Toowoomba is cool and bracing, and the Governor honours it by living here two or three months in the year. There are many other towns on the Darling Downs, all of which owe their existence to agriculture. We could, if we desired it, go nearly as far as New South Wales by rail from here, or we could go westward in the same manner to Dalby and Roma, both of them being towns supported by business created by the large grazing properties which extend to the western borders of the colony. We take neither of these routes, but return to Brisbane, and pass up the eastern coast until we come to Rockhampton, on the Fitzroy River. It is the

second town of importance in the colony, 450 miles distant from Brisbane. It was originally a cattle station, and has increased from one hut and five inhabitants to a handsome city, with fine streets and public buildings, hospital, grammar school, and a population of 7,431, and this in ten years. If we desired to go westward, we should take the rail from here to Bogunlungen, 253 miles in that direction. It is interesting to us to hear from old residents the origin and history of the various towns through which we pass, and one thing we always notice, viz., that those places which have the advantage of water carriage, good climate, and fertile soil, change in a few years from wild bush into thriving towns. Bundaberg, on the Burnet, is an example of this; it has now a population of 2,000, employed in growing sugar and maize, and in sawing timber for its own wants and those of Rockhampton. We notice that from all busy centres railways are being constructed, and in this the Government is right, for it seems to us that it would be but a poor advantage to have an abundant produce if its conveyance to good markets were not easy and cheap. Travelling still more to the north, we come to Cooktown, on the Endeavour. It is one of the youngest of the northern towns, and has sprung up as if by magic from a wilderness to a settlement of 6,000 people. It is built at the foot of thickly wooded hills, and is extremely picturesque. It owes its existence to the thousands of people flocking thither on their way to the Palmer River Gold Fields; it is also the depôt for all supplies needed for these diggings. We hear that as a port it is one of the safest and most commodious north of Port Jackson. We can hardly believe that its main street seven years ago was a dray track, winding in and out among boulders.

We have been extremely pleased at the result of the visits paid by us both here and at Rockhampton to girls sent out as free emigrants, and who are engaged as domestic servants. They are in good households, well cared for, happy and in good health, and have no desire to return; on the contrary, they are sending for other members of their family to come out to them by means of the assisted passage. It is such a pleasant contrast to service at home; here mistress and maid work together, and the girl, always with the mistress, unconsciously learns her neat ways and gentle manners. We are the bearers of many loving messages to those at home. As we are so far north we should like to see the native huts in Trinity Bay, which are thought superior to those in other parts of the colony. They are made with straw and rushes.

We regret that the time is drawing near for us to leave Queensland, because there is so very much we should like to have seen and have not been able, in the mines, the farms, the sugar plantations, the manufactories, the pearl fisheries, and a hundred other objects of interest. As we make our way back to Brisbane by coast steamer, rail and coach, we yield up one to the other the ideas we have collected on our way. It has struck some of us that although the area of Queensland is so large, all settled parts are becoming accessible by means of the many ports to which coasting steamers trade, thereby affording easy means of conveying produce. To others of us it has occurred that this colony is specially fit for the courageous, and that even these must be content to begin in a small unambitious manner, not hampering themselves with more land than will employ all the boys and girls of their family; but we are unanimous in thinking that everything throughout the colony is groaning for labour, and that to people who will supply it, the advantages are very great. There are churches, schools, savings banks; good wages for men and women, and almost a certainty of success, and no poor rates, tithes,

or direct taxes. We have all heard the Women's Emigration Society spoken highly of; people have told us that they are doing a good work, and that the girls they send out are eagerly sought for. It would be wise of girls desiring information about emigration to go to the home of this society, 13 Dorset-street, Portman-square, London. We should like to impress upon young emigrants the great advantage it would be to them to bring a letter of introduction from the clergyman of their parish to him who will be their pastor here; it secures to them good friends and advisers at a time when most needed. We think some of our thoughtful ones at home might like to know the division of the population according to creed.

Church of England	61,962	35.75 per cent.
Roman Catholic	43,147	24.90 do.
Presbyterian ..	18,947	10.93 do.
Lutheran ..	12,174	7.03 do.
Wesleyans and Primitive Methodists	11,065	6.38 do.
Mahomedan and Pagan ..	10,047	5.80 do.
Religion not stated	5,936	3.43 do.
Baptists ..	4,344	2.51 do.
Congregationalists and Independent ..	3,560	2.05 do.
Other religions ..	1,674	0.97 do.
Hebrews ..	427	0.25 do.

Before leaving the colony, we should like to acknowledge her supplies to the Mother Country, which consist of wool, wood, sugar, tallow, cotton, gold, copper, tin, hides, and meats preserved and frozen, and the value of these in one year exceeds £3,000,000.

