

AUSTRALIA.

The following extracts kindly furnished by Dr. Samuel Bayard, from a letter recently received from his son in Melbourne, Australia, furnishes information in reference to the state of things in that country of a deeply interesting character. The young man went out in the *Chebucto*, has been there a year and some months, and consequently has had a pretty good opportunity of judging rightly. Read what he says:

"This is not a country where a man need sit still and cry out for want of work; there is work enough for all that are here, and all that are likely to come for years. This is a place where almost any business one can undertake will flourish. I will state a few facts, as far as they have come under my observation. And first, as regards a numerous class of emigrants, the labouring portion. There never was a better chance (California perhaps excepted) for a man to do well. Though things are not at that exorbitant pitch as when reports first reached us, and while most articles of clothing and provision are fifty per cent. cheaper, labour is nearly as high, and in as good demand, with this advantage, that it has taken a steadier and a surer turn. The same is the case in most all of the trades; though not nearly so high, there is more certainty in the profits; and there is not much fear of their falling much in price, for while the diggings yield a steady revenue people will not work for lower wages, but when they fall, start for the mines. Even a very great access of working population cannot much affect it, for the new chums, as they term all who first land in the colony, seldom stop in town, but proceed as soon as possible to the diggings, and a great many of the farmer labourers are absorbed by the farming interest, as most of them made a little money when the diggings first broke out, they have settled down as farmers upon such land as Government has set up for sale; indeed so great is the avidity for buying up land that Government cannot survey it fast enough. Besides, as several grand schemes are on the carpet for the improvement of the colony,—I mean the different lines of railroad projected from Melbourne to Geelong, and Melbourne to the diggings, as part of a system of trunk line from Sydney, through Melbourne, to Adelaide, which must in time be built, besides more immediate improvements, such as a canal from the city to Hobson's Bay, a necessary improvement, as it will shorten the distance nearly seven miles, and make the expense of lighterage, which is very heavy, much less. Then there is a gas company about to be formed, to afford the good citizens of Melbourne sufficient light at night, as well as lessen the danger of being robbed in a place where at present there is hardly light enough to make 'darkness visible.' Another undertaking for which a company is partly formed, is the supplying water to the city in a season of drought, should the Yarra not afford a sufficient supply, the Yarra being at present the only source. Indeed there is always labour to be found in keeping the streets of Melbourne in repair, and in Government work, making roads, so that should the diggings fail, and the labouring portion of the community be thrown back upon the town, there will still be employment. So much for labor. The trades are equally as good and as certain. The current wages for carpenters are 25s. a day, for brick and stone masons 30s., and stone-cutters 35s. Most of our mechanics find ready employment at the best wages; they are the class I should advise to come, ship-builders and wheel-rights particularly good. Lighters and vessels of 14 to 20 tons, were a short time ago in great demand. That is a business that is particularly well adapted for St. John vessels, either for the lighterage or coasting trade, vessels of 150 or 200 tons register, and of a light draught of water, not more than nine feet, so as to come up to the wharfs at Melbourne to discharge, sent out here, loaded with lumber of any sort, would net a handsome return. I wonder there are no St. John vessels sent out, for the very commodity that we have to spare is just the article that would pay. Lumber, fit for house-building, is very scarce in the colonies, and even if we had it, the expense of sawing it, as it is nearly all done by whip-sawing, would make it high. Timber for sills and cross-beams, joisting, lathing, planed lumber for wainscoting, rafters, &c., must pay well if sent; house frames ready to put up, doors and

window sashes, must also pay well, as the labour required for those articles is very dear. The Americans can send these things out at a profit, and why cannot we? It is a pity, when there is so good a market for the staple product of the colony, that it is not taken advantage of. You need have no fears of there being such a glut as not to be paying for some time to come. That the demand will continue is pretty certain; the rage for building is just beginning as it were. Government has been so sparing in opening up the land for sale that parties have not had much chance to build on an extensive scale. The principal material is stone, but that is exceedingly expensive on account of the high rate of labour required for preparing it. A man that has got a small capital, and wishes to make a few thousands, just let him come out here. There is every chance for speculating that any man could wish, there are plenty of undertakings that a person could launch into and make an easy fortune.

