ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1893.

#### A GOLD HUNTER'S LIFE.

[Australian Incidents--Written for PROGRESS.]

sense that is understood by the word Lanky | hour. -viz. lean-long-drawn out. He was the very opposite, of medium height, thick set with a herculean frame and a hercules in strength. His chest was immense and as sinewy as that of a trained gladiator. He could do as much work with pick and shovel as two ordinary men. His general appearance suggested the heavy bulldog type which was turther heightened by the fact that he was very bow legged-so much so that in passing through a small door way he would have to go sideways.

He was English-born in Lancashirehence his nick name Lanky-Jim no doubt was his christian name, but as to his surname, I think no one in Australia knew it from what he atterwards told me.-His visit to the Southern Hemisphere was compulsory-He said to me once jokingly "I have an advantage over you inasmuch as my passage to this country was paid by Her majesty the Queen." In other words he had been transported to Van-Dieman's Land for seven years, for poaching as he said. This was an old story with convicts, however in his case I was disposed to believe him. Though his companions and associates were of his own stamp-that is, "Old hands" or "Laggs" as they were called, yet he appeared different from them. He had a blunt, frank manner, with an open, honest expression, so different to the average old hand, who had a subdued, cautious and cowed manner; who could not talk to you a minute without averting their eyes-the effect of their early vicious training and subsequent prison life.

The laboring class in England, to which Jim belonged, like we in America, did not look upon poaching as a crime, something akin to smuggling, the only trouble was and his mate worked hard and steadily in being caught-knowing well the penalty, during the winter months on Eagle Hawke, they will take the risk, with no sense of living a sober and exemplary lite. No wrongdoing, whilst at the same time they to be sold. No temptation to stroll of an

would scorn to steal.

character, but he seemed to have escaped only amusement. Work through the day its contaminating influences. His sentence or his "Seven Pennith," as he called it, terminated about the time gold was discovered in Victoria. He, with many of his kind made their way thither, rejoicing once more in freedom, and the thoughts of getting away from their prison Islandthough a natural Paradise in itself. On arrival at Melbourne, Bendigo-a new, rich digging, was on everybody's lips,-he was not long in deciding to go there. Next day, he and his party were following the crowd across Keilor plains, on a 100 mile tramp to this new Eldorado; had set in. Their tent and tools they gave once there it was found that its to a new arrival-an old acquaintanceits fame had not been exaggeratedeverybody was getting gold more or less. Owing to the scarcity of water only the At night they would roll themselves in their richest parts were worked and that in a very superficial manner-a fortunate thing for those who came after. Bendigo has proved a wonderful gold field,—being amongst the first discovered, none has surpassed it in richness nor for ease and cheapness in working. The sinking was shallow, in many places the gold was found in the clay on the surface. The face of the country soft and undulating, well wooded, still keeping or transmission as desired. The open so that loaded teams could be driven over any part. The alluvial workings gave employment for years until the ground was worked over and over again then to be folfowed by the Quartz Miner and now after forty years since the first discovery, gold is profitably mined at depths from 1000 to 2,500 feet. Jim and his mate's first act on Bendigo was to procure a license to dig, then stake out a claim 12x12. Four months after they were back to Melbourne with £800 each, when the gold broker weighed his bag of gold and counted out eight hundred sovereigns Jim was dazed, he had never en so much money in his life and possibly none of his family ever had. A few years later that same gold would have realized £100 more as the price had risen to its

The next consideration for Jim, what was he to do-however, he was not long in deciding and that was 'I'll have a blooming good time." Then commenced a life of dissipation, extravagance and folly. He was not alone-hundreds were doing likewise-no thought was given to the future.