(To be concluded.)

VARIETIES.

FROM THE PERSIAN.

MUSSELS open their mouths to swallow the pearl drops from the stars. Wise people open their mouths only to utter words more precious than pearls.

ROSES are sweetest when they first open, and the spikenard roots when the head dies. Beauty belongs to youth and dies with it; but the odour of piety survives death and perfumes the tomb.

MEN AND WOMEN.—Men have more sympathy with other people's prosperity; women with their adversity.

IN ANGER.—To act upon a determination made in anger is like embarking in a vessel during a storm.

SCANDAL.

Believe not each accusing tongue,
As most weak people do;
But still believe that story wrong
Which ought not to be true.

Sheridan.

THE PERFECT CHARACTER.—Be reserved, says William Penn, but not sour; grave, but not formal; bold, but not rash; humble, but not servile; patient, but not insensible; constant, but not obstinate; cheerful, but not light; rather be sweet-tempered than familiar; familiar, rather than intimate; and intimate with very few, and on good grounds.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC (p. 723).

EUTYCHUS.—Acts xx. 9.
E bimelech.—Ruth i. 2.
U ziah.—2nd Chron. xxvi. 19.
T erah.—Gen. xi. 31.
Y oke.—1st Kings xii. 4.
C laudia.—2nd Tim. iv. 21.
H uldah.—2nd Kings xxii. 14.
U ziah.—2nd Sam. vi. 6-7.
S eeva.—Acts xix. 14.

A. F. C.

OUR AUSTRALIAN COLONIES AND NEW ZEALAND.

By Mrs. BREWER.

NEW SOUTH WALES.



Our voyage from Brisbane we have ample time to study the maps and charts of the colony to which we are hastening. We trace a belt of moun-

tains running through Australia, which in different parts of the country assume distinct denominations, the name in the vicinity of Sydney being Blue Mountains, the inhabitants of which, it is said, never die except by accident, so healthy is the climate, and to so great an age do they live; these mountains are also called the Great Dividing Range, or Watershed, distant from the sea coast thirty to 100 miles. We mark also that the principal rivers receiving the easterly drainage are the Hawkesbury, the Hunter, and the Clarence, and that all the large rivers, such as the Murray, the Murrumbidgee and the Darling, are on the west of the Watershed.

We next look at the character of the rivers and observe that there is only a limited number of constantly flowing streams, but that the deficiency is made up by the peculiar construction of their channels, in which is a succession of deep reservoirs or waterholes. The soil forming the flats of the coast district is of remarkable richness, and upon it there seems to be a variety of timber and scrub. The western and interior slopes are adapted for agriculture, and the salt-bush country lies beyond to the west and north-west limit.

We next take up the chart which marks the industries of the colony in a variety of colours. First, and infinitely the largest, stands the pastoral in dingy grey; second, the agricultural in bright red; third, minerals other than gold in grey blue; and last, gold itself in bright yellow, dotted about in all directions. We refer to the chart of settlement, and notice that the coast lands are much more thickly populated than the interior. We are pleased to find that looking out these details is far less weary to us now than when we began our tours; it may be because we know by experience how much more enjoyment we have in a colony when we take with us some knowledge of its features, or an additional reason may be found in the fact that several times during our tours men of high position and of great ability have been at much trouble to explain to us things of deep interest connected with the various colonies, and we have a strong conviction that unless we keep up our intelligence and learn to think and reason, we shall lose a good deal of the advantage thus afforded us.

Having laid aside maps and charts, we are all on the look out, for it seems to us as though the "Girl's Own" is making direct for a door cut in the rocks, and which the little ones among us think may be the portal of a giant's castle. The problem is soon solved, as a somewhat boisterous wave lifts us through the entrance, which is about a mile wide, and we find ourselves in the very loveliest of all harbours, Port Jackson. We give ourselves up to the full enjoyment of the scene, the

high lands on either side, the curious-shaped rocks, the bays and creeks, the number of picturesque islets, the pretty villas and country houses in their gardens and orchards—nothing escapes us till we arrive at the beautiful circular quay. How well we seem to understand the enthusiasm with which people always speak of this approach to the oldest city in Australia. On landing we are exempt from the troubles of the custom-house, the officers politely assuring us of their conviction that the "Girl's Own" could carry nothing contraband.

