



1838

Three Years' Practical Experience of a Settler in New South Wales

David Lindsay Waugh

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

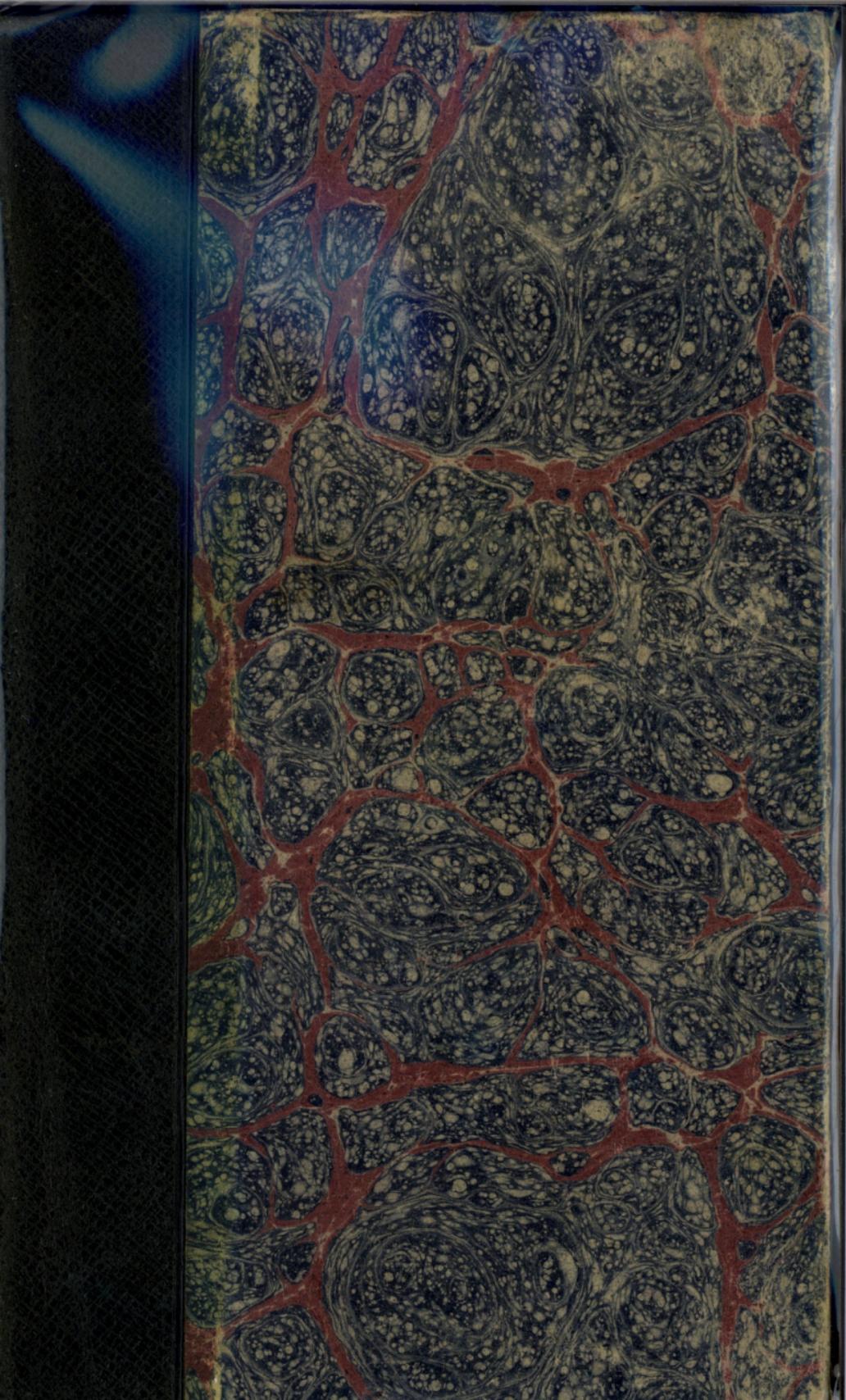
Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.und.edu/settler-literature>

Recommended Citation

Waugh, David Lindsay, "Three Years' Practical Experience of a Settler in New South Wales" (1838). *Settler Literature Archive*. 116.

<https://commons.und.edu/settler-literature/116>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of English at UND Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Settler Literature Archive by an authorized administrator of UND Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact und.common@library.und.edu.



F2674

Msel-



Geelong Church of England Grammar School
Corio, Victoria

Mr Justice Ferguson.

to J. B. Ponder.

for Waugh - Three Years Practical
Experience
and Johnston - The Truth.

£6.

~~no~~ Vol. purchased
from G. B. Ponder,
C. of E. Grammar School,
Corio, Victoria, 1st
Sept., 1958, from his Sale
list of N. S. W. books
being 5th and 4th from
bottom of p. 2 of said
list for £6.0.6.

It comprises

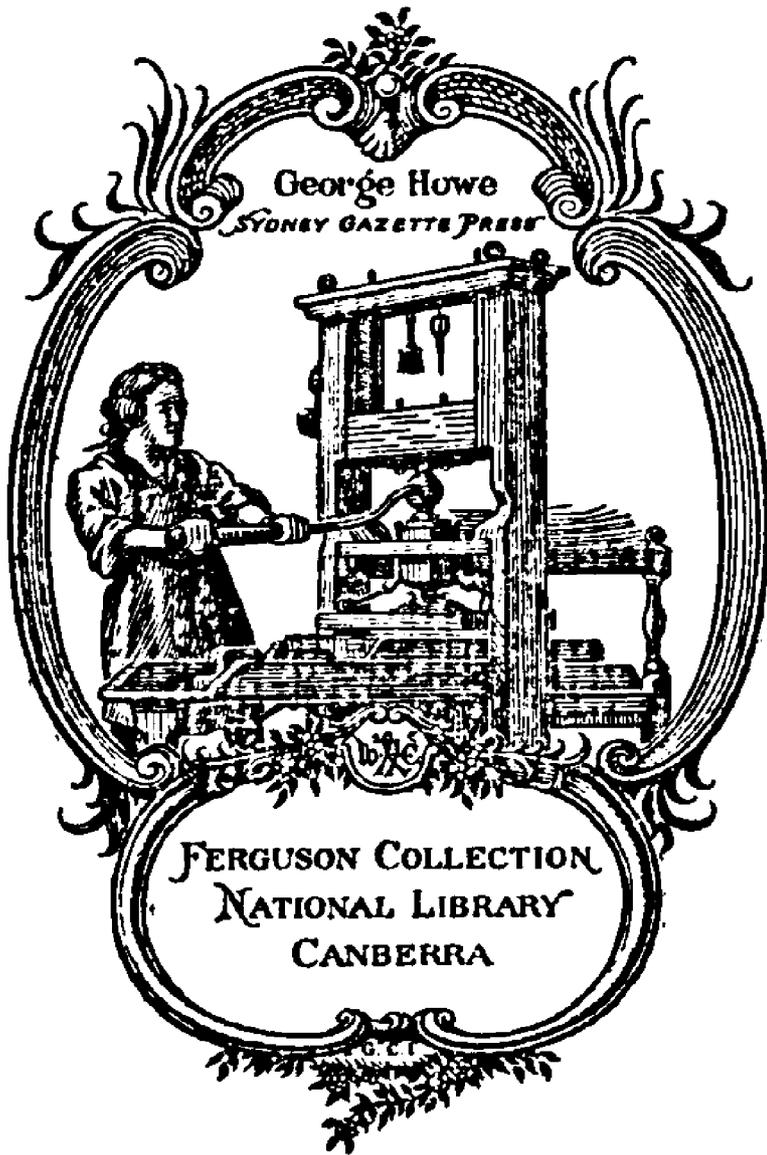
(a) [Vaughn, James] Three Years
Practical Experience of a
Settler in New-South Wales
5th ed. with Map. Edinburgh,
1838, F. 2674.

and

(b) Johnston, G. G. The Truth:
Consisting of letters just
received from Emigrants to
the Australian Colonies...
Edinburgh, 1839.
2nd edition - not in Ferguson.
See Addenda to Vols I-IV
of Vol. 5 of Bibliography
as no. 2780 a

F2674

Includes F2780a





THREE YEARS' PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE
OF A
SETTLER IN NEW SOUTH WALES;

BEING
EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS TO HIS FRIENDS
IN EDINBURGH, FROM 1834 to 1837.

WITH A PREFACE BY THE EDITOR, AND AN APPENDIX
CONTAINING NOTES AND INFORMATION FOR ALL
CLASSES OF INTENDING EMIGRANTS, FROM
THE LATEST AUTHORITIES, AND
PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Fifth Edition, with a Map.

EDINBURGH:
JOHN JOHNSTONE, HUNTER SQUARE,
SUCCESSOR TO WAUGH AND INNES;
J. NISBET & CO., AND R. GROOMBRIDGE, LONDON.

MDCCCXXXVIII.

THE
LIFE OF
JAMES
CLACK
BY
JAMES
CLACK
IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. I.
LONDON:
PRINTED BY
JOHN JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD.
1841.

EDINBURGH:

JOHN JOHNSON, PRINTER, HUNTER SQUARE.

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR.

EMIGRATION to Australia has recently become an object of intense and increasing interest with all classes of the community. This is not to be wondered at, when it is considered how deep and general is the feeling, that this country is peopled beyond its natural resources and regular demand for productive labour—that the prosperity of the bulk of its population rests very much on an artificial basis, as liable to be injured and destroyed by sudden mercantile changes—that, in fact, the means of subsistence, even in the most economical manner, among persons in all the ordinary occupations of business, are only to be barely attained by unremitting labour, with inadequate return on capital invested—and even that, not only with little enjoyment, but at the expense of severe anxiety and mental exhaustion; above all, that the rearing, educating, and fitting out a family for active life, is daily becoming a matter of greater difficulty, especially in the middle ranks of society.

In these circumstances it has been natural to inquire, where is to be found the remedy, if any, towards relief of the pressure which such numerous classes experience in a greater or less degree,—and it therefore ought to be viewed as a special blessing under divine providence, that

the Government of Great Britain is possessed of a territory in another quarter of the world, with space ample enough to contain the whole population of the parent state, were even that requisite, lying under the most genial and salubrious temperature of climate, with a soil rich and varied, abounding with the most useful minerals, and equally adapted for pastoral and agricultural pursuits. In fact, Australia, as hitherto colonized, is a country combining every natural and rural charm on which the imagination delights to luxuriate—with the splendid plants, and fruits, and grains of the tropical regions, it unites all the substantial produce of our own colder climate, and though a winter is known there, it is only as sufficient to mark the season, while for three-fourths of the year a person may sleep in the open air.

The desire of information respecting this country, has accordingly been very great and general, and numerous works have been published, detailing its history civil and political, its public revenue and expenditure, its progress in wealth, population, and general improvement. It appeared, however, that something was still wanting to convey to inquirers intending to emigrate, a correct idea of the every-day occupation of a rural settler, with its advantages and disadvantages, its enjoyments and privations, and above all, the prospect it holds out, and in what manner, of progressive wealth and comfort. The following extracts from letters, by a recent settler in New South Wales, to different members of his family at home, as far as relates to the nature and operations of rural life in that country, were copied out in continuous order, for the purpose of satisfying such numerous inquirers on the subject; and having been shown, at their earnest request, to many persons intending to emigrate, they appeared to

them to contain matter of so much interest, and to convey such valuable information to be found no where else, that a very general wish was expressed by the readers for the publication of them.

The editor has therefore yielded to this wish so expressed, the more, as the requests for a perusal of them in a MS. form, were too frequent to be easily and quickly complied with; but in doing so, he claims it as but common justice in behalf of the writer, to state, that these extracts are from letters written in unrestrained confidential intercourse to his nearest relatives, without the very slightest expectation that they would be shown even to a small circle of friends, far less given to the world in the shape of a publication. As they are, however, they certainly possess the interest of genuine feeling and of novelty, and bring before the mind of the reader a vivid and accurate idea of what is described, so as to enable him to judge for himself, as to his own future plans, better than any general history of the country and its occupations could possibly do.

The classes of persons to whom emigration to that country seems most likely to be desirable, are those in the middle ranks, with capitals from £500, or even less, to £1500 or £2000,—sums which it is now difficult to employ with a proper return, either in or out of business, and which, in the case of families, are inadequate to rear them with advantage; whereas, as appears from the extracts now published, the smallest of these sums is sufficient in the course of a few years to secure to the individual comparative independence, and to open good prospects for the future.

Such persons as above alluded to, are either those engaged in business, as shopkeepers or otherwise, where the

return of profits is inadequate to the capital and labour employed,—gentlemen with moderate fortunes invested at interest, but yielding a small and insufficient per centage,—young men in some of the departments of law, whose prospects of success are distant and limited,—retired officers of the army or navy, who are properly allowed by the government superior advantages in the purchase of land,—or the sons of country gentlemen, of high standing in society, but with comparatively small patrimonies.

Numbers of these different classes, all men of intelligence and cultivated minds, have within the last few years emigrated to New South Wales; and, at present, more than ever of the same description are preparing to follow them; of consequence, society is now assuming a highly improved aspect in that territory, and a principal objection, at one time naturally entertained against removal to it, may now be considered as completely obviated. But as society consists of two classes, it is of importance to mention, that the system of convict servants, however it may have answered for the time, is now to be discontinued as quickly as the convenience of the settlers can admit of, and that the attention of the government has, for some time past, been powerfully and unremittingly turned to the sending out married agricultural labourers and mechanics, carefully selected, of good character and in the prime of life, free of expense and with every attention to their comforts, under the immediate superintendence of government agents. A great number are to embark from Scotland this year, from different ports, and the system will be continued till the colony is supplied with a virtuous population sufficient for its wants which are great, 10,000 being reported as at present required.

It is also of the utmost importance to state, that in consequence of a representation from the local government there, approved and acceded to by Lord Glenelg in the most prompt and efficient manner, provision is now effectually made for the endowment of ministers connected with the Church of Scotland, as well as that of England, and for a system of general education, in consequence of which Dr Lang, Principal of the Australian College, and senior minister of the Scots Church, Sydney, who was here last year, and had many long conferences with the Colonial Committee, carried with him from this country in July last, a great number of licentiates of the Church of Scotland, and schoolmasters, to fill situations in the colony, and many more are preparing to follow.

After all these inducements and advantages, however, it is obvious that objections may naturally occur to many persons in regard to the nature of the transition, as being too abrupt a change. It certainly is a transition of no slight kind, from the in-door confinement and densely peopled society, either of mercantile or professional pursuits, in a crowded city, to the ample space and comparative solitude of such an occupation in a new and open country, which will require, to insure success, a complete change of habits and feelings, — a consideration which ought to be fairly taken into account by all intending emigrants, before ultimately deciding.

But in this respect the Editor conceives that the extracts are valuable, as showing how quickly and completely a person may adapt himself to the required change, and how much enjoyment appears to accompany it.

The writer of the letters was bred to a branch of the law, — served an apprenticeship to a writer to the signet, — had been for about a year thereafter a clerk; and in

point of literary attainments and professional knowledge, it may at least be said of him, that he was not excelled by any of his contemporaries. He went out to Sydney with strong recommendations from the highest quarters, intending to prosecute the legal profession there, a plan which, for the reasons mentioned in his letters, he subsequently gave up, and, following the advice of the first persons in Sydney, embarked in a country life. The energy he has shown in his new vocation,—the pleasure he has experienced,—and the success he has attained in it, with the prospects he cherishes, will appear in his letters.