"Ah, "said they, "we know where there is plenty more we can go back and do the same again." Come easily, go quicklywas too often the case with that class. I more anxious to spend their money than to thing certain that he must have taken more pleasure in making it than the way he spent it. I recollect my first impression of Melbourne in 1852, of diggers just down for a spree in their ordinary working clothes-a slouched felt or cabbage tree hat, blue woollen shirt, moleskin trousers, red, white or yellow according to the color of the earth they had last worked in, driving bourne was composed of seven or eight emigrant, and the production of so much once did. It must not be supposed that

Lanky Jim was a name by which he was | about the principal streets in hired vehicles known though a misnomer it taken in the of all kinds to the tune of two pounds per hundred yards intervening. Notwith-

> Jim engaged apartments at the Bush Inn on Elizabeth street, a safe, second class tavern, patronized by bushmen, shepherds and fortunate diggers-the class most congenial to his tastes. He deposited his money with the landlord of the inn to be drawn as required. Their round of pleasure was limited, drinking being the principal one, It was always on the programme and of the strongest kind of liquors. Physicians say that spiritous liquor in hot climate is doubly injurious but they did not seem to mind it. They were English and Englishmen like to have what they had been used to at home. Possibly the quality of there beverages saved them. There the government legislate against adulteration.

In the course of two months, Jim had 'knocked down his pile" as he termed it and was ready again to take to the roadno reproach or regret escaped him. His folly was lost sight of in the recollection of the "jolly blooming time" he had had. So with fitty pounds in his pocket and a light heart he shouldered his swag and with a new mate he had joined, they shaped their course for Bendigo. On their arrival they found that several new gullies had been opened. The last was named Eagle Hawke about five miles from the main Bendigo flat, there they decided to pitch their tent and try their luck. Tools were purchased, licenses procured and a claim staked out. The sinking on Eagle Hawke was shallow, the deepest not over 15 feet. Jim's old luck followed him. They hit upon gold the first day in five feet sinking through hard wash dirt resting on sand stone or slate liquor was to be had as none was allowed evening; stories and songs around a camp 'Jim's prison life had roughened his fire and a chat with neighbors was their was lightened by the excitement of getting gold. Bendigo, though hot in the summer is superb in winter-like a continuous Nova Scotia September. No snow-occasionally trost with a little ice-less wet weather than at Ballarat and other more hilly districts. The air was exhilarating, which induced a sense of freedom and with an absence of restraint that accompanies a nomadic life gave to mining a peculiar charm, such was my feelings the first year on Bendigo. In six months Jim and his mate had made £500 each on Eagle Hawke. As summer was approaching and with it the dry season Jim saw in this a good excuse for again visiting Melbourne to spend a few months and return when the winter rains rolled up their swag and started again for Melbourne. There were no coaches in those days and very few road side inns. blankets beside a burning log. Their gold had preceded them by government escort; this was a great boon to the digger who could deposit at any time with the gold fields commissioner to be called for at the treasury in Melbourne, thus avoiding the risk of carrying it. When depositing gold one's name had be given, either real or ficticious. I question if Jim gave his correct name at the time. Gold could be deposited for safe mode of depositing I will describe from personal knowledge. It was on a Saturday morning that I presented myself at the camp at Bendigo-the central head-quarters at the police department for a radius of 25 miles. I found many ahead of me, fully 150 standing in single file reaching from the commissioner's office, situate in a lovely grove of gum trees on a slight eminence, down to the flat below. In about an hour's time my turn was reached. I was at the commissioner's office-a large tent with the front thrown back revealing to view the interior. There sat the commissioner, who took my bag of gold, asked me the weight. and my name, tied on it a tag then threw it into a large iron bound chest beside him. His clerk then handed me a receipt which read thus, "Received from number," say 40, "one bag said to contain," say (100 ozs. of "gold to be delivered when called for at 'the government treasury, Melbourne." 1 oz. to be held on deposit as the case might be. No name was put on the receipt; that was to prevent personation otherwise anyone getting possession of another's receipt, and were so disposed, could go and draw it out. The government did not weigh the gold, therefore did