At length, then, we are at Sydney, which we visited in imagination nearly a hundred years ago; surely a very different place, indeed, from the few huts of mud and wattle branches which we then saw. Our first impression of the city, as we walk to the Royal Hotel, is that it looks very English, and does not seem inferior to those of our best and oldest at home. We can scarcely imagine ourselves in a colonial city; the streets, houses, shops, carriages, omnibuses, cabs are all constructed as in England; the busy population, as it moves backward and forward through the city, seems to us also quite English; the cooking, customs, furniture have nothing, as far as we can see, colonial about them; the hotels are many in number, and extremely comfortable, but expensive; the streets are wide and long, well paved and lighted, and the shops as good as those in Regent or Oxford-street, in London. Along the waterside are wharves, ship-yards, manufactories, distilleries and breweries; and large ships can lie alongside the quays and wharves to discharge or take in cargo. The city is built on the southern shore of Port Jackson, about seven miles from the entrance; it has a population of 180,000, 100 miles of streets, two cathedrals, a university, a grand post-office, and the most beautiful of all colonial botanic gardens. For fifty years the praises of this beautiful capital have been sung, and it certainly is most attractive and fascinating to old and young; we feel this so strongly that it would take but little persuasion to induce us to remain here instead of going further inland. The walks, parks, and gardens which surround it, from all of which we get a view of the sea; the bathing which we all enjoy; the picnics at Clark's Island in the harbour; the plenty and content which seem to pervade all classes of the community—make up such a pleasant whole that we shall be very sorry to leave it.

In our quiet moments we think of the early settlers, and how, attracted by the natural beauty of the country, they tried to establish a farm at Paramatta or Rose Hill, and how it failed, because they did not know the nature of the soil, and put it to work unsuited to it. We are only fourteen miles distant, and we determine to see how it looks now that nearly a hundred years have passed. We shall find no difficulty in carrying out this plan, as constant communication is kept up by steamers and the Great Southern Railway.* We choose the first, and the trip is delightful, for after leaving Sydney we traverse a large portion of the interior of Port Jackson before entering what is known as the Paramatta River, but which, in reality, is an elongation of the harbour. We stop three or four times to land and take in passengers, and after an hour and a half we are in Paramatta, having paid a shilling each for the single fare, but could have had a return for

* The fourteen miles between Sydney and Paramatta cost in construction £50,000 a mile.

rs. 6d. As we intend to stay the night, we secure rooms at the Woosack, one of several good hotels in the town. It is not unlike an English town of the same size. It is built on a small fresh-water stream which falls into the Paramatta River. The principal thoroughfare is George-street, about a mile in length. The town lies in a sheltered valley, and its climate is delightful. It has many public buildings, hospitals, an asylum for the old and destitute; schools, both Protestant and Roman Catholic; churches, chapels, and two lunatic asylums, in which we are sorry to see about 800 patients. There is a beautiful park, in which are some of the largest oaks in Australia. But for none of these things is Paramatta known in the world. Had we been asked at a Cambridge examination what it was famous for, we should have answered a woollen cloth, known as "Paramatta," and used in mourning. And this would have been right, as far as it went, but we must have continued, and said, "for its orchards and orangeries, which are magnificent." One good tree alone will yield in a year 1,200 oranges, and as many as 10,000 have been gathered from one tree in a season.

Fortunately for us, they are now at their best, and the many we have devoured are a good indication of our appreciation of them. We can never taste them in England, because they are all consumed in Australia. Not only oranges, but fruit of every description thrives well. There are in the colony 18,539 acres of gardens and orchards, and 6,000 acres of orangeries, and none of the fruit is wasted since the preserving of it has become an extensive industry, and jams and jellies of local make are readily bought up. Just as we had a desire to visit Paramatta because of its early history, so we should like to see the river first known to the settlers of Sydney Cove. We therefore take the train on to Windsor, or "Green Hills," as it used to be called, a very pleasant town on the Hawkesbury, and connected with the agricultural district of Wilberforce by means of a bridge.

The land all about is very rich, and occupied by small farmers, whose fields of grain, farm-yards, and herds of cattle, add life and beauty to this already picturesque country. We have been visiting the farmers in the neighbourhood, who are, many of them, old settlers, and can tell us much that we desire to know. From them we learn that the river in its early course is known as the Nepean, and passes through magnificent scenery, and that as it winds along the base of the Blue Mountains it is fed by many a torrent dashing out of the narrow gorges, and that after heavy rains it is no unusual thing for it to overflow and do much damage. On our asking the distance of Windsor from the sea, they tell us that in a direct line it is 35 miles; but by the Hawkesbury, whose course is so very tortuous, it is 140 miles. The good farmers and their wives determine on marking our visit to them by a holiday, and intend rowing us up the river to one of its most charming spots, and there give us a picnic. The little ones of our party are allowed to go into the large pleasant kitchen, and there help to make cakes, and turnovers, and jam tarts, while we older ones pack the hamper with sweet home-made bread, delicious butter, cold chicken, and ducks, and fill a large stone bottle with new milk. If girls at home want to enjoy a picnic, let them help in the preparations; it is more than half the pleasure. As we step into the boats, we defy the world to point out a happier party. Those

A SUMMARY OF FACTS COLLECTED DURING OUR VISITS TO THE COLONIES.