In addition to the sudden change from a crowded to a secluded existence,—the want of much that tends at present to stimulate and amuse, must also be expected. The artificial, elegant, and, it may be, luxurious usages of modern life, especially in large towns, conceived to be so essential to comfort,—the varied and ample stores of literature, science, and art, which form the daily supply of the mental cravings of the present refined stage of society, must, for a time at least, be dispensed with; but with all well-constituted minds, in such an event, that will only excite a temporary regret. It will be seen from the letters, that the writer received, at the distance of 130 miles, three Sydney newspapers per week; and as the communication with this country is now so much facilitated, both in respect of time and of frequency, and the roads in the interior of the colony are undergoing such daily improvement by the government, the periodical literature of Britain, as well as that of the colonial capital, where literary, scientific, and agricultural societies already exist, will quickly circulate through the remotest quarters of that extensive territory. The only other matter which

it may be of importance to advert to is this, that it demonstratively appears from the letters, that every person who expects to succeed in the colony, must resolve, for a time at least, to submit to what in this country would be deemed privations, and to engage in the prosecution of his plans with all the energies of his mind, combined with steadiness and perseverance. To those who do so, success appears a moral certainty; but indolent and dissipated habits will lead to ruin there, as speedily as in any part of the Old World.

Several notes are added as an Appendix, containing remarks as to the country, extracted from the latest authorities, on such points as intending emigrants, especially those with families, may naturally wish to be informed upon; and if, upon the whole, this small and unpretending publication shall be the means of satisfying, to a certain extent, curiosity on a topic now become so interesting, the purpose of the Editor shall be completely answered.

He cannot, however, close these remarks without asking leave from his readers to say, in addition, that the present prospects of that colony have powerfully impressed his own mind, and captivated his imagination. He considers them as opening up to view a new, and in many of their bearings, an untried aspect of society, alike interesting to the philanthropist, the political economist, and the man of intellectual refinement.

“Magnus ab integro seclorum nascitur ordo.”

An experiment has fairly commenced of a new creation of the social system, in all the freshness and vivacity of youth, tempered with the experience of age—of a return to the simplicity and innocence of primitive life, without its rudeness, but adorned and cherished by the “benefits of

knowledge and the blessings of religion,"—in short, civilization with its advantages, but without its evils and vices.

The enjoyment of existence will be incalculably promoted in such a favoured clime, by the rural scenery and progressively successful rural labours amidst which it will be passed—scenes and labours on which the poetic minds of the most refined periods of all ages, have ever delighted to expatiate, and to the simplicity of which the most exalted in worldly power and worldly splendour, have in every time eagerly recurred for solace and refreshment,—all proving how congenial to human happiness, and how deeply rooted in the human breast, is the love of Nature.

To such a country, then, may even the most elegant scholar resort, for there he will enjoy in perfection the personal and delightful experience of the truth of the sweetest passage of the rural poet who sung such themes to "Wide-imperial Rome by Greece refined."

Oh fortunatos nimium, sua si bona nôrint
Agrícolas. &c. &c.

as well as that of the touching and ever occurring allusions to the same topic by his sprightly lyrical contemporary,—and be able also to exemplify in actual and practical operation, the climax of the well-known splendid eulogium by the great master of Roman eloquence, on literary pursuits, *delectant domi—peregrinantur, rusticantur.*

Edinburgh, 24th March 1838.

EXTRACTS, &c.

THE writer left Leith in December 1833, on board the *Isabella*, of 400 tons register, for Sydney, New South Wales. The vessel reached Portsmouth in about fourteen days, but was detained for nearly six weeks with strong westerly gales at that place, where an immense fleet of outward bound vessels for East and West Indies, America, &c., nearly 800 sail, was at the same time riding at anchor. The first of these letters alludes to this detention, and describes his deliverance from it.

*On Board the Isabella,
Saturday, 1st March 1834.*

MY DEAR FATHER,—As I am informed we are near reaching the latitude where homeward bound vessels are to be met with, I now commence a letter to be ready for the first one we may meet. When, or on what day it may terminate, you will see by the date I put on it when I seal it. Just as we parted company with the *Macqueen* (Indiaman) in doubling the corner of the Isle of Wight, 29th January, Captain M'Cole called up all his men, and gave us three cheers, which we returned in regular order. I was considerably affected by thus bidding farewell to those with whom we had lived in strict intimacy for five weeks. It was a most beautiful day; but at three in the morning, the wind chopped round right in our teeth, but as it was moderate, we beat against it all day: next night it began to blow very hard, and the ship pitched most dreadfully. I had great difficulty in keeping in bed; I

was not at all sick, however, and ate my breakfast as well as I could with things being in such a state. The surgeon lay in bed; all the apprentices were sitting here and there most disconsolately; William (his cabin companion) was only a little squeamish at first, but as for all the Fishers, (an overseer with his family going out to the property of a gentleman here,) they lay tumbled on one another, looking more like death than life. Finding it of no use to persevere, at last we took in a fisherman as a pilot, and got safely into Torbay. In Torbay we lay a week, and there collected about twenty of our Motherbank friends, including M'Cole. I made two very pleasant excursions in the neighbourhood during our stay there. On Saturday, 2d February, the wind blowing right into the bay, but otherwise favourable for us if once we got out, all hands were called at four in the morning to weigh anchor; I rose at five, and helped like the rest. We made a long stretch of a tack to beat out, and would have done it, but when we went upon the other tack, intending to double the point on the south of the bay, the tide running very violently, sucked us in at one o'clock to the very place we had left. The wind at this time had again changed to contrary, and it blew very hard. We finally left the bay on Friday, the 7th of February, with light wind, carrying us about a mile an hour. This, with fine weather, continued till Tuesday afternoon; we were at this time past the Eddystone Light-house, which I saw on Sunday quite distinctly about ten or twelve miles off. Tuesday night set in with a very hard gale, so strong, that though decidedly favourable, we could make no use of it. We lay-to all night, under only two sails, and these as close reefed as could be. I was on the weather-side of the ship, and every sea that struck her I thought would have pitched me over against the door. Nay, I began at last to fear that the whole concern of the bed would come down bodily, so that after getting up three times in perfect fear of such a catastrophe, I rose at four, planted my back against the lowest side of our room, and with my clothes on, and propped up with pillows between two trunks, I got sleep for an hour. Many of the trunks in the dining-

cabin and elsewhere, I heard tumbling about, and the Doctor's sofa wheeled broadside over, and he in it. When I went on deck at six, the weather had moderated a little. During the whole night, the boatswain, who said it was a stiff breeze, declared that the vessel did nothing but plunge her head into a hole, taking a sea over her every time. My feeling on the matter was just as if, every now and then, some one had taken the ship bodily, and given her a cruel shake, like a bull-dog with another in his mouth. This will give you some idea of it; the steersman was thrown clean over the wheel; one of the men was washed from the fore-castle upon the deck, and one sea came two feet deep on deck, from the bow to the cabin-door, while sometimes it splashed as high as the foretop. I was much amused with one of the steerage-passengers, a Portsoy-man, who, when I asked him how his fellow-passengers were, said that they were all telling what wood the ship was made of. The explanation I got was, that in their retching they cried *oak*. Since that time, however, to the present moment, it has been entirely a pleasure sail. Figure to yourself a clear sky, an almost calm sea, hardly any motion, and going at seven, nine, and ten knots an hour. Since that date, our daily average has been about 180 miles, sometimes about 200; and unless we are becalmed under the line, after we leave the trade-wind, and before we get the next, the surgeon says we are pretty sure of a passage from Land's End in little more than 100 days. There are threatening symptoms of a calm, however, although we have been going all day at six knots, yet for six hours yesterday and last night, we were barely making one an hour. As for the heat you dreaded so much, here we are 6° from the Equator, and the thermometer never yet above 80°, with a sea-breeze all the time. The surgeon has been five times across, and, in a dead calm and no wind, never saw it above 84°. I sleep on my plain mattress with neither blanket nor sheet; putting on my cotton drawers and my night-shirt, I am very comfortable. I go also out at five or six every morning, and get three or four pailfuls of water thrown over me in the fore part of the ship. The *Isabella* sails beautifully; we have

passed about twenty vessels, every one, except a light one in ballast, the Somersetshire of London, bound for Jamaica, who spoke us on 17th February, lat. 35°, long. 17° 45'. On Tuesday, 25th February, we passed close enough to the George of London, to read her name with the telescope on the end of her boat hanging astern. On the 24th, we were eighteen miles from Antonio, one of the Cape de Verd islands, and should have seen it well, but the weather was hazy.

Monday, 3d March 1834.

I understand there is a ship in sight, approaching, so I have to conclude. We have had almost a calm all yesterday; last night it was very close, therm. 83° in our room; we got the help of a friendly squall this morning, which put us on ten or twelve miles in an hour, and as we have a favourable wind, strong hopes are entertained of our getting now into the S.E. trade-wind. Excuse haste. I have just come in from looking at the approaching vessel; it is still distant, but as both the vessels are sailing, it will be here in half an hour. It is the third we have seen to-day. We have been surrounded with shoals of porpoises, flying-fish, dolphins, and seen many of Mother Cary's chickens, and the Portuguese men-of-war, and a small blubber kind of fish, which carries a sail like the nautilus.

Hobart Town, 28th May 1834.

MY DEAR J.—I am afraid this letter will be shorter than I intended, for the Clarence, which was not to sail till Saturday, has just fired a gun for a pilot, and hoisted the Blue Peter for the passengers. We arrived here after a passage of 102 days from Land's End, on 22d May. We should have been in 95 or 100; but, when within 100 miles of land, we had first light, then contrary winds, and had to beat about four days before we made it. The Barcaster of Liverpool made it in 95. We had fine weather till eastward of the Cape, but then we had one gale after another,

but it was all fair for us, and we scudded right before it, making 200 and 210 miles per day—one day we made 227. During all the time there was not much motion, except one or two days when she rolled terribly, there being too little sail on her; during the whole passage except half a dozen nights, I have slept as comfortably as at home. We have had very fine weather since we came here. I have never suffered an hour's illness since I last wrote, and have got, if any thing, stouter. Every thing is very dear here; 2 lb loaf, 6½d.; beef and mutton, 6d. to 8d. per lb; milk, 8d. per quart, &c. House rent of four rooms and kitchen, £80, and so on. All our passengers are already provided for. M—— had the option of £120 the moment he landed. The Governor sent on board the first day for Miss T—— as nursery governess; and, in short, all who do not intend commencing business, are either settled, or hang off from offers, in expectation of better. The population of the town is 13,000. The number of fine stone houses, warehouses, &c., like any in Leith, is very great, and fine shops are every where opening. One of our Sydney passengers, a mason, has got work, during our stay here, at 44s. per week.

I do not feel as in a foreign land at all, it is so like a rising town at home, only more scattered; for, I dare say, it covers as much ground as North and South Leith. I have been received with great kindness by many, and have got invitations to several dinners. I send a newspaper.

Sydney, 25th June 1834.

MY DEAR J.,—I wrote to you of my arrival at Van Dieman's Land, on the 25th May, per the Clarence of London. I had just closed my last letter there, when Mr T——, to whom I had a letter of introduction, came on board, and insisted on my going on shore with him, and living in his house, which I did for the fortnight the ship lay at Hobart Town. On Thursday, a large party

of friends met me there. In 1824, a great number of these relations, about 30, freighted a vessel and came out to settle here. They are all in highly prosperous circumstances, partly in Hobart Town, and partly through the island. Mr M——, Mr T——'s brother-in-law, showed me also the utmost kindness. I also saw Mr C——, who, I suppose, is now worth £10,000, and spent a pleasant day with him. We left Hobart Town on the 11th current, and had a nine days' passage. On Saturday last, this day week, William (his fellow-passenger,) and I came on shore to Mr Barker's, an extensive miller, Sussex Street, to whom I had letters from Mr D. We found him at home, in a splendid house. He is a much respected and very influential man; he is considered one of the richest men in the colony, and we have some worth from £10,000 to £25,000 per annum. He received us very kindly, asked me to dinner with him on Sunday, which I accepted, and went home with him after church. He keeps a kind of open house for all the respectable young men of the town who are staying in lodgings. I got, through him, most respectable board and lodgings with Mr Bass, ship-builder, Darling Harbour; I pay £5 a-month, and have a bed-room; and as they have two parlours, I have one almost to myself. A young gentleman to whom Mr Barker was very kind, and for whom he got a situation, lives in the same lodgings with me, and is as sensible and judicious a man as is to be met with. He is editor of one of the newspapers, and in comfortable independent circumstances. I have been at Mr Barker's at least once or twice a-day by his kind invitation. I have seen Mr M'Leay (Colonial Secretary), Mr Riddell (Colonial Treasurer), Mr Campbell, &c. &c., who have been very kind to me; both Mr M'Leay and Mr Riddell have been particularly so, and have been exerting themselves for me. Mr M'Leay wished me to call again that he might introduce me to his family, but he has been so busy since, that I have not yet seen him. Mr Riddell has most strongly advised me to go into the country; he says it is not only the speediest, but the surest way of making money. He is trying to get me a

situation as overseer, and explained to me how I might lay out, while holding such situation, what money I had, on sheep, to feed along with the principal's. In three or four years, capital is returned from the wool, while the increase of stock is equally great. All the settlers are making money if they use common prudence. One Scotsman, who has been here eight years, and came without a shilling, cleared last year L.1300 from his wool, and so with the rest. The law is not considered an eligible pursuit; Mr M'Leay advised me against it, so I have given up all idea of that line.

There are a great number of our countrymen here, and all very clannish. I have been introduced to almost all the respectable part of the community. I do not feel as in a foreign land at all, and am very comfortable in my lodgings. William, who lived with Mr Barker, went up yesterday to his friends at Harrington Park. He was very sorry to part with me, and felt it much as we passed along the street, and had I not tried to keep up my spirits, I should have felt it equally. I have never had an hour's illness since I left England. Tell mother that Mrs Bass is a nice motherly woman.

Sydney, 14th August 1834.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I wrote to J—— in June last, but could say nothing almost of what I should do here. There were three different professions that I could embrace, viz; Legal, Mercantile, Agricultural.

With regard to the first, the Law, I was told at once by several gentlemen to whom I had presented my letters, particularly Mr M'Leay, Mr Riddell, and Dr Mitchell, that it was not an eligible business. This, however, was merely general. I then saw Mr B—— of Leith, an old school-fellow, who came out about ten months ago to fill the office of under-sheriff here. Before he could fill that office, he had to produce his testimonials of admission as S.S.C., and after he had been in it for six months he gave it up, and entered into partnership with his brothers as

a. merchant. He said that the difference of law was such, as to require almost a new apprenticeship of study, and that as I had not passed W. S. at home, though entitled to apply for it, I must serve an apprenticeship here to be admitted to practise. This decided me against the Law; besides, I had no situation in prospect, and did not like to lose time in waiting for one. With regard to the mercantile profession, I lay under great disadvantages, in having almost no introductions to mercantile men. One great house to whom I got introductions from both Mr L—— and Mr W—— are extensive merchants, it is true, but are said to be reserved in their manners, though they were very kind to me when I called.

The principal mercantile houses are almost all Liverpool or London establishments, and having little or no connection with Scotland, they are well supplied with clerks from their own places. There has been a very extensive emigration of young men in the same circumstances with myself, within the last ten years, and many who brought out a stock of goods with them to commence, have, after selling off, gone into the country as settlers. Mr J——, son of Mr —— of the Australian Company, Mr W—— of Edinburgh, have done this. In fact, there are too many merchants for the number of settlers, the town containing about a third of the whole population of the colony; so that unless a person has a pretty strong home connection, he need not set up in that capacity here. Thus shut out from these two, I turned my attention to the country. Almost the whole of my acquaintances here, high and low, advised the country. There is not a man in Sydney, who can manage it, but has some capital invested in the country, and it is looked upon as the surest way of living and making money.