The good people of Melbourne are emphatically a sure going people. *Slow, but sure* is their motto; and, as the *Argus*, the principle news paper says,—they are contented with making a few thousands, when they might realize hundreds of thousands. A party possessing a few hundreds, is just the man for this place, as he is able at once to take advantage of a good chance as it offers; whilst by the time that a man would be scraping it up, the golden opportunity is lost. While all other interest are so far forward, the farming, which is the real gold mine of these Colonies, (as the climate and soil are well adapted for the cultivation of both tropical and temperate products) has not been behind. The prices of all kinds of provisions are extremely high, and hay, or what is sold for hay in this country, a mixture of rank weed and oat straw unthrashed, owing to the very great drought in summer, is exceedingly dear, bringing as much as £20 and £25 a ton. Vandiemans Land, is the Colony for hay and potatoes, and in fact, for anything almost. It is far superior, as also in the general temperature of the climate—its potatoes are equal to the best that I have eaten at home, whilst its fruit is unsurpassed for size by any, though it wants the flavour of our apple. If you want to see flower gardens, they say you must go to Sidney and there behold them in all their perfection. So much for flower gardens and fruit.

To return to the more sober pursuits and branches of farming, Australia, on account of the good pasturage or runs, as those portions of the country watered by small brooks or creeks are termed, is unrivalled for dairy-farming, which is the best paying wherever any ways near the city, as milk, butter and cheese, are very dear. Milk is an English shilling per quart, and not over free from the benefit of the pump. The butter is equal to the best Cork butter, and sells for a very high price—1s 9d to 2s per pound by the firkin. They are hardly up to the art of making cheese, however Colonial cheese is very hard and sells for 6d less than English, for 2s per pound. For gardening, the soil is unrivalled, vegetables of all kinds grow to perfection, and owing to the richness of the soil, a deep black loam, in most cases require little or no manure, whilst the crop is no sooner out than the next is able to go in—some gardens about the town, and only an acre of land, were worth as much as £600 to their owners last season. And now for the professions.—To begin with the Doctors, their fees are very good, being allowed by law to demand a guinea a visit, but those who come must take their chance of being employed. Judging from the numbers that are engaged at digging, a labor I should think rather severe for the hands of the profession, or else they may be employed mending the roads, or discharging vessels, or almost anything but their profession. The fact is, that unless in extreme cases they are seldom called, the Surgeons being employed, as their charge is much less, 5s. per visit, and they are generally the old established practitioners, well known in the Colony. Doctors do not, as with us, dispense their own medicines, but merely leave a prescription for the Apothecary to make up.

The gentlemen of the green-bag have much the best profession in this Colony. It seems to be a favourite pastime of our good citizens, and the lawyers are no ways backward in taking advantage of this propensity for litigation, by charging enormous fees. The *Argus* has complained on parties through its columns, of their high charges, but they

give little heed to the public monitor. Of the two branches of the law, the Attornies is the best, for, as it is not so costly, they are employed in all small cases, which, if not the best paying, are certainly the most numerous. I cannot do better than to mention a fact stated in the *Argus*, to give you an idea of their profits:

It mentions a case, while speaking of the enormous charges, where the income of one party clear of all deductions for the expenses of the office and keeping up his establishment, was the nice little sum of £10,000. Another party, I was told, counted his income at £20,000. A business that pays well is the auctioneers, they have 10 per cent. upon all goods under £50, and 5 per cent. upon all over, and as their sales are good, and their rooms generally crowded, it cannot be otherwise than paying. Commission merchants are doing a fine business; but of all the chances for coining, lighterage is the best; freights, £2 for measurement goods, £4 for trussed hay, £1 for brick per thousand; and lighters, where there owners had any interest with the owners of wharves, so as not to wait any time after their trip to discharge, could make two trips a month. Almost any vessels, so long as they had good carrying capacity, with light draught of water, sold high at one time. Another branch is the steam tugging and passenger traffic. Owing to the narrow and crooked navigation of the river, all vessels require to be towed up, and the charge is 4s. per ton. As this is almost engrossed by one company, Cole & Co., you may believe that it is a pretty paying concern, and Cole from being worth nothing almost three years ago, is now perhaps the richest man in Melbourne. Before I wind up I will give you my opinion of the diggings. As I was there five months or so, I can say something upon them. I would not advise any one coming out to depend on them. It is scarcely one out of sixty who makes him self independent by them; and those parties who have been most successful are hard working men, and strange to say mostly sailors. The labour is of the hardest kind, and owing to the bad quality of the water, it is also very injurious; the dysentery, in its worst form, is very prevalent. I have often been glad, in the dry season, to drink water so thick you could not see a spoon under it. No use for a man to expect to do anything who cannot do a hard day's work, for he may often have to work hard, and when his hole is bottomed find nothing for his trouble; and though there is no pleasanter sensation than when you have made a lucky hit, yet it is deadening to the spirits when you dig and find nothing, and that for weeks. The opinion that I have formed is, that taking the general success of the diggers, a man can make better wages, if he stick to it for a length of time, than he can in town; it is a business that you must not throw up in a hurry, as you may work for months and not get enough to pay your board, and yet fall upon the lucky hole that is to pay for all.