COLONIES AND POSSESSIONS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH WE VISITED THEM.	CHIEF TOWNS.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.	POPULATION.		DISTANCE FROM ENGLAND AT NEAREST POINTS.	TIME OCCUPIED IN PASSAGE.		COST OF PASSAGE.		FREE OF ASSISTED PASSAGE.	IMMIGRANTS NEED OF.	TAXATION AVERAGE PER HEAD.	RAIL-WAY MILES OPEN.	AVERAGE ANNUAL VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.		CHIEF ARTICLES OF EXPORT.	INFORMATION CONCERNING THE COLONIES CAN BE OBTAINED IN LONDON AT THE FOLLOWING PLACES—
			TOTAL.	Density to Square Mile.		Fe-males to 100 Males.	Steam, Days	Sail, Days	First Class.					Second Class or Steerage	Imports.			Exports.
Newfoundland.....	St. John's	40,200	179,599	4.21	90	8	10 to 15	£ 6 6	Neither	No	£ s. d. 1 1 6	..	£1,486,662	Exports. £1,272,551	Fish, oil, skins, and copper	9, Victoria Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
Dominion of Canada .. <i>West Indian Islands</i>	Ottawa	3,372,200	4,324,810	1.28	97	9	10 to 15	6 6	Assisted for Servants	Great	1 5 0	8,000	19,000,000	16,482,000	Agricultural and dairy produce, fruits, cattle, and timber	9, Victoria Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
Jamaica.....	Kingston	4,193	580,804	138.57	105	15	£ 43 10	30 0	Assisted at 3rd class fares, viz., £15	No special need of White Immigrants	0 18 0	26	1,513,550	1,411,388	Sugar, coffee, rum, pimento, and logwood	18, Moorgate-street, E.C., and Downing-street	
British Honduras	Belize	7,562	27,452	3.61	95	17	43 10	30 0	Neither	No	1 11 0	..	183,547	180,371	Mahogany and fruit	Colonial Office, Downing-street	
Bahamas	Nassau	5,390	43,521	8.27	109	17	43 10	30 0	Neither	No	0 15 0	..	168,815	123,799	Pine-apples, sponges, salt, guano, and dye woods	Colonial Office, Downing-street	
(St. Lucia	Castries	237	38,551	162.24	103	15	43 10	30 0	Assisted at Third Class Fares, viz., £15	No special need of White Immigrants	0 17 0	..	112,529	177,101	Sugar, cocoa, and logwood		
St. Vincent	Kingston	147	49,548	275.83	100	15	43 10	30 0			0 15 0	154,200	167,903		Sugar, arrowroot, cotton, and whale oil
Barbadoes	Bridgetown	166	171,860	1035.3	122	13	43 10	30 0			0 13 7	1,093,372	1,113,226		Sugar, molasses, arrowroot, and fruits
Grenada	St. George	133	42,493	326.33	110	15	43 10	30 0			0 13 10	133,580	158,970		Sugar, cotton, cocoa and live stock
Tobago	Scarborough	114	19,324	169.50	107	15	43 10	30 0			0 14 4	47,457	72,822		Sugar, rum, molasses, and cocoanuts
(Virgin Islands	Roadtown	57	5,287	92.75	100	15	43 10	30 0			0 4 5	4,776	5,262		Sugar, cotton, and live stock
(St. Christopher ..	Basseterre	68	29,137	428.48	114	15	43 10	30 0			1 2 0	791,908	868,134		Sugar, rum, molasses, tamarinds, etc.
Nevis	Charlestown	50	11,864	237.28	11	15	43 10	30 0			0 14 3	35,288	49,584		Sugar and live stock
Antigua	St. John's	170	34,964	205.61	110	15	43 10	30 0			1 0 6	164,447	217,096		Sugar, fruits, tobacco, and cotton
Montserrat	Plymouth	32	10,083	315.09	117	15	43 10	30 0			0 13 0	..	..	25,726	31,233	Sugar, pine-apples, and lime-juice
Dominica	Rosau	291	28,211	96.94	118	15	43 10	30 0	0 11 6	..	..	62,668	75,538	Sugar, cocoa, coffee, lime-juice, and annatto dye		
(Trinidad	Port of Spain	1,754	153,128	87.35	80	18	43 10	30 0	1 17 6	16	1 17 6	16	1,976,406	2,003,974	Sugar, molasses, cocoa, and rum		
British Guiana.....	Georgetown	76,000	252,186	3.18	77	21	43 10	30 0	1 1 3	21	1 1 3	21	2,086,395	2,744,191	Sugar, rum, molasses, and rice		
<i>Australasia.</i>	Melbourne	25,198	862,346	9.	90	45	70 0	15 0	Neither	Great need of Women Servants	2 0 2	1,247	16,205,541	14,606,369	Wool and gold	8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
South Australia	Adelaide	903,690	296,557	.287	99	40	70 0	15 0	Both	Great	2 1 5	843	5,890,972	5,284,584	Wheat, wool, copper, wine, hides, and bark	8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
West Australia	Perth	1,000,000	29,019	.029	75	42	70 0	45 0	Neither	Great	3 10 2	94	364,005	332,483	Wool, copper, jarrab, and sandal-wood	122, Leadenhall-street, E.C.†	
Queensland	Brisbane	669,520	226,968	.32	70	42	82 0	16 16	Both	Great	2 19 11	800	3,601,906	3,289,253	Wool, sugar, and minerals	1, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
New South Wales	Sydney	310,938	781,265	2.51	82	42	70 0	18 18	Assisted	Great	1 19 4	995	17,409,326	16,049,503	Wool, tallow, gold, and coal	5, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	
Tasmania	Hobart	26,215	124,762	4.37	88	47	60 0	16 16	Assisted	Moderate	2 2 6	172	1,260,636	1,335,336	Wool, hops, bark, oil, timber, and fruits	25, Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster	
New Zealand	Wellington	105,342	512,100	4.9	83	50	60 0	16 0	Both	Great	3 11 4	1,288	7,457,045	6,660,866	Wool, corn, gold, tallow, hides, and dairy produce	7, Westminster Chambers, Victoria-street, S.W.	