not hold itself responsible for what a

or had been killed by bushrangers, many

met their death in that way. I was told or

a case of a party of sailors being "Stuck

up," on their way to Melbourne, and when

a pistol was pointed at the head of one,

with the cemand-"Your gold or your

as well go to Melbourne without brains

taken at his word. Before leaving Mel-

bourne I read in the newspapers that the

government intended passing a law to

appropriate the unclaimed gold in the

Treasury-some hundreds of thousands of

ounces, the accumulation of ten years

The bags made mostly of Chamois leather

were thrown in with as much indifference

as if they were samples of grain. The

escort which accompanied the gold to Mel-

mountain troopers, heavily armed, and made to look as awe-inspiring as possible. The cart containing the gold was built with high wheels and painted red, similar in appearance to an English mail cart. On each side rode a trooper, and others ahead with a space of one to three ance and precaution several attacks was made. The McIvor escort was "stuck up" and robbed. The first intimation they had was a shot from behind a brush hedge recently thrown up which dropped the leading horse of the gold cart, that of course caused a dead halt. The escort suddenly found themselves covered by an enemy that they could not see and only a few yards distant, but who could pick them off at deliberate aim if they approached. Whatever pluck was shown I know not, but it was a fact that they abandoned their charge and left it in possession of the bushrangers. It was a private escort, had it been a government one I am confident they would not have yielded without showing more fight. When the news was reported at the McIvor police camp where were stationed at the time a large body of mounted police in anticipation of a rising on the part of the diggers against the license tax, a body of troopers were at once sent out to scour the country. They succeeded in capturing five of the gangtour of which were hanged. One turned Queen's evidence, but was kept in goal a long time to identify any others when caught through him the gold, twenty-five thousand ounces, was recovered. In one of my letters, written shortly after that event, is a remark that "six men were hung in Melbourne last week," possibly they were some of that party. The government at that time did not stand much on ceremony about hanging-somewhat like the old Scotch custom, hang first and try after-the justification. As an evidence how summarily the criminal laws were enacted at that time I will mention only one case that came under my notice. It was in the early part of 1853, I was passing through Castlemaine, a mining town, when I recognized a well known shipmate standing at the door of a large canvas covered building. "Hello shipmate" I said, "is this a red clay and gravel. When bed rock was place of worship?" "Oh no, this is the reached gold was visible. About a foot of court house and I am on duty here. Come in." The place would hold 75 all told. I contained the gold, but the best, the nug- | did not see any counsel. The judge apgets would be found in the crevices. Jim peared to be the whole court in himself. Examined and cross questioned witnesses. Some for horse stealing and others for highway robbery. About ten minutes to each case and sentence was passed. Then came up a case of rape. The prisoner an old hand about 50-his victim a girl of 12 or 13-and her father were present. The evidence was conclusive. Verdict guilty. Sentence of death was there and then passed. This last case did not occupy I should think over 25 minutes. As the prisoner was passing out he turned round and shaking a fist at the father said "I will do for you yet." The tather replied "They hanging you saves me from shooting you.' Once outside, a pal of his wishing to know