While I was in this state of uncertainty, Mr Barker, who has the management of three most extensive farms, said, with his usual kindness, I might go and live at one of these as long as I liked; and while I should be at no expense, I should have an opportunity of learning the business. I accordingly went to Nonorrah, thirty-three miles up, and lived there for a month. Mean-

while, I was not content with these general advices, but was anxious for a statement from some one who had actually been a settler. Mr S——, my former fellow-lodger, accordingly wrote to a friend in the country,—a gentleman about thirty years of age, who began eight or ten years ago, with a very moderate capital, and drew last year a large sum for his wool,—asking his advice, what a friend of his, with a small capital, should do. The result was the following letter, which I give *verbatim* :—

“MY DEAR S——, I have just returned, after experiencing four weeks bracing weather at Monaro, and have been at this time of the year on the Australian Alps, walking in two feet deep of snow, which is the reason of your letter not having been answered. I now do myself the pleasure of acceding to your desires, in giving my opinion for the guidance of your friend, which will contain no other merit than what I believe to be the literal truth. The same opinion I would give to another, and the same I would take myself, were I in his situation. In the first place, I must acquaint you that £300 is but a drop in the bucket to commence settling with, even if he understood how to make the best of it; however, I think if he could not employ himself profitably in Sydney, it would do him a service to see the country, but before he turns settler he must know how to work. By the bye, I will explain how he may invest his capital profitably while he is seasoning his fingers. He must not be above soiling them—he must think it no degradation to load a dung cart, and drive a team of bullocks; in fact, he must be a perfect farmer, and he should and must learn, if he wishes to prosper in this country, to be industrious; he must plough his own ground, sow and reap, and afterwards not be above grinding it. When he can do all this, and be content that God has given him bodily strength sufficient for it, then he will become a rich man. In seven years' time, with his capital judiciously managed, he will be worth L.1500 per annum. But in the first outset he must be frugal as well as industrious. He must do without grog—such a thing must never be known to be in his

possession. He must be always content to live on corn, beef, and bread,—his industry will give him vegetables; and if he can indulge himself nine months in the year with tea, he is a fortunate fellow. He will think this hard quarters; but he will find many better ways of laying out his cash than in living in luxury. He will have time enough to do so when his fortune is made. He must also be of a good disposition, to govern his men well; yet he must be determined, and he must live himself as they live—only at arm's length, and in their proper places of course. Now for my advice. Let him purchase 300 good sound ewes, and give them out to some honest man on the usual conditions, viz., thirds of increase and wool. In three years' time he may begin for himself,—he will by that time, if ever, be acquainted with the customs of the country, and probably the management of his own establishment. Now, let us see how our calculation will stand:—

INCREASE.

1834 ...	300 Ewes.	
1835 ...	270 Lambs—thirds,	90
1836 ...	270 do.	90
1837 ...	350 do.	117
	<u>1190</u>	<u>297</u>
Deduct .	297	
	<u>893</u>	

WOOL ACCOUNT.

1835, Nov.	297 fleeces at 3 lb. per fleece.		
	891 lb. wool at 1s.....	L. 44	11 0
	270 Lambs, 1½ lb. 405 at 1s.	20	5 0
1836,	560 full fleeces, 3 lb. 1680,...	84	0 0
	270 Lambs, 1½ lb. 405,.....	20	5 0
1837,	820 full fleeces, 3 lb. 2460,	123	0 0
	350 Lambs, 1½ lb. 525,.....	26	5 0
		<u>L.318</u>	<u>6 0</u>
	Deduct 1-3d for their keep,	106	2 0
		<u>L.212</u>	<u>4 0</u>
	Ditto wool bags,	20	0 0
	Balance,	<u>L.192</u>	<u>4 0</u>

“You see, in three years from November 1834, which we will say is the time he will purchase, he will have 893 sheep, and L.192, 4s. returned to him for his L.300. This is a moderate calculation, and is most likely to be exceeded; but you will not be able to trace it, as I have cut off for deaths, casualties, odd numbers, &c. &c.”

This letter, with the high character which Mr Barker, and every one who knows the writer, gave him, has determined me to adopt his plan; and Mr Barker having made room for me, I go for good and all to Mummel, Goulburn Plains, Argyleshire. It is 130 miles from Sydney, S.S.W. It stands much higher, on table land, and is consequently several degrees colder than Sydney. In consequence of my utter unacquaintance with colonial farming, for experience in other farming is a drawback rather than an advantage, I could hardly expect any thing for the first year,—I am to get L.40, and board and washing.

The farm is of about 6000 acres, and has about 4000 sheep, and 1500 cattle on it. There is another overseer from Ayrshire, with a good salary,—he has been twelve years here. He has, besides, a farm of his own, which he manages with an overseer. I'll not spend L.5 a-year; and to save as much at Sydney, I would have required L.120 instead of L.40.

*Orielton, Cowpastures,
30th Oct. 1834.*

MY DEAR MOTHER,—The last letter I wrote was dated the 14th August. In it I gave an account of the general state of matters here, and my new situation in the country. I left Sydney on the 10th of August for the farm of Nonorrah, 6 miles from this, belonging to the same proprietors both of this and the one in Argyleshire, called Mummel, whither I was bound. I took the coach to Liverpool, and stopping at Nonorrah all Sunday, pro-

ceeded on horseback, along with Mr M——, the manager at Mummel, for that place. I need not describe the road till I come to Goulburn Plains, as you will find a good account of it in the New South Wales Calendar,* which you have.

We stopped three nights on the road, before reaching Mummel, which is 12 miles from Goulburn township—once at an inn, and twice at private houses—we pass through some very dreary ground on our road, particularly Wombal Brush, an extensive ground of white sand and tree, and shrubs so thick as to be nearly impassable, with a road not much more than the breadth of a dray through it. At Goulburn, on the other hand, large and extensive plains begin. I may here mention, that by plains in this country, is meant not level ground, but ground either partially or wholly clear of timber—they may be real flats, and indeed generally are, but not necessarily so. The continuation of the great south road lies along the Mulwaree ponds for 30 miles to Lake Bathurst, over a splendid stretch of country, thousands of acres ready for the plough, interspersed with clumps of trees of 10 to 50 acres of openings, but instead of carrying on this road, we turn to the right, westward, along the side of the Wollondilly. Twelve miles on, are the estates of Mummel and Pijar of 8000 acres, on fine whinstone and ranges of flats, with just as many trees as are required for grazing, sometimes six, and sometimes twenty trees to the acre, and sometimes more; though this is all the ground actually belonging to the estate, yet our cattle and sheep range over an extent of capital government ground, fifteen miles one way, and twenty-five the other. Pijar, belonging to it, being fifteen miles north from us, and Gullan and Grabingullan twenty-five miles west. The Wollondilly rises above Pijar, flows south till it comes to Mummel, then it flows east to Goulburn, and then turning northward, it gets the name of the Nepean and the Hawkesbury, and falls into the sea at Brokenbay, north of Port-Jackson.

* An annual Sydney publication.

Mummel House stands upon rather highish ground, half a mile from the river, and looks down its course for about two miles, on the river flowing, and the cattle feeding on its banks, one of the richest scenes of pastoral life you can imagine. The hills that bound it, none of them very high, sometimes come close to the water's edge, sometimes recede a mile from it, and they are much like Braid Hills, for height, and so on along the different burns, or creeks, as they call them here, that run into the Wollondilly, the Kibla, the Lisli, &c. &c.

Three miles above us, across the river, Captain Currie's farm is possessed by two Allans from Edinburgh; two miles below him, is Mr Kinghorn's from Tiviotdale, 5000 acres; then next, is Capt. Ross's splendid property and house, and Howie's and J. J. Moore's bring us to the town of Goulburn, in which there is a weekly post from Sydney, and carriers about a dozen in number; on the same side of the river that we are on, upwards of half a mile from us, is Mr Miles, tenant of Dr Evans. Mummel is entirely a stock farm. We mustered, this month, 1300 head of cattle, 2800 sheep, and 1100 lambs. We have about thirty acres of wheat in for our own supply, and that is all we have in the agricultural way.

I have two horses for my own use, and I have to keep the stores, and ride out when I like, to visit the shepherds' stations, and to see that they are all at their duty; I have also to keep the number of the cattle and sheep, and add the increase, and deduct what are sold. I have fifteen men under me, all Irish but two, of the strangest names you ever heard. Three-fourths of the prison population are Irish, most of them admirers of O'Connell, whose name figures over a public-house in Sydney, where all the Irish go to cash their orders and drink his health. There is almost no cash circulated through the country; every settler has his agent in Sydney, and he pays the wages, &c., by an order upon him, which any dealer or publican will cash; and they circulate like bank notes till they come to Sydney and are paid. The manner of managing sheep in this country is this:—Where the country is much

wooded, each man has 400 sheep, and if clear, from that upwards to 1000. There are always two flocks at the same station. They lead them out in the morning, and bring them back at night to the hut, where they are counted and folded, and a watchman sleeps in a box between the folds to keep away the native dogs, who sometimes pick up a straggler if the shepherds are careless. With regard to cattle, on the other hand, those that are bred on particular grounds, will never leave them unless driven very far away; for I have known them find their way back 100 miles to their regular beat. Strange cattle require to be herded and yarded every night for six months before they become accustomed to the place; there are no regular fences, to keep cattle separate, yet they always keep each drove by itself, however mixed they may have been. This is the general case, of course there are exceptions that stray away, and it is the stockman's duty to ride among them every day, and go to the neighbouring estates to see if any are gone there, &c.; they are all branded on the skin with a hot iron. When accustomed to be ridden among, they get tame, but if neglected, and especially in scrubby ground, they become like hares; the moment they see you, down go their heads, up their tails, and unless you keep at the hardest gallop for some time, you lose sight of them. The stock horses know this as well as possible, and the moment the cattle come in sight, or begin to run, the horse appears to enjoy it exceedingly, and puts his mettle forth,—up or down is all the same to him, at full gallop he goes, and nothing can keep him in. Those accustomed to it are remarkably sure-footed; I never heard of one coming down. I was out, the time we were mustering our cattle, one day from eight till two, and I had the hardest gallop ever I had, though I generally spend two or three hours on horse-back every day at least. I blistered the bridle fingers of my left hand, in vain attempting to keep in my horse; he went up a hill, through thick brushwood, where we only saw a tail sticking up now and then, as steep as Duke Street with you, at the full gallop, until

the cattle were all turned by the dogs, and we got them right. These wild Bushians, as they are called, are famous leapers; a bullock, 900 or 1000 lb. weight, will go over a five railed fence when put to it, as easy as look at it. You would laugh if you were to see me in my fustian dress, with a straw hat tied under my chin with a brim like an umbrella, a pair of long spurs, and a great whip, galloping up and down; I find it a most pleasant business,—it feels more like play than work. I have the best health, and when I weighed last, I was thirteen stone. All journeys are performed on horseback; the meanest settler keeps about a dozen of riding horses; they are not very large generally, but all with a touch of blood in them, for the chief stock was from some blood-horses from India many years ago. A man 40 miles away is your near neighbour; one thinks no more of going a journey of 300 miles, than you would of going one of ten. We are above 130 miles from Sydney, and there are settlers down the Morumbidgee, 250 miles beyond us. Regular carriers go from Sydney to Yass, (nearly west,) 80 miles past us.* When a convict is out of his time, if industrious he will serve a year or two, and buy twenty cows, which he will get for £1 a-head up with us,—though not the very prime ones; he then goes to Burrawa Plains, 50 miles from us, or some open spot; he builds a hut with an axe in a week,—incloses two or three acres, and breaks it up with the hoe for wheat,—makes butter and cheese,—his cattle increase,—he pays no rent,—his butter and cheese far more than pay his expenses, and there he lives with every thing in plenty. One man who served his time at Mummel, and began that way, has now 200 cattle,—and some, who have been longer, have more. They sell their butter, &c., at Goulburn, buy what they want, and go away again. It is that which holds out such an inducement to men; it is not the amount of wages, for America will give higher for labourers, except good mechanics, who can earn their £2, 2s. a-week as fast as they please; but all the labourers in Sydney have such a horror at the bush, that they prefer spending their time for mere

* Yass is at the west end of the Australian Alps, where the Morumbidgee flows south-west.

subsistence there,—when, for half the labour, and a little rough living in the country, they would make themselves comfortably independent in a short time. Sydney is overstocked with men, and the country is understocked, and this will be the case for a hundred years to come. Sydney is certainly not overstocked in comparison of Britain, but it is of the country here. I consider L.40 as good in the country as L.100 or L.120 in Sydney. One cannot live, quietly but respectably, in Sydney under L.90 or L.100, including clothes; while in the country your clothes will not cost L.5. Every settler, gentle and simple, wears fustian. You find men with from L.1000 to L.15,000 a-year wearing the same as their overseers. Old Lawson, one of the original settlers, got from London L.15,000, it is said, all in gold, for his wool this year. He has above 40,000 sheep, and 15,000 lambs, this season. The Macarthurs have about as many. If men only pay the most common attention, they get rich here without trouble, and almost in spite of themselves, by the increase of their stock.

About the middle of this month, I got a letter from Mr Barker to come down the country to assist at the harvest at this farm from which I now write, where they have 150 acres in hay, and 350 in wheat; and here I am at present furnishing stores to fifty men, keeping accounts, &c. I rode down the 150 miles, the way I came, in four days,—I could have ridden back next day with ease. I have just bought a stock of 300 ewes, and 40 lambs, for L.275. I bought them from Mr Barker. About this time next year I expect to have 200 lambs.

In the course of a few months I shall get the whole management of the farm, with a corresponding rise of salary; nay, I have received an offer from two gentlemen in Sydney to join them in settling,—they can command the cash, and I the skill. In fact, any one with industry, sobriety, and L.10 in his pocket, may succeed. The question is not how to get a living, but where are the best means of making a fortune. But rum—rum—rum—is all the go here,—kills many, and brings many to beggary or mere existence. I have known a common fencer clear L.60 or L.100 in twelve months,—resort to a public-house for

a week or a month,—go back to the fence-making without a furthing; and I have known similar instances of settlers, with farm and stocking, that might have cleared a fortune in two or three years. A sober man has a fortune at his feet; mind I speak of men *who will work*, not idle loungers about the Sydney streets, with a gold ring and a cane, insufferable puppies at home, and worse here. You ask who is kind to me here? Why, every one is kinder than another. Had I not got this situation, I would have gone to Bathurst and seen Mr Ranken, or General Stewart, or Mr Secretary McLeay, from all whom I had pressing invitations; but as I had an object in view—to get experience and cash—I went to Mummel, where I got both, instead of there, where I could only have got the former for some time, though I am sure in a month or two I should have got a situation.

It would take a great deal to bring me back to the writing desk again. I feel such an expansion of mind,—such exhilaration of spirits,—and such a complete freedom from anxiety, except on your account,—that I feel quite a new man. Often, often do I think on these words, “Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he shall sustain thee.” I have endeavoured to do this, and He has taken away all anxiety on my own account, as to my future prospects. Indeed, after a short time in the country, to get over the strangeness of it, all that goes away.

We had a cargo of 350 free women when I was in Sydney a week ago. Some of them are already married,—almost all engaged either as wives or servants!! Here is encouragement for the 500,000 surplus females of Great Britain! I have engaged the blacks, of whom I know a great many, and who are working about Mummel, when they are hungry, to get me some opossum cloaks. I’ll send you one a-piece, if I can,—I’ll get them for a little powder and shot.

Mummel, Goulburn Plains,

10th February 1835.