* and Class.

† The appointment of Emigration Agent for this colony is at present vacant.

of us who can, take an oar, and those who cannot have only to use their eyes. On either side the fertile borders, rich with every kind of grain and clover, and the majestic Blue Mountains in the distance, rising to a perpendicular height of 3,000 feet, are sights not often seen or even dreamed of by us. We need not go into the detail of the picnic, but will just say that it will be very long indeed before we forget ours on the Hawkesbury.

Our pleasant visit has come to an end, and our friends, who walk with us to the steamer which is to take us to Broken Bay, say as they wish us "good bye," "Be sure to tell everybody at home that there is land enough and to spare; it will yield almost everything of value in the world's markets; all that is wanted is healthy labour and *capital* where possible."

Arriving at Broken Bay, we continue our voyage to Newcastle-Port, which receives the waters of the Hunter, or, as it used to be called, the "Coal River;" the soil along which is so good and the water-communication so extensive, that the district through which it flows is one of the finest in the colony. Coal is one of the most abundant and valuable of the minerals of New South Wales; for hundreds of miles the coast districts are one vast coal-field, the metropolis itself standing in the midst of it. Newcastle being the great coal port, we thought it would be worth visiting. It is a very ugly town, and the people do not mind our saying so. There are eight large colliery companies here, employing something like 3,000 miners, who, as a class, are much respected in the town, being industrious and sober and attentive to their religious duties. The output of coal in this place alone is more than a million tons a year, so that New South Wales may well be called the "great coal producer of the Southern Hemisphere." Newcastle has a large trade with England, because so much of the produce of the interior of the colony comes here for shipment. We should have liked to have taken advantage of the Great Northern Railway to get as far as Armidale, the centre of a farming and pastoral district in New England, but our time is limited and we have yet much to do.

In nothing is the wonderful progress of the colony more seen than in the development of manufacturing industries, and the rapidity with which towns spring up in their midst. We are about to see an example of this. Arriving at Sidney from Newcastle we take tickets and proceed by the Western Railway to the busy town of Lithgow, which lies just the other side of the Blue Mountains; eight years ago it was almost untouched bush with but one or two inhabitants; to-day, as we leave the railway, what do we see? An active manufacturing population brought together by the discovery of rich deposits of iron, seams of coal, beds of clay for brickmaking, copper-mines and good timber. The three little villages of Lithgow, Eskbank, and the Vale of Clwydd have, as a consequence, grown into a well-populated town; the sounds of industry are heard in all directions night and day, and it would be difficult to find a busier or more cheerfully active place in the colony. Last year the coal-mine at Eskbank yielded 180 tons a day, and being close to the railway there was no difficulty in forwarding it to the various markets.

It will be necessary for us to make acquaintance with the Rivers Murray, Darling, and Murrumbidgee, because on the lands watered by these we shall find the centres of the wool trade, squatters' runs, and free selectors' homesteads.