the verdict, sung out "what is it, Jim?" "Oh a swinger" (to be hung) was the To return to Lanky Jim, on his second visit to Melbourne-he found a wonderful change for the better, but not to his tastes. Primitive customs and the rough element were fast giving place to modern ideas. The population was increasing rapidly by people from all parts of the world at the rate of four thousand per week. Nineteen thousand were added to the population the month that I landed there. Melbourne was extending its borders on all sides, producing not only a change in its physical appearance, but in the character and tone of soci-All nationalities were represented, consequently Melbourne was very cosmopolitan, nevertheless very English in manners and customs; English laws dispensed by Englishmen; money, weights and measures the same as in England; also the same sports and games. Three-fourths of the goods consumed, were from Great Britain Therefore Melbourne was more English than Halifax, where we unconsciously partake somewhat of the American element. Wealth was fast flowing into Melbourne, the gold discoveries having produced a latter dark I lost my way, and to make transformation scene tinting everything with gold, benefiting not only the towns ings. While following a circuitous path but the country. Squatters carrying twen- amongst open holes and heaps of earth, I ty to forty thousand sheep, worth from was suddenly set upon by three ferocious four to five shillings per head before the dogs from tents near by. I sang out loudly gold discoveries found in a year or so after to call their dogs off, still keeping them at that the same sheep to be worth from 20 bay, fearing every moment I would disapto 25 shillings per head. Cattle and horses pear down a gaping hole. Soon a man increasing in value in the same ratio—no more boiling down sheep for their tallow Just then the moon shone out from behind and the meat thrown to waste. Boiling a cloud, when I tound myself on the edge down works were allowed to go to decay of a fifteen feet shaft, half filled with water. in which state I saw them years after in the | One step backwards and I would have been interior-then was laid the foundation of where dogs and thieves would not care to those great fortunes that we read about to- follow. My rescuer, in Lancashire dialect, of lot. day, and it was to the diggers to whom they sung out, "Lad, whaten h-1 you were indebted for the sudden change in doingt there?" "Just what I want their circumstances; nevertheless the squat- to know myself," I replied. I then exters hated the diggers and treated them as plained my position—that I had lost my we do tramps, forgetting all this and re- way-that I was one of the Americans membering only one thing the increased (a party of Nova Scotians) camped rate of wages that they had to pay their just behind Francis' store. "Oh! said he, shepherds and shearers. I have been told | "you are out of that new chum yankee of stories in the early days of squatters crowd," (all Americans hailing anywhere sending on to the diggings and offering increased wages when the answer would be sent back saying "tell Mr. Squatter that | Yankees out there at that time.) "Why, we give him as much per day to come and lad you are only ten minutes walk from parcel contained-a great deal of gold was | shovel earth for us as he offers us per week | your tent-do you see that light beyond never claimed, the owners had either died, to shear sheep." The government of the that tall iron bark? (a tree,) that is colony was composed largely of squatters. Francis' store; Noble is just closing up."
Their principles were of the most pronounced narrow minded torvism. They of this one of Francis' many branches. I legislated for the diggers as they had al- always entertained a kindly feeling for Jim, ways done for the 'old hand' class. A digger (it was Lanky Jim,) for this little episode. was taxed £18 per year for a 12 feet square He proved to be a very good neighbor, ashave seen instances where they seemed lite," the reply was, "Shoot away, I may claim, whilst they themselves had to pay sumed a patronizing interest in me and my claim, whilst they themselves had to pay sumed a patronizing interest in me and my claim, whilst they themselves had to pay sumed a patronizing interest in me and my only £10 per year rental for a five mile make it. In Jim's case there was one as without gold." Immediately he was sheep run. The diggers who were the largest -that is to inform us of any new discoverconsumers therefore contributed more to lies and appeared to sympathise in our misthe revenue than any other body and all tortune in being "new chums" (new arthis without representation, which eventual rivals.) The old hands looked upon "new ly led to a resistance on their part termin-

> refer to presently. The impetus given to trade by the great influx of population, mostly of the youth and strength of the country from whence they came, a class superior to the ordinary colonial" no longer carried the weight it

ating in the Ballarat riot, of which I shall

EVENING WEAR. BALL DRESSES.

New Goods in all Departments.

Bengaline Silks, Faille Francais Silks, Surah Silks, Brocade Silks, Japanese Silks, Pongee Silks, Gauzes, Crepes and Crepons, Plushes, Velvets and Velveteens. Latest Evening Tints and Combinations.

Nets and Flouncing Laces.

Hosiery, Gloves, Flowers and Feathers, Ribbed Silk Undervests, low necks, in Pink, Cream and Sky. White Skirts, Gauze Corsets and Corset Covers. Cream Cloth Serge for Evening Wraps.