MY DEAR E——, When I went down to Sydney, I did

not sleep at Mr Barker's, as I should have done, as he has removed from his house at the Mills to Rosslyn Hall, at Woolomoloo, about as far as Newington from Edinburgh. His house is built of the finest white stone like marble, flat roofed, commanding a view of the sea and all Sydney, and is more like a palace than a private house. All the wood is the finest polished cedar, fretted roof, Turkey carpets, and crystal handles to the doors. I went to sleep at Mr Bass's, who was very glad to see me. I breakfasted at Mr Barker's next morning, at half-past seven. He has quite retired from business, having let his premises to his brother for a very large annual sum it is said, so you may see to what extent the business was carried on. I had ridden nearly forty miles to Sydney on the Friday preceding, and got in before three, and left it on Saturday at two, on my return. I left the Cowpastures (the farm where he was last,) the following Friday, for this place. I rode nearly forty miles that day; next day, set off to go to Mr P. Campbell's, uncle to W. Dunn, at Wingello, and rode good forty miles without drawing bridle. There is an old road and a new one. He is on the new, but by mistake I took the old line, and did not find I was wrong till I came to Peter's public-house, at five in the afternoon. The other line runs nearly parallel to it, at about five miles distance. It wanted two hours of sunset, so, though I knew nothing of the bush, I took the direction of the waiter to keep the sun on my back, and set off, right up hill and down dale. I crossed seven ridges, some of them very steep, and came in among Campbell's cattle, and thought all right, till I got entangled among the ponds of Paddy's river, and night came on. Finding nothing more was to be done, I prepared to sleep in the bush,—took off the saddle, and put on my night-cap,—disposed my saddle bags for a pillow, and lay down at the foot of a tree. I lay there for half-an-hour, till I got most desperately hungry, and it being full moon, I resolved to try to get back, so off I set, and after an hour's riding, got, by good providence, on my own track, and by the light of the moon reached Peter's about eleven o'clock, where I got something to eat for the first time since seven in the morning, having been on horseback all the time, except that half-hour. I am become very

tough, for I was not at all tired next morning. I crossed the bush in the morning to Mr Campbell's—all right—but was very sorry to find both him and William away to Sydney, having missed them on the road. I intended to have remained all Sunday there; but in these circumstances, after dinner I went on to Mr Bradley's, twenty-two miles farther, where Mrs Murdoch Campbell is staying, and stopped there all night, and came twelve miles home next morning. Mr Bradley's house is about a mile from the township of Goulburn; he has about 8000 or 10,000 sheep. Now that I am on sheep, I must tell you of my own. I have got them up here, and have got some vacant government land quite convenient, about twenty-five miles from hence, and about twelve from one of our own stations.

I engaged a squatter of the name of William Regan to take care of them and victual them, he gets wheat at 5s. per bushel, and beef, as required, at 1½d. per lb. This Regan milks about sixty cows every morning. I'll get six rams from this estate, and also six cows with calf. I'll put them all there, and besides the yearly income from them, I expect in two years to have 1200 sheep, and above twenty cattle. I'll then can go and set up for myself, when I please and where I please, for there is no necessity for buying land at all, till I want some place I can call my own. I can get a comfortable wooden house put up any where for £6 or £8. You can see from this, how easy it is in this country to make money. With my prospects here, I would not go to live in Sydney for £300 a-year; because, if I got a situation in a public office, there I would stick, with little hopes of advancement, as so many new comers with high recommendations step forward, and the last is always most thought of, and popped into any place that is vacant; besides, the expense of a Sydney life is very great. Now, my income should be a constantly increasing one; so you see the reasons of my choice. I cannot err in my calculations, for it is nothing but what all others who got on here have gone through; for I believe it to be a true saying which I have heard from many, that those who come with money lose it, and those who have little or none make it. You may think me sanguine, but I have cause for it. I have now been

eight months in this place, and lived among the people who have done so,—seen their calculations, and heard their histories from their own mouths. Sydney has greatly deteriorated in money making for the last two or three years; but in the boundless tracts of the country, one does not come in competition with his neighbour,—there is plenty room for all; and, oh, how I sometimes wish you were here—how happy should we be! The climate is very agreeable,—rather warm in the heat of the day; but there is something in it that does not affect one as at home. I walked two miles one day to church, and back, then rode to the other farm to dinner, when the thermometer stood at 146 in the sun, and 95 in the shade; yet I am sure I have felt more inconvenience at home. The evenings are always comfortable; and, except at Sydney one night, I never saw a mosquito. I am in most perfect health,—quite comfortable.

*Mummel, Goulburn Plains,
March 1835.*

MY DEAR M——, I have never left this part of the country since I wrote E——, 10th February. I have now the sole management of 1300 cattle and 3700 sheep, ploughing, threshing, building, &c., and of about twenty men. I find it a very pleasant life; I am so hardy that two horses cannot stand my riding. For a month after I came up, though some days I did not ride at all, yet, on the whole, I averaged about twenty miles a-day.

My sheep are doing very well, and have had about seventy lambs since they went up to their place,—an increase I did not expect. My mother asks in one of her letters, who is kind to me? Now I have a practical instance of this to relate. About five weeks ago I was thrown from my horse; and besides a severe bruise, the skin being stripped from forehead to chin, and my nose laid almost flat, I put my left elbow out of joint, and broke one of the small bones about half an inch below the elbow. This took place about half a mile from my own door. I was carried home, and the Doc-

tor came soon after and bled me. He then tied my shoulder to the back of a chair, and two men held it while two others pulled till it went in with a crack; he then set the other, and left me to sleep. As we have little accommodation here for sick people, Mr M—— thought it best that I should go to Sydney, where I might stay at Mr Barker's and get the best attendance; so the gig being here at the time, we set off on Sunday morning for Sydney, and went to Mr Campbell's at Wingello for the night. When I got there, Mr and Mrs C. insisted that there was no necessity for going farther,—that the travelling in the heat in my weak state would do me more harm, and that the Doctor could come there and see me, and that they would nurse me; so I staid a fortnight there, when they fed me with restoratives till a fortnight set me on my legs again, and I am now returned here in perfect health, and my arm restored, only a little stiff from being so long splintered up. I was so weak at first that I could hardly walk across the room, but I am now riding about as well as usual, only I did not mount that horse again in a hurry; so you see that the stranger's friend has taken care of me. Mr C——'s house is more like a gentleman's fine lodge than a farm house; my face got quite well before I left him. I intend to visit General Stewart and Mr Ranken when I can spare time; a week will do after we get the wheat into the ground.

A saddler from Dumblane, recommended to me by Mr T——, got a place in Sydney in a few days. Are there any of my acquaintances looking to this country for a home? I could not recommend a better place. As for Van Dieman's Land, of which all the talk is at home, it is a poor, miserable, expensive place, no more to be compared to New South Wales than Scotland is to England, as far as the natural fertility of the soil goes; every one who has seen them both joins in this opinion; but Van Dieman's Land being the place first touched at, the settlers there tell a parcel of lies about the place, and keep every one they can to themselves. One-third of the people in this country first tried Van Dieman's Land for a settlement, and left it. We have no church near us, but there is to be one at Goul-

burn, ten miles off; when built, if I am here, I will attend it. I do the best I can here on Sabbath, and find my books of immense value in that respect.

*Mummel, Goulburn Plains,
May 1835.*

MY DEAR E——, I have received a letter of 3d September 1834, but not a vestige of the packet of letters there enumerated. I have to beg you will give me a post letter once a-month. These, I believe, I can depend upon receiving; but as for parcels, unless one is at Sydney to go on board and ask for it, the delivery of so small a thing is of so little importance compared with the cargo, that there are ten chances to one against its safe delivery into my hands. I have not a scrap of news, so will tell you the rations of our convict servants, that you may see how a Scotch ploughman or shepherd would do here; 1 peck wheat, 10 pounds beef, 2 ounce tea, 1 pound sugar per week, a quart of milk every day, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound soap, and 2 ounce tobacco per week; on some farms they get less, but on most more than this; a freeman labourer will get this, and from £15 to £20 a-year, besides his chance of harvest, which is cut down at 12s. an acre. A rough carpenter or blacksmith will get about double this, with half the labour as at home. In fact, neither high nor low know what work is in this country. It is astonishing how much tea and sugar is consumed in the bush; any freeman thinks himself miserably off if he has not a quart of tea to breakfast, a quart to dinner and to supper. When I go round our sheep stations, the farthest of which is thirty miles from the house, I take a small bag of sugar in one pocket, and a bag of tea in the other.* When I stop at our first hut, fifteen miles, for my dinner, I take a great tea-pot, set it on the fire till it boils, take a good handful of tea out of my bag, and put it in to mash, add sugar to my liking; I then pull out my pocket-knife, draw a damper (bread,) cut off a whang, and put a bit of beef on it; cut and eat, and

Tea costs in the colony 1s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and sugar 3d. per lb.

drink my tea, ditto breakfast, ditto dinner and supper. I have drank a quart and a half at supper often, if the weather be either very hot or very cold. I have seen some consume two at a meal. The *auld wives* who put a tea spoonful to each person and one to the pot, would be astonished beyond measure to see a man put his hand into a bag and bring it out full of tea for two or perhaps three. I always stop a night at our station at Grabingullan, take my cloak with me on the horse, and sleep either in my clothes before the fire, or keep on my drawers and get one of the men's beds. I go once a fortnight to count the sheep and see how they get on. I have got up in the morning and broken the ice half an inch thick, to wash my face in the creek before the door; no person in this country thinks anything of that. I have never slept in the open air, but I have often done so in a slab-hut, where you could put your hand through between every slab; it is to see when daylight comes in; I have seen the sun rise through a slit just before my eyes; I never got the least cold by it; I have had a slight cold or two since I came, but not so much as I have often had at home in close houses and hot rooms; the other night it snowed pretty hard, and drifted up under the edge of the bark roof, and I awoke several times to wipe the snow off my face as it was rather cold, yet I never felt the smallest disagreeable effects from it.

The people of Sydney know no more about all this than you do. If any person wishes to get real information about the country, never ask a Sydney "cove;" there is an immense deal of slang in the language of the country—"cove," "gammon," "plant," are as familiar as household words. The way sheep are managed here is this: A man has from 300 to 1000, according to the forest or open ground of his run; he takes them out in the morning, feeds them all day, and brings them back at night to the fold, which is moveable, and shifted every night to give them dry bedding. A man watches all night; they are counted night and morning. Notwithstanding all this care, the native dogs sometimes break in and kill several of them in a night.

Mummel, Goulburn Plains,
15th July 1835.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—For my own part, I would not exchange my present circumstances, rough and solitary as they are, for any thing I could have done at home.

Since I began to write this, William Dunn has been here and stayed a few days, when we had many a chat about home and all our friends. Mr Campbell's, Wingello, is 33 miles from hence. He has another farm at Burrawa, 80 miles farther up, where most of his sheep are, so that either he or William, when they go thither, make this a station. William did not like this country at first, but is become quite reconciled to it. He now goes alone from Wingello to Burrawa, 120 miles, musters the cattle, and orders the men; his uncle trusts all to him, and he appears to get on very well. I had a visit the other day from an old school-fellow, William Rylie; his father and the whole family have been out here these ten years; he lives at Kurradue-bidgee, on the Shoal-haven river, about 45 miles east from this; he came here to buy sheep, and stopped for three days: we had a pleasant time of it; he pressed me much to come down and see him. I'll take a ride some day; I can go to Duncan Macfarlane's on the Mulwaree, 16 miles, to breakfast, and cross the bush to lake Bathurst, and get there to a late dinner. If I can get time, I'll call at Duncan Mackellar's, Gongoning, and see all that country, as it is likely I may settle in that district, or rather in some place where the Murrozee river stretches down from the mountains to Bateman's Bay, for I like to draw near the sea if I can. It is curious to contrast the state of manners and customs in this country with home. If we ask, if such a man is rich? Oh yes, he has so many sheep, and so many cattle; some keep moving like Abraham, only drawing as near home as possible, for they have all some head-quarter to stow the sheep at. A man goes and sits down, as it is called, where he pleases, builds a hut in three days, and lives there for ten or a dozen of years before another purchase the land, unless it be particularly attractive, and so gets on, for he has no expense—he has fire and water—gets

a crop of wheat in the rudest manner—milks his cows and shears his sheep—and may clear £1000 a-year, and live in a house that you would scarcely put a pig into in Scotland, but nobody thinks anything of a house here, if it only keeps off the rain, and sometimes not that even; the bark of most of the trees here is an inch thick, and comes off in one sheet, if properly cut. I have seen one of ten feet long and six broad; of this the houses are often made, and always covered, in the bush. I have seen a man with 1000 sheep, living in a house made of sheets of bark put up like the letter A, and the fire outside. I have seen the shepherds, when the trees were small, erect two or three forked sticks, put bark overhead, and some branches round the sides, putting them thickest to windward, and so they live. There is one specialty in this country, every thing is always improving, and that rapidly, every year—houses, lands, gardens. Men all improve, and become more civilized, as they get on in the world.

Nonorrah, Cowpastures,
10th February 1836.

MY DEAR FATHER,—You will see by the date of this that I am on my way to Sydney. I have come down to conclude a bargain for the farm next to Mummel, called Gatton Park. It has a good run for cattle and sheep, on the government land behind it, is well watered, with fields inclosed, and has been in cultivation, with a fair house on it. I am to pay £—— a-year for it, and get 62 dairy cows given in along with it, so that I should clear more than double the rent out of dairy produce, besides living in good country fashion. I have my wool on the way to Sydney. I shear mine unwashed. I have near 1600 lbs. of it. I expect 1s. 2d. per lb., or at least 1s. 1d. If I had washed it, I could only have had about 900 lbs., when I would have got 2s. or 1s. 10d., so that it comes to about the same thing whether washed or not. I have 665 sheep, old and young, and eight milk cows of my own, besides about ten head of other cattle.

You send me some queries as to our mode of living. Each farm kills all its own meat; they rope and skin it, hang it up on a gallows all night,—it is always at night for coolness, it is killed; and then at daylight, or sunrise next morning, it is cut up, salted, and put into a cask, of which every farm is possessed of two or three, then served out to the men. Every farm keeps several steel mills, like a pepper mill, for grinding wheat; the men each grind their own mess, and then sift it with a common sieve. They bake all the bread into dampers; it is done thus:—Make dough in the usual way, but no yeast, and make it into a round cake, and about two or three inches thick; then take the hot embers of the wood fire mixed with the ashes, so as not to burn, and make a strong thick layer of them, and put the cake into the ashes, and cover it over to about four or five inches with the same, and let it stand till it is ready, about a half or three quarters of an hour; it makes a very good bread indeed. The principal drawback in this country is the want of good servants. I do not think there is the least fear of them as far as person is concerned, but they will steal all they can lay their hands on; every thing must be kept under lock and key, yet, for all that, there are several men at Mummel that I would trust with any thing. With fair and proper management, you would wonder how quietly things go on. I dare say you will think how horrible it would be to live as I have done, and as every settler does, the only, or almost the only emigrant among a crowd of convicts serving their lagging, or having become free by servitude; but if you lived a month among them, such an idea would never enter your head.