The Murray has its source in the south-eastern corner of New South Wales, and after a course of 1,120 miles makes its way to the

coast of South Australia; this sounds a little like a geography lesson, but it would not do so if we could tell the wonderful tales we have heard in connection with this river. The Murrumbidgee has its source very near to that of the Murray, and in its run of 1,350 miles receives the waters of the Lachlan, and flows into the Murray at Balranald. The Darling rises in the north end of the Great Range, and flows north-west to the Queensland border, and after a very erratic course reaches the Murray at Wentworth, about 100 miles from the junction of the Murrumbidgee.

As the large rivers flow away from the coast, roads and bridges have had to be provided to meet the wants of a very scattered population dwelling in or about 900 post towns; and it may be useful to our friends who are coming out if we make a note of the principal roads. Firstly, there is the main southern road from Sydney to Albury, a distance of 380 miles, with its various branches. Secondly, the main western road, from Sydney to Bourke, 600 miles. Thirdly, the main northern road, commencing at Morpeth, on the Hunter, and extending 400 miles to the Queensland boundary, connecting the towns and the villages in the northern district.

To come to New South Wales without learning something of its woollen trade would not be possible, for its history is so intimately bound up with it. It seems that in 1793 a Mr. McArthur, a captain in the corps serving in New South Wales, had an idea that the grasses and climate of Australia were adapted to the rearing of merino sheep, and he obtained from the Cape of Good Hope three rams and five ewes which he added to his seventy common Bengal sheep. In ten years he was the possessor of 4,000 sheep, not reckoning those which had been killed for food. In 1803 McArthur went to England to exhibit samples of his wool to English manufacturers, by whom they were highly approved.

He was a persevering man, and succeeded in convincing the Privy Council that he could, with their help, render England independent of foreign countries for a supply of the best wools. He was at his own request allotted 10,000 acres of grazing land and permission to select thirty convicts as shepherds. George III. took great interest in this venture and allowed McArthur to take back with him to Australia several ewes and rams out of his own merino flock. This was the commencement of the rapidly increasing flocks of fine woolled sheep in this colony, and there can be but little doubt that its extensive growth of wool has had a very important effect on the woollen manufactures at home, for until wool was exported from New South Wales the Germans and Spaniards had almost a monopoly of the supply, and they could put what price they liked upon it. The small export of 245 pounds in 1807 has increased to the enormous amount of 365,000,000 exported last year, 124,000,000 pounds being sent by this colony alone. There seems to be no fear of the decay of this trade, as there is ever an increasing demand for the choice kinds of wool in Europe. The position of the squatters who supply the markets with this enormous amount of wool is greatly improved since the development of the meat preserving industry. It is very difficult for us to take in the fact that the flocks and herds of Australia could yield a yearly supply of a million tons of meat—that Australia could, after feeding its own people, afford to export 2,000 tons daily. As we cannot go to all the centres of the wool trade, we will take one of the chief, which is Bourke, on the Darling. The Great Western Railway will take us as far as Dubbs on the edge of the salt-bush country, and we do the rest of the journey by coach, and a weary drive it is. We pass through extensive squatting runs, and for miles and miles we see no sign of

human habitation except the inn and the post office.

There is plenty of life, however, when we get to the end of the journey, for Bourke is the centre to which the wool is sent from the stations in the north-west for despatch to a port of shipment, and, considering that this town only dates its existence from 1861, and is situate in the centre of Australia, it is not at all bad. Its public buildings are neat, there is a Church of England and a Roman Catholic Chapel, a mechanics' institute, a hospital, several wool stores, and a brewery, besides many good houses, and a population of 1,138. It is the Darling, however, that pleases us, with its steamers and barges plying up and down closely packed with wool. Seeing how interested we were, the merchants kindly showed us over a few of the boats, which are positively "floating shops." It seems that they do a thriving trade by supplying the general stores of the river towns as they go backward and forward to Bourke; but, as the merchant said, this would be very soon a thing of the past, as the railways were extending in all directions. Up to this time, most of the wool has been sent on from here to Victoria and South Australia for shipment, but as soon as the railway reaches Bourke, Sydney will have the benefit of the trade. The first railway was opened twenty-five years ago; there are now 1,000 miles in active working. We now make our arrangements for a visit to the Riverina, which is the country lying between the Murray and the Murrumbidgee, the chief town of which is Deniliquin. It is especially the land of free selection, which of late years has made rapid progress; not a year passes but thousands of acres are taken up by free selectors, whose desire is always towards the Riverina. We leave the main road at Albury, and have the advantage of Cobb's coach as far as it goes in our direction. It put us down at a pretty little wayside inn, where we are staying for the night, to refresh ourselves before starting on our long walk through the free selections. We carry with us an introduction to a special "free selector" from the editor of the *Illustrated Australian*, to whom, as well as to the editor of the *Australian Sketcher*, we owe a deep debt of gratitude for their help in our Australian tour. After long and very rough walking, we come upon the Free Selector himself, to whom we explain our visit, and tender him the introduction. His honest, kindly welcome cheered us, and away we trudged by his side till we came to his comfortable cottage home. We found all the women folk busy, but they came forward and welcomed us with true colonial hospitality. They won't hear of our going away for two or three days, and it is while we are sitting together in the evening we ask the Free Selector, if he will tell us the history of his coming to the Riverina.