Fans, Fans, Fans.

Feather and Incandescent Trimmings.

# MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON & ALLISON, St. John.

#### DUMPING OUT SALE.

GOODS MARKED IN RED FIGURES.



The Goods are being marked down now. That is at time of writing, Wednesday morning A good many of the marked down goods will be sold by the time this advertisement appears.

We have a big stock of Boys' and Youths' Cape Overcoats. They are now going through the markdown process. Discounts of 25 and 33 1-3 per cent. cut right off the original prices. Boys' Reefers cut away down all in Red Figures.

Have a big stock of Men's Dress Overcoats to sell. They're all marked in red figures and will be the greatest bargains ever offered. Men's Ulsters now sold at

\$5.50, \$8.50 AND \$11.00.

The \$11.00 Ulster is not marked down; we've only a few, and they are as good as gold.

Remember after stock taking the goods may be marked up again-we only say may, -we don't know yet. We may not have any to mark up.

### SCOVIL, FRASER & CO.,

Cor. King and Germain Sts., ST. JOHN, N. B.

vast city of 400.000. Though mechanics' wages were from 30 to 40 shillings per day progress of the country and who had taken large stone warehouses and other finer structures were erected at that time, an today very few cities surpass it in permanency and beauty. A gentleman, one who has travelled much, and lately from there, told me he had not seen a handsomer | Bendigo. The day for rapid fortune had street anywhere than Collins. Melbourne is a well laid out city, similar

to Philadelphia and the upper part of New York, in squares with the streets running at right angles; but with this difference. that the streets running east and west parallel to the water, the Yarra river, to each wide street there is a narrow one bearing the same name; for instance, the first is Flinders, than little Flinders street; ing devoured and stripped by those blasted Collins, and little Collins street; Burke, new chums." New gullies were occasionand little Burke street, and so on. The ally opening, but none as rich as the first. little streets are chiefly heavy wholesale | Jim scorned to work in old ground, or toswarehouses, etc., and the big streets are sick as it was termed, saying it was only fit devoted to retail, fancy goods, banks, hotels, amusements, etc., thus bringing the business of the city very close together. The other streets running up from the water were all of one width; the centre, Elizabeth street, being the principal one.

Jim spent the summer in Melbourne, perhaps not in such a foolishly extravagant manner as he did the year before. However, he got through with his £500, saving enough to carry him back to Bendigo. He was now satisfied with Melbourne; it was played out; it had become too busy and too refined for him; he had no desire to see it again, and I think he never did. For the third time he presents himself at Bendi-

go It was there I first met him. Our acquaintance was made under peculiar circumstances. Returning home one evening short cut I decided to cross some old workcame to my assistance, driving them off. from between the Strait of Northumberland and the Mississippi river, were mate, would put himself out to "lay us on" chums" with jealous hatred-as encroachers

-and with good cause. They were being

crowded aside by a superior race. There numbers were yearly lessening, inasmuch

as transportation to the colonies had long

since ceased. The boast "I am an old

of the country were ticket of leave men.

If Jim had cause to be disatisfied with the change that had taken place in Melbourne he had more reason to be so with past, though some of the greatest fortunes were made years after in Quartz mining. Still it was a good place for the steady plodder who was always sure of a fair return for his labor, by reworking old ground, therefore it became a favorite resort for new arrivals in the colony. Jim sighed when comparing the past with the present. " Ah" said he "Bendigo is done, it is begully just opened not far away by a party of New Zealanders and named after them. Next day we visited it and took up a elaim. Maories and a party of Irishmen who evidently did not pull well together. After some days of wordy disputes, matters culminated in open hostilities much to til the air literally showered dry earth. the amusement of the neutral spectators. The leader of the Irish party was one "big Martin" and he was big as his name suggested. The locality being eight miles from the Goldfields' Commissioner, who would have to be brought on the ground to settle disputes, "big Martin" undertook to | precision. Martin's party, taken so much interpret the law according to his own ideas by surprise, were thrown into confusion,