When a man misbehaves generally, or refuses to work, or insolent, &c., &c., the master gives him a pass to the nearest magistrate, sends him off; the man knowing he will be punished, nevertheless goes sometimes ten or fifteen, sometimes a hundred or two hundred miles, when the master makes his complaint, and the man gets from twenty-five to two hundred lashes, or is sent to an iron gang to work in chains on the roads for one or two years. For more serious offences he is sent for so long to Norfolk Island, or Moreton Bay, which is thus filled with *double distilled*

villains. I have heard a man in court, when sentenced for life to Norfolk Island, beg to be hanged rather. He was a shepherd who had killed and eaten some of his master's sheep. For my part I like to have convicts better than emancipists for servants, they are all of the same class, and the former are so much more under control, that there is more peace in a farm among them than the others. I have never had more than three or four cases at court out of twenty-five men; one took the bush or absconded, was taken, and got three years to an iron gang, the others got twenty-five lashes and were returned. You never see in the country a woman servant, except very rarely, all house servants are men, and pretty servants they make sometimes, but furniture in the bush is not very plenty, nor is there an encumbrance of dishes; if a man can broil, fry a piece of beef, bake a damper, and make tea, he is a jewel of a servant. The weather is so very fine that people live almost in the open air; carriers and bullock-drivers I am sure never sleep in a house for three-fourths of a year.

The country is in a state of progression so rapid, that what is true of it in one part as to civilization, &c., one year, is not so the next. There are a great many improvements in our part of the country since I came, and so it is in the other, but, from recent discoveries, it is my opinion, that the finest and best part is just opening, and that had they settled at Prestonport, and some part on the south coast, they would have done infinitely better than in the present colony. Some adventurous settlers have pushed their cattle this year into new and splendid parts of the country of enormous extent and fertile quality. Along the southern side of the high table-land of Monaro Plains, there is a range covered with perpetual snow, at whose foot runs the Snowy River, a small stream in winter, but a large river during the melting of the snow in summer. Two brothers of the name of M'Farlane, Argyleshire men, who have been about ten years in the colony, after three weeks' trying, got across a shoulder of the mountains, and then one came back to take their cattle into the fertile country beyond. He kept his route a secret, only marking the trees at intervals, but during the time, before he returned, there were about a

dozen different settlers searching for his tract to get out, after his cattle were driven out, they were followed, as their mark was visible. On another wing of these Australian Alps, a Mr L———, with pack-bullocks, was about six months attempting to find a dray-road across. He is a Falkirk man, come, after ten years' residence in India, for his health; he told me himself, that he was eighteen months without sleeping in a house or in a bed—he was unsuccessful; but learnt that they must be turned either close by the sea, or round by Yass's Plains, and keeping along the west side of them, where for 300 miles, a dray might go without once unloading, through an open and fertile forest, well watered, to the sea at Bass's Straits. Now, in all this, there is not a single white man, or a four-footed animal.

If I had not got Gatton Park, I would have taken my dray and tarpaulin, and gone with my sheep and cows out in that direction till I got a good place, and there remained till the land was sold, and then turn out for another, which would not be for two or three years, or I might purchase it from government. Thus you see what a boundless expanse there is for industry to make rich. Oh! if I had you all out here, where you would have no anxiety, and nothing to molest you, with every thing to make you comfortable. For every pound you bring along with you, I promise you as much annual income the second or third year. I grow my own wheat, kill my own meat, have every thing but tea and sugar; and I am sure, from the waste of a farm here, any family would make rich,—about half of the meat, and wheat, and every thing is lost, through carelessness and fulness. Mr Kinghorn told me, that the year after he got his father and all the family living with him, he was L.50 in pocket, compared with the year before, when living alone. The only thing to be brought is a good stock of clothes and some books, and to bring an old staid female servant or two. I have a house and home for all till they can look around them.

Gatton Park, July 20, 1836.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I received yours of the 9th of Feb-

ruary, and E——'s of the 5th January, both by the same post,—they must have come by the same ship. Now, first and foremost, you tell me of the loss of the Wallace. Most of your things I got, though some very much damaged by salt water. I got a few letters and papers; they were picked up swimming about just as the vessel was going down. This has been a very wet winter, and as most of the roads are still in a state of nature, almost all intercourse by carriages has been stopped between this and Sydney. There are about 150 drays bogged along the road up to the axles, and the men have run up huts at the road side, and there they remain quite contented till the dry weather comes, which will be in about six weeks. I have got none of the packets, not even by the N. Briton; and the Midlothian is come too,—but I'll get all when my own dray goes down, in a couple of months, for wool-packs, &c., for sheep-shearing. I have 630 old sheep to shear, and 200 lambs, dropped in June; so you see I am getting on. I exchanged twelve ewes the other day for a filly of eighteen months old; I shall break it in for riding at Christmas. I have not got into the farm yet. A law-suit, for the tenant's expulsion, is going on at Sydney; but I have nothing to do with it; so I built a house for myself at the station, and live there, and come down now and then ten miles, stop a day or two with the Kinghorns, and see the news. They have been very kind to me, and lent me what wheat I need, on paying it back out of my first crop. I have four men from government of my own, all good and civil fellows, two English and two Irish; but, as I do not need all till I get into the farm, Mr Kinghorn has got the loan of two; it is a favour to him, as he is short of hands, and saves me their rations. I expect to get the farm at Christmas, or, at all events, next May, which is the regular term, and some advantages for damages, as the landlord is a very fair man. The only thing wanting is Christian communion; and it is to be hoped that it is not always to be the case.

Richard B—— has turned settler; but his cousin still carries on the business in Sydney. Mr D—— sent his letter by post. I do not know what he is doing, or where he is; but I believe he has left Sydney, and I think he has

gone about 60 miles from this, not far from Mr Ryrie's and Dr Reid's at Inverary, between this and the sea. I have just laid my hands on a letter of yours, asking a number of questions, which I will answer in due order:—1st, Have you got a woman-servant? *A.* I had one for a little while, a married couple; but I was glad to get rid of them; she would do nothing but dawdle about, and took a week to wash my fortnight's clothes, &c., &c. I had her for five months, and have never had one since,—nor am I likely for a while to come; she was a Dubliner. The cook in a house in the country, where there is no lady, is usually the man that is least fit for out-work, let him have been a soldier, a sailor, a highwayman, or a London pickpocket, they can do all equally well, broil, roast, or fry a bit of beef, bake a damper, and boil the kettle, the utmost extent of cooking in this country; except now and then he must wash, if a washer-woman is not nearer than twenty miles. I send fifteen, and as she is the only one in the district, sometimes it is a month or two before I get them back, so I make my man wash my stockings sometimes. Every one except the favourite married few are alike. There is no saying what a man will do till he is put to it. You would be surprised at the way some bachelors do with their stockings in the mending way,—if the hole is at the toe, they tie a string round it; but I don't do that. As for cotton socks, it is cheaper to buy new ones than get them washed twice; you'll get them in Sydney at 7s. 6d. the dozen, and I pay 4s. a dozen for washing. You may be sure I get as little washed as possible by her. My stockings have lasted well; and will do so for some time yet. The best are mixed worsted and cotton, as the winter here is not cold (a good deal like your March weather at home) up here, and not near so cold down the country; the only cold place is near the Snowy Mountains, where the snow is perpetual; and the wind from that quarter brings a kind of snow storm perhaps once a winter to the neighbourhood. The usual winter weather is a frost, which is off by ten o'clock, and then a fine day; except it be rain, and that is not often. If it rain for two days together, oh! the country will be drowned, and a second flood is expected, for it is a very dry country,

generally speaking. You ask me how far I am from church? I am about sixty miles. I have not heard sermon since last down the country, that is our only drawback; but they are building a church at Goulburn, and will have a minister within twelve months, if there is one to be got; but not a man is filled with missionary zeal to come from the old country to preach to his countrymen, who will all become heathens in another generation or two,—and yet you boast of the increase of the Gospel, while your own countrymen cry and you hear not. Oh! if there were but some who would come, trusting in God's promise that their bread would be given them, and their water would be sure, to this land of milk and honey, they would soon meet with a right hearty welcome; but they must be missionaries first, for the congregation is to be collected and formed,—but where hospitality is freely given to every one who has a coat on his back, and a right hearty welcome, they need not despond. Their cry of the country is,—Come over and help us!

Goulburn, 27th September 1836.

MY DEAR J—, All the income here comes on after paying living. It is not as with you, where one must buy every thing he wants; here, when flour is wanted, go to the stack and thrash a few bushels, send it to the mill, or grind it on the steel mill, and eat to the full; if butcher-meat, kill another wether or another bullock, and salt down the remainder; plenty of milk, plenty of butter, &c., the expense is almost nothing,—ground to grow any thing, and any quantity.

*Goulburn Plains, N. S. W.
28th December 1836.*

MY DEAR M—, I mentioned in my last letter that I was sending down to Sydney for supplies for sheep-shearing, when I would get all your letters; I now must tell you some of the disadvantages of settling, as I have told you some of the advantages. I sent off two of my assigned ser-

vants, one, a Yorkshire shepherd, farmer, manufacturer, horse and cattle-dealer, &c., &c., transported for life for selling a stolen mare; and the other, a Norfolk ploughman, transported for life for poaching, machine-breaking, or some such thing; two very steady good working men. I say, I sent them with rations of flour, beef, tea, and sugar, for one month, to fetch all I wanted. They were to sleep in the bush all the way, and go and come from Sydney for 4d. of toll dues, feeding their bullocks in the uninclosed land where they could get grass. Well, off they set, and got safe to Berrima, about fifty miles, and then lost the bullocks in the night, took three weeks to seek for them, and then came home, their bullocks having come to their old run from whence I purchased them, viz., Gatton Park, before their drivers; well, this put off the time so long that, to commence at the regular time, I was forced to buy at the townships some things to set me a-going, and pay an old carrier, Joe Lee, to bring the rest up for me. In consequence of this, I was obliged to put the letters for home into the Goulburn post, and to get up only some of the parcels from home. I got eight letters, including Mr D——'s; but I believe Mr D—— stopped at Hobart Town, for I never could find anything about him,—more fool he, for Van Dieman's Land is no more to be compared to the richness and boundlessness of New South Wales than Incheith is to the Lothians.

Tell all who come away by no means to stop there. They spend their money, and come hopping up here in a year or two pennyless, or next door to it. The thing stands to reason, that a comparatively poor and all occupied country never can compare to a place, where, if all the population of Scotland together were to come out at once, they could be located on rich land ready for their ploughing, or at all events grazing; and then leave room for all the population of England and Ireland to come next year and do the same. Just imagine the difference of a man having £500 to lay out, buying a farm, he toils away with his nose at the grindstone; and a man buying a flock of sheep, or a herd of cattle, and going to land, free, gratis, for nothing, putting in as much or as little wheat as he likes. In three years' time,

the one would be worth ten times as much as the other, for land, compared to sheep or cattle, is dead unprofitable stock, and the other is doubling in value every year for the first three or four years. He can then buy 1000 or 2000 acres, and have all his stock into the bargain; three-fourths of the stock of this colony are grazed on government ground for nothing, and is it not easier, when some one buys the land, to move ten, twenty, fifty, or a hundred miles, for that is nothing here, than to lay out money unprofitably. As for comfort, that is a different case; but people for the first three or four years must suffer something, and then they can buy what land they wish without encroaching on their capital stock, and build and plan as comfortably as they please. The parcel of books, &c., are still in Sydney, but my sheep-shearing is over and on the dray, which will start for Sydney on Friday, and then I go on Monday on my own horse. It is 130 miles, and I shall go in three days, thus: if you have the map you can trace it.—1st day, Mr Campbell's of Wingello, thirty miles. 2d day, Mr Blackwell's at Stonequarry, fifty miles, stopping at Berrima or Bong Bong for dinner; and then Liverpool, at Mr Muckle's farm, thirty miles, where I leave my horse, and take the four o'clock coach and get into Sydney about half-past seven. It is eleven months since I was last there, and it may be as much again. I'll get all that's there when I go down. I get your post letters regularly at Goulburn. Direct for me, Gatton Park, Goulburn, Sydney, New South Wales, if by letter; if parcel, care of Mr George Rattray, agent, Jamieson Street, Sydney. He is now my agent since B—— retired. It is three years and sixteen days since I last saw you all; God only knows whether we shall in time meet again. You may give me credit for this letter, for I had lost some of my bullocks, and went out between seven and eight this morning, and came in after six afternoon, having never been off the horse all the time, except to take a drink or lead it down a steep place which I would not ride, and for three hours at least at a hard gallop; it was about one when we found part of them among Mr Kinghorn's cattle about twelve miles away; one of them broke away three times, and after riding at as hard a gallop as we could for half an hour, he

beat us at last. The others we got about six miles away ; one of them gave Mr Kinghorn's stockman a race, I do not know how far, for he went clean out of sight ; while I watched the mob we had collected, about forty, another ran me about a mile back, doubling me like a fox round and round, and then when we had them four miles from home, my racing friend bolted again, and kept me in play for about an hour. I think I must have gone about forty-five miles without drawing bridle, and the thermometer at about 90° in the shade. I go loose clad, and perspire very freely, but suffer no other inconvenience from the heat. I had tea, and sat down to this letter. I am quite well, and as strong as ever I was.

December 1836.

MY DEAR E——, I am always much pleased to receive one of your letters ; if you can, by first ship send me six striped shirts ; and do write me fully of domestic matters, for when I get one of your letters, I get into a quiet corner and fancy myself at home again. You ask me to write you something of a literary nature ; that is quite out of my line now, my wits are a-wool gathering, and my talk is of bullocks ; I am out of the intellectual world, and excepting the three weekly newspapers, the Colonist, Herald, and Times, published in Sydney, I have not, I may say, read another book than those I brought with me ; my mind is getting quite misted ; I think if ever I was at home, I would go day after day to the library, and, like a glutton, read till I was satiated. I have never lived in a house with glass windows except an odd week or so since I came into the bush. The house of Gatton Park is plastered and floored, but no glass windows ; but I will get them when you come.

*Gatton Park, Goulburn Plains,
14th April 1837.*

MY DEAR J——, I have got into the farm now and have

made things ready to receive you, if you will come about harvest time or wool season; and assistance would be of great importance to me, as I could get 1500 sheep this year to graze, on the thirds of profits, which would be worth some hundreds a-year, if I had any one to help me. There is country enough for all the people of the three kingdoms ready for the plough, lately explored not far from hence, to the south-west; and yet, of the people who are pinching and jostling one another at home, not one will come *to enter into possession*.

31st July 1837.

MY DEAR FATHER,—I received yours of the 16th January. You ask me about the accommodation. I have a house of four rooms, a detached kitchen and stores; it is a large house for a family in this country; but as for that, I could build as many rooms as I please in the month, quite complete from the day I first put the axe to the tree, without any expense but £1 for two windows, and 30s. for sawn timber for flooring boards.

I can sell as much poultry, butter, eggs, hams, &c., as I can raise, and all at Goulburn, where, twelve months ago, there was hardly a house. I send to Goulburn, twelve miles away, once a-week, on Saturdays, 20 to 30 lbs. butter, and get 1s. 6d. and 1s. 8d. a lb. for it. I will now tell you how a farm goes on here. I have six convict servants, one free shepherd, three with the sheep, two ploughmen, two bullock-drivers, one boy who looks after the cattle, and helps to milk, and one milkman, dairyman, overseer, and house servant, who sells the butter every week, a very honest faithful fellow he is, but being a prisoner, I cannot use the authority I give him, for much. I send my wheat to Mr Kinghorn's mill to grind, at 1s. per bushel. I give the men 6 lbs. flour, and 8 lbs. beef per week, and as much skimmed milk as they fairly can use; and 1 lb. sugar and 2 oz. tea when at harder work, as splitting timber in the bush, &c. When I want meat I kill a bullock, or a sheep, &c., for I have hardly enough to keep me of beef; I salt it down into a

cask, take the fat, sometimes 40 lbs., out of it, and melt it into a cask, and having moulds, I make my candles as I want them. If I require a rope, I take the hide to make one; but the head, tripe, heart, liver, &c., are counted offal in most places, only I grudged to see the dogs eat so much; I use part of the head at any rate for broth, but the cooks here waste the half of every thing. I have sixteen acres of wheat just coming up, and two acres of barley, twenty acres of oat hay, which has grown a crop in that same field every year, without ploughing or sowing for the last five years, at least half an acre of pease, and two acres getting ready to put in potatoes and turnips next September.