He seems very glad to oblige us and in his own cheery way thus begins.—"Well, ladies, to begin at the beginning, my wife and I, directly after our marriage, emigrated, and made our home on the other side of the Murray, in Victoria; here we prospered and were happy, but when seven children had to be provided for, I thought we might do better for them, and told the wife so—this gave her a sort of pang, for she clung to the home where we had lived all our married life, but she is a good woman and listens to reason and don't torment a man when he's got something hard and right to do. She consented to me and my eldest boy going away for a few days to look about us; so we started on our nags and crossed the Murray into the Riverina, where several friends had already made selections. Of course the first thing we did was to pay them a visit, and right glad they were to see us. They told us that free selection was a splendid thing, but that the

squatters did not like it, because they felt that, as the selectors got strong, they would insist upon the land laws being carried out. Well, I and my boy didn't have very far to go beyond Deniliquin, for finer pasturage I never saw, and nothing would be better for our purpose. It was an estate of 10,000 acres, and this is how I bought it: By the advice of a friend I made application for the conditional purchase of 320 acres each, for me and my seven children, making 2,560 acres, and adding to it three times the quantity of "grass right" brought it to 10,240 acres. To make sure, I went as soon as the land agent's office was opened, gave in my application, together with £640 in cash, got the receipt, and the place was mine. You may guess, ladies, we did not let the grass grow under our feet—we spurred on our horses and were back over the Murray in no time, and when I said what I had done, there was neither crying nor black looks from wife or children, but all entered into the spirit of it and worked away with such a will that at the end of a week we were ready to start. We got the cattle together and sent off two of the boys with them while we, with van and dray and horses and poultry, set off with the good wishes of all our neighbours. It was a pleasant journey enough, but very slow after leaving the beaten track, and my wife was astonished that for 20 miles at a time we saw neither house nor human being. When at length we halted and I said, 'Wife, here we are, this is our home,' she said, 'Well old man, this is a lovely spot.' 'Yes,' said I, 'please God it shall be a happy home for us all—so just let's ask Him, for we can't go very wrong if He is along with us.' And so we did. After which we gave three cheers for our new home. Bless me, ladies; I remember that first day and our first meal here as if it was only yesterday. But I'm tiring you. If you don't mind, we always have a Psalm from the old Bible and a Collect before we go to bed, and it'll make us more friendly like if you'll join us."

This visit to the Free Selector will prove one of our most pleasant memories. On our return to Sydney we have the privilege of witnessing the arrival of an emigrant ship, which does more to impress us with the need of labour here than any amount of talking. The emigrants were hired almost as soon as they put foot on land; for one girl there are twenty mistresses waiting; the number of men, women, and children on board is 600, and some gentlemen standing by us remark, if twelve times 600 were landing, they could all be placed, without difficulty, upon a sure path to comfort and independence. Immigration is not so popular here as in some of the colonies, owing to the fact, we think, that each emigrant from home is compelled to pay a certain amount of passage-money. Married couples must not be above thirty-five years of age, and unmarried not above thirty, and each must give £5 towards the cost of passage. Special care is taken of unmarried women and girls on their arrival. They are received into the immigrants' home for fourteen days, and if proceeding into the interior they get a free pass by rail or steam. To us it seems that people could not do better than make their homes here, if they are intending to emigrate; to those without capital, high wages, short hours, good living and a healthy climate are attractions, though, perhaps, not quite answering to the demand of some of our workmen at home for

"Eight hours of rest, eight hours of play,
Eight hours to work, and eight shillings
a day."

The inhabitants of the colony have an enthusiastic love for it. A gentleman who has lived here some years declares that no country ever came from the hands of its Creator more eminently qualified to be the abode of a thriving and numerous population than this

of New South Wales. Of course, much depends upon the people themselves: if they be frugal, industrious, attentive to home duties, content, grateful for their soil and climate, and, above all things, thankful for the means of grace which they enjoy, then New South Wales may go on prospering till she is second to no country in the world. There is no state church in this colony; all religious bodies are on a perfect equality, and all desirous of carrying the means of instruction and the blessings of religion to families living in the distant settlements.

THE FAIRY OF THE FAMILY.

VI.—SPOTS AND STAINS, AND HOW TO TREAT THEM.