gold was more directly and permanently the term old colonial always implied an ex- right. He was always on the watch to telt in Melbourne than in any other place. | convict, but in most cases a descendant of | jump a Maoris claim-then act in the capa-In the beginning of 1853 with a population | that class and that all who had been trans- city of witness, attorney and judge comof 30,000 it had made rapid strides in ported were vicious and naturally bad. In bined with one established ruling always in citizens, men who were identified with the tain claim adjoining ours that Martin laid covetous eves upon-the tendency of the an active part in politics and the well-being lead pointed to it as becoming of value. It was in possession of a young Maori,

who had commenced to sink a shatt. Early next morning Martin said to one of his party-" Patsey commence a hole there" pointing to a spot on the Maori's claim and within five feet of the one already commenced. When the rightful owner appeared on the ground and seeing another encroaching on his rights and knowing that possession there was nine points of the law jumped into his shaft and commenced throwing the loose earth over on Patev. Patsey returned it with compound interest and for five minutes this dirt slinging continued causing great fun to the onlookers, the Maorie looked up and seeing big Martin realized his case hopeless, jumped out of the hole and gave a war whoop, which was instantly passed from one to the other up work for new chums and Chinamen. One the whole length of the gully. In a few evening he called to let us know of a new minutes there was a train of excited Maories rushing to the scene of battle, each grasping a pick, shovel, or hatchetthe first article in reach. Martin at once The ground was mostly held by a party of ordered his "boys," as he called them, to the rescue. During all the time the same mode of warfare was being carried on, each side being augmented by new recruits, un-

The Maories, thinking this rather undignified, decided upon a change of tactics. One, a large six-foot fellow, and most savagely tatooed, sang out an order that none but they understood. In a moment they all fell into line four deep, with military which savored very much of might against and at the first advance of the Maories, retreated in disorder, vanquished-leaving the enemy in possession of the claim.

[To be continued next week.]

Fur Capes, choice

Only about half a dozen in stock. One was \$5.0

White Blankets, our Best, They were \$4.50.

Grey Flannels— 22 the Best, -They were 5c. to 10c. more.

Men's Underclothing, Garments ranging from \$1.00 to \$1.25 are now, A Calendar free with 25-cent. purchases.

Geo. H. McKay,

## The English Like Our Luncheons.

An Euglish paper says: "The Americans are without doubt the people for pretty luncheon parties. 'Dalsy' and violet' lunches are very popular across the 'herring pond' and at one of the former the centerpiece was composed entirely of marguerites and maidenhair fern, the square of cloth underneath it being bordered by a single row of artifical daisies, and the candle shades consisted of the same dainty flowers. All the favors.colors,etc., were pure white, only relieved with a suspicion of yellow green 'Shakespeare' luncheons have been the latest novelty, and on these occasions the menu was written in Shakespearean language, terrapin being decribed as 'fillet of a funny snake;' the ice cream. 'Thou art all ice, thy kindness freezes,' etc., while an appropriate quotation was placed before each guest. Sometimes poems are found on the back of the name card, complimentary descriptions of the owner, and which are read aloud by one's next door neighbor-to spare one's blushes. Generally speaking, luncheon parties in England are rather dreary torms of entertainment, and as we borrow our American cousins' mode of speech, why do we not also take a few hints from their talents for entertaining and inventing something new?"

How Ladies of India Wear Bangles.

Glass bangles in India are regarded as sacred objects. It a glass bangle be accidentally broken its pieces must be gathered together and kissed three times. Every Hindoo woman wears these ornaments until her husband dies, when she breaks them with a brick or stone and substitutes for them gold or silver ones, a sign 61 Charlotte St., St. John. in North India that the wearer is either a widow or a less estimable woman. The demand for glass bangles is never failing. They are manufactured in abundance in the northwestern provinces as well as in the