I have had to pay 10s. a bushel for wheat for my establishment for this year; the money for the butter will just keep me in it. Next year I shall sell 300 bushels at 7s. or 8s., and have always a good stock; also about six or eight tons hay at £8, potatoes, barley, &c., if my harvest turn out any thing good, as I trust in God it will, I shall owe no man any thing, and have a little on hand to purchase what comes across me, and receive you all comfortably. As I am rather short of beef, I have fattened three pigs merely on the milk, that weighed 170 lbs. each, and next year I shall have a dozen to come in, and plenty waste wheat, barley, potatoes, &c., so that I expect never afterwards to buy beef as I have to do this year at 20s. & 100 lbs.; that is, I killed the beast, got the hide, offal, fat, &c., and paid for the remainder at that rate. I have some of my own, but they are not of good age till next year, so I thought it best to keep them till then. I intend to put in fifteen acres more wheat next season, as I have the ground all clear; if you require more, why then I must make it fifteen more the year after, for I can put in 200 if I like; when I want firing I go to the bush, about half a mile, and get as much as would last for 100 years, for nothing; as for grates, they are unknown in this wood consuming country, so that actually what is there to buy for a family? 1 chest (64 lbs.) of tea, £5, 10s., 1s. 8½d. per lb., 4 cwt. sugar, £5, 10s., 3d. per lb., a little mustard, pepper, &c. Now, where is the expense, I would like to know, only clothing, and that is not so dear as I thought it would be. If we

cannot live, and live well with as much beef, flour, eggs, poultry, butter, cheese, vegetables, milk, fruit, &c., as we can possibly use, I do not know how we are to live at all. Land can be got as well now as ever, only one must go farther away for it, but civilization goes on in the bush so rapidly, that before one could get himself turned over in his farm, he might find a town alongside of him.

There was only one house at Goulburn eighteen months ago, and now I am sure there are 300 inhabitants, and brick houses rising like mushrooms. There is a large steam-mill and an Episcopal church building, and when Dr Lang, whom I am glad you saw, comes, we shall have a Presbyterian one also. (He next mentions wanting farm servants, and desires a young man and wife from Prestons to be sent out immediately, and will take two more every year for some time to the extent of twenty-five in all, to whom he will give £25 a-year, and every thing found them.)

Gatton Park, 11th August, 1837.

MY DEAR MOTHER,—I am sure that when here you would be delighted with the country, and this farm, a beautiful place, among sheep and cattle, and milking cows, with plenty of fowls of all kinds, vegetables of all kinds, and every plenty of a full superabundant country life, and the climate here, on account of its high situation, is by no means so warm as at Sydney,—altogether, it is as pleasant a country as the heart of man can desire. There is a church building at Goulburn, to which we could go every Sunday in a gig,—for keeping ponies costs nothing here, and I have one which goes thither in a light cart with fresh butter every Saturday. Gigs are used in every family in the country; and as brood mares are a very profitable stock to keep, it is only working one of them at any rate. What is there to buy here for use except tea and sugar? and these cost 1s. 8d. and 3d. per lb. I get land almost for nothing,—men from government for nothing,—no taxes,—none of the thousand things that take

away money continually at home. I have plenty of cattle and sheep to keep the farm in abundance; and as for wheat, I could grow 1000 bolls a-year, if there were people to eat it, or to buy it. As for clothes, I have not spent £10 on them since I came to the colony,—they are very little dearer than at home; nay, if you like, I can give you the wool, and you can make your own blankets, and coarse woollens, as some farmers do. Nay, you might grow your own cotton, sugar, and tea, for they are all done here. We brew our own beer, tan our own leather, and make our own shoes. The house consists of four rooms, plastered, floored, and with glass windows, which I was so extravagant as to pay 10s. each for, or rather six lbs. of fresh butter. I am just getting up a barn of thirty feet long, fifteen broad, and ten feet high the walls. It will take altogether about four weeks' labour of two men from first to last. The way houses and such buildings are made, is this: a tree is cut down, and split with wedges into boards, about six or ten inches broad. These are set into a groove in a wall plate at top and bottom, smoothed a little at the sides with the adze, to fit square. The corner posts are sunk in the ground about three feet, and the roof is made of saplings, and covered with stringy bark. For a house it is only necessary to leave openings for the door and windows, take an axe and chop the inside of the boards or stobs, so as to be rough, and then plaster it with clay or lime, and whitewash,—get some flooring boards, and lay down the floor. The ceiling is generally made of bark laid on the tie beams, and whitewashed, or often no ceiling at all but the roof, where the flitches of bacon and hams hang to delight the eye. The common bedsteads are what are called stretchers, like camp stools, but six and a-half feet long. But being ambitious, I cut down a sapling as thick as my ankle, and made a four-legged bed, for posted I cannot call it, as posts it has none. Few houses have passages, only one sitting room, opening right out, with the bedrooms opening off it, though sometimes they have a back door, with a sort of passage,—the kitchen almost always detached from the house; and as for the population, for

the first two months after I came here, I had neither lock upon the door nor bolt on window shutter, for I had no windows then, and with not a free man but myself in the place, yet I never missed a thing except a little tobacco. I put a chair at the back of the door when I went to bed, to keep the dogs from pushing it open during the night. Show me the house in Edinburgh that you could do the like. For the first three months I lived at Mummel, the house had no door at all, and the dogs ran out and in all night, yet I never knew of any thing being lost. There is, nevertheless, a good deal of petty pilfering in some places, but where there is a mistress that is seldom done.

Gatton Park, 25th Sept. 1837.

MY DEAR E——, The country is looking most beautiful at present, the wheat giving promise of a great crop in January,* and I have just got my barn finished, and am busy planting potatoes, and other garden stuffs, to have plenty for you. I have just had about twenty new cows calved, and am making butter and cheese in lots; one of my swine has just had nine pigs, and I expect a brood of ducks out in three days more,—so you see every thing is making ready for you. Several people from Spencer's Gulf Colony (South-west Coast) have come here to buy cattle, and some of them are to stop here altogether. I see by the papers the lamentable state of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; if we had some twenty or thirty thousand of them, we could get on as fast again. A committee has been sitting here for some time; and upon the evidence given, it is stated that 10,000 labourers are needed to fill up the present wants. Wages £20 to £30, and every thing found them; mechanics, £50 to £60, and every thing found. Several of the extensive settlers have sent home on their own account for farm servants and mechanics, principally from Scotland.

Keep yourselves as separate as possible at first on board when you come, for there are often some quarrelsome people among the passengers.

* The seasons are exactly opposite to those of this country.

You will need some warm clothing for the voyage, for, except right under the line, the weather never feels very hot, and sometimes very cold. On this side of the line, you will feel it very cold, as our winter begins in May; and the transition from a vertical sun is a good deal felt; otherwise, it is as pleasant a life on board as one can desire, there is so much to be seen every day, between flying fish, porpoises, sharks, whales, albatrosses, &c., &c., that one can hardly settle to any thing.

Gatton Park, 8th November 1837.

MY DEAR A——, We have now got a minister for Goulburn,—Mr Hamilton from the west country, (son of Mr Hamilton, one of the ministers of Kilmarnock,) who has preached twice in the Court House. He had above a hundred hearers. He has got above forty householders' names, all Scotch, to his call already. He is a young man of sound evangelical principles. The ministers get £100 a year from Government, and the settlers make up as much more as they can. There is as much society here as in most country places in Scotland,—the ordinances of religion and every thing that can conduce to worldly comfort. As to the distance, it is quite the same, when one steps on board a ship, whether they reside there six days or six months. I liked my voyage so much, that I was sorry when it ended. Purchases of cattle are now making here for the South Australians.

Gatton Park, Goulburn, 8th January 1838.

MY DEAR R——, I have had about 2000 lbs. of wool this year, and am in the middle of my harvest. I have a good crop, and have about the half of it in my yard. I commence reaping the late wheat to-morrow. I have wheat, hay, barley, potatoes, and vegetables. We have now two ministers at Goulburn,—Mr Hamilton, whom I like the better the more I see him, and Mr Sowerby, an English Episcopal clergyman. The churches will cost L.1000 each, and the money for both is nearly all got. The Government always double the amount subscribed for.

Dr Lang arrived in December, with the ministers and schoolmasters under his charge, who have now begun their operations.

NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,
FROM THE
LATEST WRITERS ON AUSTRALIA.

GEOGRAPHY.

THIS vast continental island is in extent nearly equal to Europe—New South Wales forms the eastern portion of it. The situation of this district is one of the most favourable that can be found on the earth, both for agriculture, commerce, and maritime enterprise. From the river Boyne, near Moreton Bay, on the north, to Port Philip on the south, it embraces a coast line of more than 1500 miles, with numerous safe, capacious, and convenient harbours, communicating with a country of diversified aspect, abounding with coal and iron, and intersected with numerous rivers. About the 35th degree of south latitude, or nearly one-third of the distance from Sydney to Bass's Straits, the country is intersected by a range of mountains, called the Australian Alps, which stretch from near the sea to the Yass Plains, about 100 miles. In no country are there greater facilities for making roads, and for railways it seems peculiarly adapted.

CLIMATE AND PRODUCTIONS.

The climate is proverbially mild and salubrious, which is indicated by the general health of the colonists. For eight months, from 1st March to 1st November, the climate of New South Wales is particularly delightful,—the sky is seldom clouded. In ordinary seasons, refreshing showers are not unfrequent, but there are no periodical, but sometimes heavy rains. It seldom freezes in Sydney, and never snows; but fires are requisite during the day in the winter months, and for a time in the mornings and evenings. The thermometer may be said to range in summer from 80 to

95, and in winter from 40 to 45. The longest day is from 5 A.M., to 7 P.M.; shortest, from 7 to 5.

The plains of Bathurst and Goulburn are both table-lands, being 2000 feet above the level of the sea, and are remarkably dry as to the atmosphere, and favourable to pulmonary complaints. They are very productive in wheat, and produce also the oat, which does not suit so well the lower and warmer districts.

The soil is productive, yielding every grain and vegetable useful to man, with fruit in the highest perfection, and of all varieties, from the currant and gooseberry of colder climes, to the banana and pine apple of the tropics.

Even within the immediate vicinity of Sydney, apples, pears, plums, strawberries, cherries, raspberries, mulberries, medlars, apricots, peaches, nectarines, figs, grapes, melons, oranges, lemons, citrons, loquots, olives, pomegranates, and, in sheltered spots, the guava and banana will be found growing intermingled, and producing fruit, each in its kind, abundantly, and of the richest flavour. Of vegetables, the same holds good. So mild is the climate, that green pease are gathered in winter as well as summer; and the potatoe produces two crops in the year. This, however, is near the sea coast; in the interior the winters are more severe. Sharp white frosts are of frequent occurrence in that season, and even snow in the upland districts,—the climate varying more from difference of elevation than of latitude.

Wheat on good soils, with proper cultivation, averages from twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, weighing from sixty to sixty-four lbs., and occasionally sixty-five lbs. the bushel. In the county of Argyle, one of the more elevated and colder districts, (where the writer of the letters is situated,) forty bushels per acre have frequently been obtained, and in some instances, it is said, even more,—though with the slovenly system of the small settlers, fifteen bushels are the average. The seed-time for wheat is from March to June, the harvest in November and December; for oats and barley the same.

Maize, the most luxuriant of grain crops, is sown in October and November, and ripens from March to June, producing from twenty to forty, fifty, and even seventy bushels.

nett, to the acre,—according to the quality of the soil, and the carefulness of the culture, so that there are two seed-times and two harvests in the same year, at different seasons, and rarely have both been known to fail. The climate and soil are well suited to the vine, the olive, and the mulberry. Vineyards and olive grounds have already been planted, and very palatable wine produced.

Silk, and dried fruits, with other useful and valuable articles, as opium and indigo, for the growth of which the climate is favourable, will doubtless by degrees be produced. A short distance west from Sydney, a large orange-grove has been formed, from which upwards of 100,000 dozen have been sent in to the market there in a year, and an immense quantity of fine grapes are sent by a steamer from Hunter's River, every day in the season, to the Sydney market.

To produce all this, however, time and labour is required; the forest must be cleared, and the ground cultivated, but the encouragement is great—order, utility, comfort, enjoyment, luxury, follow each other step by step—and the charms of culture and civilization deriving increasing beauty and power from their being of our own creation, replace the wilder aspect of nature.

There are, indeed, in many parts of the colony, fertile meadows, free from timber, and ready at once for the plough; but even in such situations, the first steps towards a settlement are attended with privations which the young settler must make up his mind to endure with patience and fortitude.

On the Camden estate, the princely domain belonging to Messrs Macarthurs, the extensive gardens are a model to the colony. The vineyard at Camden is the most extensive and most forward in the territory.

ANIMALS.

Australia possesses no large animals, and few varieties; and it is remarkable, that except some wild dogs, which sometimes worry the sheep, there are no beasts of prey—neither lions, tigers, panthers, nor bears—nor are there

elephants. It is also free from mosquitoes and annoying insects, and serpents except some small snakes in the low and damp grounds. The kangaroo is a wild timid animal.

FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The Government of the country is vested in, *1st*, Governor of the territory; *2d*, An Executive Council; *3d*, A Legislative Council.

There are regular courts of law, including General and Quarter Sessions; a Vice-Admiralty Court, and a Court for clerical matters. Civil as well as criminal cases are tried by jury. There is also an extensive mounted police, which is well managed.

CHURCHES.

Here, as in the mother country, there is a variety of forms of religion. The Episcopal Church establishment in the colony, comprises a bishop and eighteen chaplains. Of the Presbyterian communion, in connection with the Church of Scotland, there are five ministers; but in consequence of the new arrangement of an endowment from the government, Dr Lang states, there will be room for the immediate settlement of not fewer than twenty additional Presbyterian ministers, fifteen of whom would obtain salaries of £150 each, from government, in addition to what they may receive from their congregation, the rest having £100 each, with certainty of augmentation to £150 in a year or two, and that in at least fifteen of the new Presbyterian appointments, there would be no difficulty whatever of raising at least £300 for erection of a church and manse, so as to secure a similar sum from the colonial government.

The arrangement was, that whenever 100 persons subscribed a letter that they will attend on the ministry of a pastor, he will receive an endowment of £100 per annum, and if 200 persons, £150, and that whatever sum is raised to build a church, the government will give an equal one. On the character and conduct of the Presbyterian ministers, says Dr L., who may be sent forth to sup-

ply the present demand in the Australian colonies, and thereby to form the nucleus of a Christian church, in one of the most important centres of moral and religious influence in the world, will depend, in a far greater degree than can possibly be conceived at present in Scotland, the welfare of a large portion of the future inhabitants of the southern and eastern hemispheres.

EDUCATION.

The attention of Government has been turned to the establishment of schools throughout the country, which are now multiplying, and for which provision has been made. Of a higher description is the Australian College, established by the exertions of Dr Lang, says Mr Macarthur, upon principles calculated to insure extensive and permanent utility,—the Sydney College, and the King's School at Parramatta. A mechanics' school of arts was instituted in March 1833, in Sydney; and there is a female school of industry also there.

COLONIAL TRADE AND PRODUCE.