STAINS and spots on materials of all kinds are divided by Mr. Spon, scientifically, into two kinds—simple and compound, and in writing of them I intend, as far as I can, to observe the distinction, for it is one which every one of my readers ought to remember and be guided by, as on it depends the success or non-success of dealing with them. Grease and oil form what may be called "simple stains;" while coffee, tea, mud, ink, and the gravies and sauces used in cooking are properly called "compound," because they consist of two or more substances, each of which has caused a stain.

Grease, of course, is to be dissolved by the use of alkalis, or melted by heat; the former, however, require to be carefully used, as they change the colours of dyed stuffs. The safest are fullers' earth, French chalk, chalk, and soap. Oxgall and yoke of egg take out grease without affecting the colour, and oil of turpentine will take out recent spots. Pure alcohol will in turn extract turpentine, resin, pitch, and all stains of a resinous nature. Stains of pitch, varnish, and oil paint, which have become dry and old, must first be softened with a little fresh butter or lard before trying either turpentine or alcohol, as the volatile oil of turpentine will only take out recent stains.

Benzine is a very excellent preparation for removing simple stains of grease from articles that cannot be washed, such as leather and cloth. The greased spots should be rubbed with a clean flannel which has been wet with benzine. Commence from the outer edge of the soiled spot, and rub inwards. Be careful not to extend the surface of the spot in your efforts to take it out.

The application of heat is another method of removing small spots of grease from silk and wool. Some people hold a red-hot poker over the spot, by which means the grease becomes volatilised, and immediately disappears. This plan can only be carried out by a careful hand, as a scorch is a worse evil than the original grease spot. Another method is to lay the silk on some clean flannel, and place over it a sheet of brown paper, and lay a hot iron on for a few minutes; the grease should come out on the paper. I

have found the red-hot poker an admirable thing to take out spots of wax or other candles from carpets and tablecloths. A bit of clean tissue-paper should be used also, to rub the spot for a moment, after you have held the poker over it.

The method of taking grease from books and paper is as follows:—Warm the greased part gently and then press on it some clean blotting paper repeatedly till you have obtained as much of the grease as possible. Make some oil of turpentine nearly boiling hot, warm the greased paper again, and apply the hot turpentine with a clean soft brush to both sides of the paper. Repeat till the grease is gone. When this has been safely accomplished, apply some rectified spirits of wine to the place with a clean brush very gently, and if you have been quick and careful the paper should be clean and spotless. Spots on the outside of books may be cleaned with benzine.

Chalk, fullers' earth, and soapstone or French chalk are all of them excellent for the removal of grease. The first two are generally mixed with water into a thin paste and spread upon the stain and then allowed to dry. After that the spot only requires brushing with a clothes brush. French chalk can also be applied in the same manner, but on a delicate silk it is best not to wet it, but to simply scrape it into powder with a penknife on the surface of the spot. Rub it in slightly with the finger tip, and after a little while brush it off.

Iron-mould, rust, and mildew must be treated next. Either of the two former may be taken out instantaneously with a strong solution of oxalic acid, however old they may be. The oxalic acid may be applied in powder, the spot being previously wetted; rub the powder well in and wash off directly with pure water. A recent stain of either iron-mould or rust may be removed by cream of tartar applied in the same way. Another method of removing old iron-moulds is to moisten them for five minutes with sulphate of potash or muriate of tin, and after this is washed out apply citric acid. Another way is to wet the spot and lay the article over a pewter hot-water plate, and drop a little essential oil of lemons upon it. Wet the spots when dry and renew the process, keeping the plate boiling hot; when the stain leaves, wash well, to prevent injury from the acid.

Mildew may be removed by the following process: Dissolve a quarter pound of chloride of lime in two quarts of water, stir it well, allow it to settle, and pour off the clear liquor. Put the article into the mixture and expose it wet to the outside air, till the mildew has disappeared, rinse it well in cold water and then wash in the usual way. This will also remove wine and all vegetable stains.

Among the most trying of the simple stains are those made by fruit, especially black currants, cherries, or mulberries. As a girl I used to be a perfect victim to my carelessness in this respect, and the prettiest of my summer dresses used to get stained, even when I seemed to myself to be taking great care of them. It was not till I was sent to school in Switzerland that I knew how to take them out without trouble, by learning from my French and German schoolfellows. They simply wetted the fruit stains with the tip of the finger with clean water, struck a match, and held it so that the sulphurous vapour was diffused over the surface of the stain; sometimes two matches were needed for a stain of extra size, rarely more. When the dress came from the wash the stain had vanished completely.

Sulphurous acid may be generated also for larger fumigations by burning some sulphur under the wide end of a paper funnel, and applying the narrow end of the funnel close to the cloth. Stains of wine, morello cherries, liqueurs,