The principle and grand staple article is fine wool. For this, the colony has been indebted to John Macarthur, Esq., who, upwards of thirty years ago, introduced the pure Spanish Merino breed, as a cross on the sheep of the colony, and by incessant attention, improved them so much, that the wool now commands the preference in the English market. Sheep in New South Wales generally double their number every four years, in many instances in less than half that period. The quantity of wool shipped in 1831 was 1,401,284 lbs., and in 1835, 3,776,191 lbs., in value about L.380,000 sterling. An intelligent merchant in Sydney calculates that the export of this article will realize half a million sterling in the year 1840. Australian wool is much used for combing purposes in the finer branches of merinos, schallés, &c., &c. It is a remarkable fact, that in the year 1820, at which period the wool of the colony first began to assume a character of importance in the English market, yarn spun from the finer descriptions of combing wools first also became an

article of export from Great Britain to the Continent of Europe. The import of wool from Australia in 1820 was 99,416 lbs., the export of yarn from Great Britain 3294 lbs. Progressively increasing with each other, the import of wool from the Australian colonies in 1835 was 4,347,640 lbs., the export of yarn the same year was 2,357,336 lbs.

The sperm and black whale fishery is another most important branch of the trade of New South Wales, in which upwards of forty square rigged vessels are now employed out of the port of Sydney.

The rearing of cattle is also carried on to a great extent. The increase has been so rapid and great, as to have induced, within the last few years, the extensive cattle proprietors to attempt salting the beef for exportation. It is not improbable, therefore, that colonial beef will eventually be exported to London in return for manufactures.

The climate and pastures are also peculiarly favourable to the rearing of horses, and great pains have been taken to introduce the best breeds. Horses, both for the saddle and the draught, are plentiful in the colony, and are frequently exported to India. Salt provisions and cheese are likewise becoming articles of export.

Coal and iron are met with in inexhaustible abundance. Limestone is still more abundant, and in some parts of the territory, as in Argyle, it passes into marble. Coals are now exported from a place north of Port Jackson.

ADVICES TO EMIGRANTS.

The land is sold by the Government Office in Sydney by the following regulations:—

When a survey has been made of a parish, a chart will be exhibited in the Surveyor-General's office showing its boundaries, divided into sections of one square mile, or 640 acres.

If any person shall be desirous of purchasing lands so notified as disposable, application must be made through the Surveyor-General, in a printed form, copies of which may be obtained at his office, on payment of a fee of 2s. 6d. for each.

If the spot applied for should contain less than 640 acres,

the reason for the applicant's wishing to obtain it must be explained, as to the particular circumstances.

All lands, for the purchase of which application shall be made, will be advertised for one month, and will then be sold by auction to the highest bidder, in lots of one section, or 640 acres, as nearly as practicable, provided that the price offered shall at least amount to the sum of five shillings per acre.

Before the bidding is accepted, a deposit of ten per cent. must be paid down, and an engagement signed to pay the balance in a month, and if not then paid, the deposit is forfeited, and a new sale takes place.

Such are the regulations for the purchase of land; and the following letter to Dr Lang, from the Surveyor-General, contains a valuable enumeration of the various districts where there is much unoccupied land. There is a map of the country, from the Government Survey, published by the Society for Diffusing Useful Knowledge, a reduced plan of which is hereto prefixed,—which will enable the reader to understand this, as well as the other parts of this work :—

“ I shall subjoin the names of such places as seem most eligible, and where the waste lands are of very good quality, and in general extensive.

“ To the southward, the limits of our present colony terminate on the borders of one of the finest regions I suppose in the world for the establishment of an agricultural population,—I mean the banks of the Yass, the Boorowa, and the Morumbidgee, consisting of rich open plains, watered by copious never-failing streams. To that country level roads may be made the whole of the way from Sydney, and in time the sea coast nearest to, it may be also rendered accessible by the same means. To enumerate particular parts of that extensive country is needless at present.

“ The upper parts of the Shoal-haven river, are also, in general very good, from Kurraduebidgee southward. There are many parts of the banks and valleys opening on this river which might maintain a very numerous agricultural population.

“ The shores of Bateman Bay, and the lower part of the river called the Clyde, are still very little taken up, and contain much very superior land for cultivation.

“ To the westward of Burra-burra lagoon, is a tract of beautiful land; the situation is isolated, but to a small community it would prove perhaps eligible enough; it is watered by some fine moun-

tain streams, and is in the immediate vicinity of the sheep stations of Messrs M'Arthur, M'Alister, &c.

"Goulburn Plains are still but thinly peopled, although consisting in general of good wheat land, and in every respect a good situation for a farming population. Northward of these is Tarlo, where some good land is still vacant.

"Bungonia, where a township has been laid out. In this vicinity there is much land very eligible for small farms. A few miles nearer Sydney, at Bumballa, near the Shoal-haven river, there is much good land still unlocated; and at Cambewarra, an extensive portion of table-land south of Illawarra, which consists of about sixteen square miles of the richest land wholly unlocated, although overlooking the sea, and very near Jervis Bay, which is likely to become in a few years the port of Argyle, &c.

"The Kangaroo river, a branch of the Shoal-haven river, flows in a secluded valley, where the land is of an excellent description; this river is immediately behind Cambewarra; the Shoal-haven may be rendered navigable to within a few miles of it.

"Illawarra—there is a tract of land still vacant, very eligible for a small agricultural community.

"East Bargo—some good land vacant, were it accessible by the road proposed.

"West Bargo consists of much land fit for cultivation still vacant.

"Burragorang—(the bed of the Nattai and Wollondilly rivers) where the land is excellent, and capable of maintaining a very numerous population.

"Lake George (various parts of the shores of this lake.)

"Breadalbane Plains.—Lake Bathurst.

"Sutton Forest (about Nundialla, Black Bob's Creek.)

"Paddy's river (near the new line of road.)

"Westward.—The heads of the river Lachlan.—Bathurst (numerous fine valleys in this county).—Capertee.—Mudgee.—Tulbragar.—Vale of Clywd.—Solitary Creek.—New road to Bathurst (beyond Gray's station).—Do., near Stoney range.

"Northward.—Brisbane water.—Wyang Creek (the upper part terminating in rich cedar ravines).—Southern shore of Toggerah Beech Lagoon.—Lake Macquarie.—Watagan, or Sugar Loaf Creek (a branch of the Wolombi).—Valley at the head of Ellalong.—Head of Wallis' Creek.—William's river (upper part).—Kingdon Ponds (ditto).—Head of Page's river (on the road to Liverpool Plains).—Banks of the higher tributaries to the Goulburn river.—Jerry's Plains.—Liverpool Plains, the numerous valleys at the head of these, situated between them and Sydney, contain land of excellent quality, and are well watered.—Port Macquarie.

"I fear these situations will not be all intelligible to you without the map, but the list may serve to point out the variety and

extent of eligible places to which bodies of agricultural emigrants might be led."

These regulations for purchasing, and the list of eligible situations, will be of importance to those who wish to purchase at once on arrival; but it may suit others better either to lay out their capital entirely on sheep and cattle, and have them grazed under a trust-worthy person, paying for such management the usual allowance of thirds on increase and on the wool, or to buy an already improved and inclosed farm, though at a much higher price, even four times that of the government rate per acre. This last plan is, in more passages of his book than one, recommended by Dr. Lang, and he gives the following instance as an example:—

"In the district of Illawara, near the sea, a retired military officer has lately settled with his family, on a farm or small estate, which he purchased within the last two years, and I am happy to add, with every prospect of enjoying a high degree of comfort and moral independence. It consists of 500 acres; a considerable part of it had been cleared, fenced, and in cultivation, and there was a good commodious cottage built of cedar, besides other farm buildings upon it. He purchased it for £500. I called on him, and found him busily employed in superintending his horticultural operations in a new garden he had formed. He was fully occupied, contented, and cheerful."

Dr Lang observes, in another passage, that an emigrant family, with a comparatively small portion of their capital, could purchase a farm of moderate extent, partially improved, like the one above described, probably for little more than the cost of these improvements in one of the settled districts of the colony, and near good society. If they choose to embark in sheep farming or grazing speculations, they could either purchase or rent a tract of land from the government in the distant interior, where their sheep and cattle could range in safety under charge of a paid overseer; or if they lent out their money, they could obtain at least ten per cent. for it on good security.

Were a family of moderate capital, he adds, to purchase a partially improved farm, like the one to which I have

referred, either at Hunter's River, at Bathurst or at Argyle, they would scarcely experience any of the inconveniences to which emigrants of all classes are uniformly exposed on settling in the wilderness. Besides finding in their immediate neighbourhood respectable and well educated society, they would be much nearer a market for their produce, and would find the expense of carriage to and from the colonial capital comparatively inconsiderable. If they had children requiring instruction, they would find it less difficult to get them well educated than in the distant interior, while they would be much nearer the house of God, and the harmonizing influences of religion.

Mr. M'Arthur, in his work, observes,—

“The difficulties of a first establishment are now sensibly diminished by the labours of those who have gone before him. Domestic animals of all kinds, fruit trees, vegetables, seeds, whatever is most necessary for his purpose, have been already collected, and are easily procured throughout the colony. Should he possess capital sufficient, he may even rent or buy a property already cultivated and improved, for his home-stead, or he may fix his residence for a time in one of the towns, leaving to the management of an agent the difficulties and hardships of a first settlement on the more distant estate purchased from the Crown.

“As to the purchase of stock, the latest authority states, that cattle of good breeds might, in 1833, be purchased in New South Wales at from twenty to thirty shillings a-head; sheep of improved breeds at fifteen shillings; and horses, either for draught or the saddle, at from £10 to £30. The price of all these descriptions of stock is now very considerably higher,—the rise having taken place chiefly during the years 1835 and 1836. A large tract of land, however, may still be stocked with a comparatively moderate amount of capital; and when the settler's own land begins to be overstocked, which will very soon be the case, if his sheep and cattle are well managed, he has only to send a portion of his flocks and herds, under the charge of an overseer, and a few shepherds or stockmen, into the interior, where he will obtain a lease of as much pasture land as he requires, from

government, at a mere nominal rental. Cattle and horses require little attendance, a very few individuals being sufficient to manage a herd of cattle from 500 to 2000 head."

The following are general remarks on the state and prospects of the colony from the latest writers, and though there may be some repetition, they are considered too valuable to be omitted:—

" Sheep farming, however, constitutes the principal dependence of the Australian land-holder, 'and settlers, deriving incomes of from L.400, or L.500, to L.4000, or L.5000 a-year, principally from this source, are now to be met with all over the colony. Indeed, I am confident that there is no other country on the face of the globe, in which there is a larger number of individuals, in comparison with the whole amount of the population, enjoying incomes of L.500 a-year, than there is at this moment in New South Wales.'"—Lang, vol. i., p. 405.

" Wheat, barley, and maize, or Indian corn, are cultivated to a greater or lesser extent in all parts of the territory; and within a reasonable distance from the capital, or from water carriage, they are cultivated extensively for the Sydney Market. The Plain of Bathurst and the district of Argyle, being elevated at least two thousand feet above the level of the sea, the climate in these parts of the territory is rather too cold for the growth of maize, as it is also for the orange, and for other similar fruits; but oats, and the English gooseberry, which cannot be cultivated with advantage in the lower districts, thrive exceedingly well in these higher regions."—Ibid., p. 408.

" Potatoes are cultivated in all parts of the colony, but by no means extensively. They are little used as an article of food by the lower classes.

" The mildness of the climate of New South Wales, precludes the necessity for cultivating any thing in the shape of winter food for sheep or cattle.

" The soil and climate are universally considered peculiarly well adapted for the cultivation of the vine. The cultivation of tobacco has been engaged in within the last few years to a considerable extent. The hop plant has also been successfully cultivated on several farms in the colony.

Oranges also are most abundant, and many parties make a comfortable livelihood by the sale of this fruit.

“ The fig and the peach abound everywhere, ‘ the fruit of the latter being so abundant as to constitute a considerable part of the food of the colonial pig in the peach season.’

“ ‘ If a peach stone,’ says Dr Lang, ‘ is thrown into the ground in a favourable situation in New South Wales, a large quantity of fruit may be gathered from the tree that shortly afterwards shoots up from it, without any subsequent culture, at the expiration of the third or fourth year.’ ”

—Lang, vol. i. p. 430.

“ Land can be readily acquired, either by purchase or on lease. The facilities of acquiring land must now be greatly increased, from the recent discovery of Australia Felix formerly unexplored, and which lies to the south-west of New South Wales, connected with the Morumbidgee river.

“ Major Mitchell, the intelligent Government Surveyor, in his dispatch, of date 24th October 1836, giving an account of his discovery of this country, says, ‘ It has been in my power, under the protection of Divine Providence, to explore the vast natural resources of a region more extensive than Great Britain, equally rich in point of soil, and which now lies ready for the plough in many parts, as if specially prepared by the Creator for the industrious hands of Englishmen.’ ”—Ibid., vol. ii., p. 470.

The following is a quotation from the *Colonist*, a Sydney newspaper, of 22d December 1836 :—

“ In the interior districts we find, with some recent exceptions, overflowing crops of the staple produce of agriculture, and of the minor fruits of the earth. The last spring has been one of the most luxuriant, and the present summer has thus far continued one of the most temperate, within the recollection of our oldest settlers, whilst the approaching autumn promises to pour into our garners a cornucopia teeming with the mingled bounties of Ceres and Pomona. Hill and dale, prairies and forests, have been clothed in the richest mantle of living green,—supplying our now scarcely numerable flocks and herds with luxuriant pasturage. Of the present shearing season, we have flattering accounts from all quarters, —the abundant rains of winter and spring so completely filled the

rivers, creeks, and ponds, that the facilities for sheep washing have been general and great, almost beyond example. The flocks, with but few unimportant exceptions, were so free from disease, and indeed had thriven on the fine grasses to so healthy and plump a condition, that the wool has proved of the finest quality, and has yielded a heavy clip. The increase in the previous lambing season had been so steady and prolific, that nearly every flock-master had realized a goodly augmentation on the year. The natural results of prosperity like this are naturally discernible in our pastoral districts. Domestic comforts, and the varied elegances of social life, are spreading into the remotest nooks,—the log-hut gives place to the neat cottage,—the neat cottage to the commodious house,—the commodious house to the aristocratic mansion,—and internal convenience and embellishment advance in a corresponding ratio."

"Villages and towns," observes another writer, "are forming in various parts of the colony, and concentration is taking place gradually,—this is the natural march of society."

For many years the colonists were confined to a range of country of about forty miles north, south, and west of Sydney. While this was the case, the colony made little progress. The throwing open the boundless extent of pastures to the westward of the Blue Mountains, on the river Hunter to the north, and in Argyle and the adjoining counties to the south, was the first decided step towards the prosperity which the colony at present enjoys.

Mr Macarthur, on the present state and future prospects of New South Wales, in one place remarks as follows :—

"On all sides, then, there exist the most cheering prospects for the diffusion of education and religion throughout the Australian territories,—on all sides earnest endeavours are making to add to that prosperity which these colonies so abundantly enjoy, the higher prosperity which consists in the possession of an enlightened, moral, and Christian population. To this end the voluntary energies of the colonists, the generous sympathies of the British public, and the permanent sanction of government, both in the parent country and in the colony, appear to be contemporaneously working."

"Seeing all this, who can doubt, to use the words of a recent writer in the colony, that the destinies of those remote dependencies of Great Britain are high beyond all

calculation, and that he who does his best to fit their inhabitants for those destinies, discharges the highest duty to society? With eight thousand miles of sea coast, and a series of splendid harbours, unsurpassed in the wide world,—with every variety of climate, and every variety of soil,—with a territory abutting upon India and China on the one hand, and stretching towards the southern pole on the other,—with a vast ocean, extending immeasurably to the eastward, rich in the hidden treasures of the deep, and studded like the evening sky,—with ten thousand populous isles, all fair to the eye as Eden,—and exhibiting in their half-civilized population the very form and pressure of primeval antiquity, who can doubt but that the destinies of Australia are inconceivably high?

With respect to the description of labourers and workmen wanted, the following enumeration is from the best and most recent authority:—

- Boat-builders*—6s. to 8s. per day. See shipwrights.
Brickmakers—8s. to 10s. per 1000, for making. Good workmen will always find employment.
Bricklayers—6s. to 7s. per day. Do. do.
Blacksmiths—24s. to 42s. per week. Good workmen in demand.
Brewers—Maltsters—3s. to 4s. per day. Breweries are increasing.
Basket-makers—A few good workmen would find this a profitable trade. Common labourers employed.
Chair-makers—25s. to 30s. per week. Market glutted at present.
Carpenters—6s. to 7s. 6d. per day. Always in demand, especially good workmen.
Caulkers—8s. to 9s. per day. Work usually done by shipwrights.
Coopers—7s. to 8s. per day. Employment uncertain.
Cabinet-makers and Upholsterers—5s. to 7s. per day. Not in demand at present, except as carpenters.
Cooks—5s. 6d. to 10s. per week, and rations. Men usually employed. Careful and steady men wanted.
Coppersmiths—30s. to 40s. per week. Good workmen would find employment.
Dairy-women—£10 to £15 per annum, lodgings and rations. In extreme demand.
Engineers—21s. to 42s. per week, and rations. The class of men here meant, are properly engine-men and blacksmiths.
Farriers—6s. to 7s. per day. Much in demand.
Fencers—30s. to 40s. per week, or post and rail fences 2s. to 3s. 6d. per rod.

Field Labourers—3s. per day, or 5s. a-week and rations. All kinds of field labourers in demand.

Gardeners—£25 to £40 per annum, and rations. Always in demand.

Gardeners' Labourers—£15 to £25 per annum, and rations. Much required.

Glaziers & Plumbers—5s. 6d. to 7s. per day. A few of the latter wanted.

Harness-makers and Saddlers—4s. to 5s. per day. Chiefly supplied by importation.

Joiners—6s. to 8s. 6d. per day. Good workmen in demand.

Iron Founders—24s. to 40s. per week. Good workmen would find employment.

Locksmiths—6s. to 7s. per day. Good workmen would find employment.

Millerights—6s. to 8s. 6d. per day. Wanted to fit up wooden gear.

Milkmen—£12 to £20 per annum, and rations. All kinds of husbandry in demand.

Nailers—40s. per week, and upwards. Good workmen required.

Plasterers—42s. per week. In demand. An excellent trade.

Ploughmen—£15 to £25 per annum, lodging and rations. All agricultural labourers, shepherds, sheepshearers, &c., may be so rated, and are in great demand.

Potters—as labourers. One or two might find employment.

Printers—Compositors and Pressmen—25s. to 35s. per week. A few steady men wanted to replace drunkards.

Quarrymen—4s. to 6s. per day. Always in demand.

Sawyers—6s. to 10s. per 1000 feet. In great demand.

Shipwrights—7s. to 8s. 6d. per day. Good workmen in demand.

Shoemakers—5s. to 7s. per day. In great demand. A good trade. Some sober men earn 10s. a-day.

Sailors—50s. to 60s. per month. Always in demand.

Stonemasons and Setters—5s. 6d. to 8s. per day. In great demand.

Tailors—5s. to 7s. per day. In demand. Piece-work one-third higher than in England.

Turners—A few might work profitably on their own account.

Vinc-dressers—£10 to £40 per annum, or upwards, according to qualification. Skilful men in demand.

Wheelerights—5s. to 6s. per day, or £15 to £20 per annum, and rations. General workmen always find employment.

Parchment-makers—Sheepskins 2d. to 3d. each. Parchment likely to be manufactured for exportation. No demand at present.

When rations are mentioned, the usual quantity is 10 lbs. flour, and 7 lbs. meat, per week.

With reference to parties of this description intending to emigrate, Dr Lang observes :—

“ For labourers of all classes, for shepherds, and for me-

chanics of all those handicrafts that are in requisition in the building of houses and ships, or in the sustentation and maintenance of agriculture and commerce, the Australian settlements present a boundless field for employment, and a most favourable prospect of adequate remuneration." "On their arrival in New South Wales, the emigrants will be employed for the most part as farm-servants, shepherds, overseers, handicraftsmen; and in any one of these situations they will be able to live in the enjoyment of many of the comforts and conveniences of life, of which a large proportion of the industrious classes of society in England are deprived through sheer poverty. Their much higher rate of wages, and their other superior opportunities of accumulating property, will also enable them, if at all industrious and frugal, eventually to become proprietors of sheep and cattle, houses, and land."

"With respect to the rate of wages in the colony, and the advantages there held out to honest and industrious families, it must be borne in mind, that the expense of bringing up a family in New South Wales is much less than in England. Children there, if properly trained, in lieu of being a burden, are wealth to their parents. Industrious persons, of sober orderly habits, find no difficulty in laying by a large portion of their earnings, which may be placed with perfect security in the Savings' Bank at Sydney, yielding an interest of from 8 to 10 per cent. per annum. After a few years they would be enabled, if mechanics, to establish themselves in desirable localities for carrying on their trade; or, if agriculturists, to rent farms, or to purchase land. But any attempt by the latter class to settle as cultivators on their own account, immediately upon their arrival in the colony, is, as a general rule, by no means desirable. Local experience should first be acquired. Not only is there much to learn, but, what is more difficult, much to unlearn." —Macarthur, p. 148.

"It is quite unnecessary for a family of free emigrants to carry out any thing from the mother country in the shape of furniture or agricultural implements; such articles can be procured at as cheap a rate in the colony as in England. Even clothing of all descriptions can now be purchased at

a moderate price in New South Wales. The best way in which an intending emigrant of small capital can employ the intervening time, between the adoption of his resolution and his actual embarkation, and the best preparation which he can make for settling in New South Wales, is to learn to handle the axe, the saw, the chisel, and the plane; for, although he may not find it absolutely necessary to employ himself in that way in the colony, he will find such accomplishments of the greatest utility."—Lang, p. 177.

For some years past the emigration of free settlers to Australia has been gradually going on. There were more last year than in any previous. All the government ships that carried from Scotland, free of expense, married labourers and mechanics, certified of good character, were of the "first class," and fitted up in the most comfortable manner; provisions of every sort were laid in for the emigrants; the whole detail was superintended by Dr Boyter, the government agent, to whom all were loud in their expressions of gratitude for the great trouble he took in securing the comfort of the emigrants. Even wine was laid in for the purpose of being served out in case of sickness,—and every ship was accompanied by an experienced surgeon.

With the view of guiding such future emigrants in their arrangements, it is proper here to state, that it is quite unnecessary for them to take on board any provisions or cooking utensils, as all are found for them on board, and of a superior description. Mattresses, pillows, and blankets are also provided. The emigrants have merely to take with them a quantity of clothes and linens sufficient for the voyage, which is now generally made in about sixteen weeks, there being few washing-days on board. It is also proper to mention, that should any of the emigrants be in a situation to carry out money with them, they should either take gold or silver, as Scotch bank notes will not pass in the colony; but should any emigrant be enabled to carry out any thing like a large sum, it is recommended that he procure, before sailing, a letter of credit on one of the banks in Sydney, and this can be very easily accomplished, by lodging the money with a bank in this country, who will procure for the emigrant the letter of credit for the amount.

The following extracts are taken from a letter recently received by Mr Marshall, Australian emigration agent, London, dated Sydney, 9th September last; the writer went out in May 1837:—

“ I have at length the pleasure of addressing you for the first time from this place, having arrived here on the 30th ultimo, 105 days from Plymouth; I am happy to add, without a single loss of life on the voyage, and all in excellent health.” “ The demeanour and general conduct of our whole party has been most praiseworthy, both before and since our arrival; they were all employed, within three or four days after landing, at good wages, and I believe if we had ten times the number, they would in a very short time have been engaged with equal facility.”

“ Shepherds, agriculturists, gardeners, &c., have been engaged at wages varying from £25 to £50, and in some cases, for the superior class, so high as £80 to £100, per annum, with rations for themselves and families. Carpenters, masons, sawyers, &c., obtain from £2, 2s. to £2, 10s. per week in Sydney.”

“ Their condition in life is obviously much benefited by the change, and I have heard amongst them but one feeling of gratification at the prospect which this fine colony presents to them. The services of those coming by the next ship will be seized upon with equal avidity, and as many more really useful persons as you can send hither.”

Another letter to the same, dated Sydney, Oct. 10, says:—

“ Let me add one thing which comes more powerfully on my mind every day, from the personal observations I have been able to make—that were the prospects and resources of this delightful and prosperous colony known to our labouring population at home, and indeed, to *all* whose limited means make it desirable to seek other channels for enterprise and industry, than are now within their reach, they would not long hesitate in availing themselves of an opportunity, which, if they are guided by a proper spirit, and are prepared for some inconveniences, which must be felt at first, *cannot fail*, in no long time, to lay the foundation for themselves and families, if not of fortunes, at least of competency, and a degree of comfort to which they must ever be strangers at home.”

Extract of a letter from Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, 13th September 1837, on board the William Nicoll, which sailed from Skye on the 9th July.

“ Nor do we want any thing that can make us happy, for we have plenty of beef, pork, bread, oatmeal, flour, pease, tea, and

sugar, and water in great plenty. Since we left Barra head, till we came within twenty miles of this Bay, we did not see land, excepting once off Cape Verd Islands, nor had we twenty-four hours' calm, nor one hour's gale, having as good a passage as we could wish for. When I was ashore, I met with several men that were well acquainted with New South Wales, and they say it is much better than this."*

The population of the colony in 1837 exceeds 80,000, of which Sydney, the capital, which is beautifully situated on one of the inlets of Port Jackson, contains above 20,000.

The following is the official return of some of the articles exported from Sydney in 1835, which shows the commercial products of the country in these particulars :

Wool,	3,776,191 lbs.
Butter and Cheese,	224,000 ...
Salt Provisions,	1,675,520 ...
Flour and Biscuit,	846,720 ...
Soap and Candles,	76,160 ...
Wood,	1,131,670 feet.
Seal Skins,	667
Hides,	35,679
Coals,	2,492 tons.
Sperm Oil,	2,904 ...
Black do.,	1,159 ...

It may also be proper merely to mention, that in New South Wales the natives, who are black, are thinly scattered, and of peaceable demeanour to Europeans. Missionaries have been for sometime employed among them, with good effect.

The editor has thus given, in as small a compass as the nature of the subject admitted of, the information he conceives to be most essential to intending emigrants of all classes and gradations, extracted from the most recent authorities; and he trusts that the selection will be found sufficient for their general guidance. The works principally consulted have been,—“The Sydney Calendar, an Annual;” The History of New South Wales, *second edition*, by Dr

* This vessel reached Sydney on 25th October, all well, after quick passage.

Lang;" "New South Wales, its present state and future prospects, by James Macarthur, Esq.;" and, "The History of Australasia, by R. M. Martin, F.S.S.;"—to which readers are referred for full information.

For emigrants of the higher classes of this country, numerous vessels, with every accommodation, sail from Leith for Sydney through the year; and also several of the same kind from Greenock and Liverpool. Passage money for a gentleman, L.60, for a lady, about L.55. They have to provide their own bedding, and take with them a stock of clothes and body linens sufficient to serve them for four months, the usual length of the voyage, there being no washing on board; also some warm clothing for the southern latitudes for a time.

Mechanics and labourers who wish to obtain a free passage, must apply, with proper certificates, to Lieutenant Forrest, R.N., Emigration Office, Custom House, Leith. Their stores and embarkation are superintended with the utmost care by Dr Boyter, the Government agent, along with Lieutenant Forrest.

Of the Highlanders, with detachments of whom three vessels sailed last year from Skye and Mull, these gentlemen take the same charge. John Bowie, Esq., W.S., Edinburgh, who accompanied the Rev. Dr M'Leod last year to London, and was mainly instrumental in obtaining relief for the destitute Highlanders and Islanders, and favourable terms for their emigration, witnessed the sailing of the first ship from Skye, and continues his benevolent labours in the way of information to the proprietors and clergy of the Highland districts. Several vessels are to sail this year from that quarter, on the same plan.

Vessels sail also regularly from London for Sydney, (touching at Plymouth, to receive those passengers to whom it may be more convenient to embark there,) under the direction of the Australian Emigration Agent, with cabin, intermediate, and steerage passengers,—a proportion of the latter being labourers and mechanics certified of good character, carried out free of expense. The following is the list of these ships for 1838. They are from 500 to 700 tons each, and all of the first class, with a skilful surgeon on board,—the rates of charge being on the lowest scale consistent with really com-

fortable accommodation. They will sail, wind and weather permitting, on the following days pointedly:—

FROM LONDON.		FROM PLYMOUTH.	
May	2	May	14
May	30	June	11
July	11	July	23
August	15	August	27
September	8	September	17
September	29	October	8
October	24	November	5
November	21	December	3
December	29	January	7

All particulars as to them may be known, and every necessary information respecting New South Wales, on application to Mr JOHN MARSHALL, Australian Emigration Agent, 26, Birchin Lane, Cornhill, London; Mr JOHN JOHNSTONE, Publisher, 2, Hunter Square, Edinburgh; and Mr DAVID FORREST, 50, Union Street, Glasgow.—Post-paid letters only will be answered.

It is of importance to add, that there is in Sydney an “Emigrants’ Friend Society,” for the purpose of giving them advice on landing, the secretary of which is William Macpherson, Esq., Collector of Internal Revenue there.

The following summary is recently from the pen of an intelligent author in the colony:—

“The artizan comes to a country where a day’s labour may purchase provisions for a week—where the clothing required is a matter of no consideration—where the thought of daily subsistence is never intruded on his mind—and where his savings may soon place him beyond the necessity of labour at all. The disposition to prodigality inherent in human nature is of course fostered by this abundance, and often leads to dissipation; but the industrious and frugal soon rise to respectable rank.

“The agricultural labourer is supplied by his employer with lodging and all necessaries. From the nature of the climate he needs little clothing. His wages are hence almost clear gain. He thus may soon be able to purchase stock, or rent a patch from his master. From this he rises to a small farmer, and may ultimately be a proprietor.

“As to the agricultural capitalist, by due caution he may soon reach a position of far greater importance than he could hope to occupy by similar exertions at home. The severity of the winter forms no drawback to the efficiency of his operations, nor are his profits endangered by the necessity of procuring supplies of artificial food for his stock. A man of limited means has it hence in his power to obtain for himself and family substantial independence.”

In conclusion, the editor has only to state, that the more he has read and thought on the subject, the more is he impressed with its importance. The difference betwixt this country and the one in question is, as expressed in one of the early letters from the writer of the extracts to his family, that here it is hard work, and little prospect of any thing beyond subsistence, and there, though it is hard work, it is accompanied with hope and moral certainty of success. Three more of the family have recently gone out to join him. In fact, the real agricultural and horticultural resources of New South Wales have never yet been developed,—there having been little or no inducement to do so, beyond the mere supply of the pastoral occupants; but when these capabilities are fairly brought into operation in such a productive climate and soil, the prospects of the future and increasing prosperity of the colony are magnificent and boundless.

As cultivation extends over the vast surface, the farmstead, with its plain and substantial comforts—the sheepfold, the cottage, the village with the school and the church, and its “church-going bell,”—the manorial residence, amidst its broad and fertile domain, with its ample appendages and rural adornment,—the towered city, with its splendid edifices, its busy mart, its science and arts,—will spring up in natural and uniform successive progress, fostered and enlightened by the humanizing influence of the Gospel,—while plenty is “scattered o’er the smiling land,” and all is “instinct” with life, and happiness, and joy.

THE END.