I would advise those who come here, to bring as few clothes as possible, a great fault with many in bringing out a quantity of fine clothes, no manner of use to them here, as the chances are ten to one, they may find themselves compelled to go to some rough employment, and with a quantity of fine clothing they must pay storage, which comes heavy and more than eats up the value of the clothes. It is very little use for any party who is not able to rough and tough it with the best, to come to these Colonies. He must work and work hard, if he expects to do the least good for himself, and he need not come with the expectation of jumping into a good fat office, there are already too many hungry applicants for such billits, and willing to take them at any salary. A great number of the professional's are glad to work at government employ upon the roads, and you may meet here and there, a doctor, who has thrown down the lancet to take up the pick and shovel, or perhaps a briefless son of the law wheeling a barrow. What I have written will give you a general idea as to how things are going on here, and not very far out of the way either.

London Correspondence.

359, Strand, London,
January 31, 1854.

DEAR BROTHER,—Your very kind and welcome letter reached me this morning, and I am glad to hear of the welfare of yourself and family. I have just snatched a moment

to pen a few thoughts. On account of the vile slanders which have been so freely circulated for some weeks past, by the unprincipled portion of the war party, or rather, I might say, the Conservative party, against His Royal Highness, Prince Albert: it was expected there would have been a considerable excitement yesterday, but there was not. Last night the subject was taken up by Lord Aberdeen, in the Lords, and Lord John Russell in the Commons, and the severity of style in which these foul calumniators were addressed, made even the proudest of them quail. The noble Prince was fully and unequivocally exonerated from every particle of those malicious slanders, and the scandal-mongers held up to public view with scorn and contempt, as you will see by the "Times" of February 1st and 2nd, which I will send you.

I am not a little surprised to find such a want of loyalty amongst so large a portion of people here, who call themselves most respectable, a few of whom you are acquainted with, but I must not mention names—that such persons are so ready to credit and circulate such vile reports without even stopping to reason whether they are true or not.

The noble Prince will come out of this furnace of scandal with fresh laurels of his country's confidence and applause, when his accusers will be ashamed to lift up their heads. The Queen and Prince seemed quite sad when entering and leaving the House of Lords yesterday.

It is supposed that Russian diplomacy with this country and France will cease to-morrow, and *vice versa*, with Russia—a dreadful conclusion to which we are now forced after 40 years' peace.

The American Minister did not appear in the House yesterday, on account of a restriction in dress by the American Government, to plain black cloth, instead of a Court dress. This disability will probably be removed by Parliament, as it appears more in keeping with a Republican country to wear their native costume abroad, and equally as respectable to the Court to which they are accredited.

We have had a most severe winter in London, the streets for some days were completely impassable for vehicles and horses. The weather is now fine and appearance of an early spring. J. B. Gough, has been lecturing at Exeter Hall this winter, and is pronounced the greatest orator that ever spoke in that Hall.

Yours truly,

L.

The Bright Side of Humanity.

There are good men every where. There are men who are good for goodness's sake. In obscurity, in retirement, beneath the shadow of ten thousand dwellings, scarcely known to the world, and never asked to be known, there are good men; to adversity, poverty, and temptations, amid all the severity of earthly trials, there are good men, whose lives shed brightness upon the dark clouds that surround them. Be it true, for we must admit the sad truth, that many are wrong, and persist in being wrong—that many are false to every holy trust, and faithless toward every holy affection—that many are coldly selfish, and meanly sensual—yes, cold and dead to everything that is not wrapped up in their own little earthly interest, or more darkly wrapped up in the veil of fleshly appetites. Be it so: this is not all we are obliged to believe. Not there are true hearts amid the throng of the false and the faithless—there are warm and generous hearts which the cold atmosphere of surrounding selfishness never chills; and eyes unused to weep for personal sorrow, which often overflow with sympathy for the sorrows of others. Yes! there are good men and true men. God from on high doth bless them, and giveth his angels charge to keep them; and no where in the Holy Record are these words more precious or strong, than those in which it is written that God loveth the righteous ones. Such men there are. Let not their precious virtues be disturbed. As surely and as evidently as some men have obeyed the calls of ambition and pleasure, so surely and so evidently have other men obeyed the voice of conscience, and "chosen rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Why, every man suffers in conflict keener far than the contest for honor and applause. And there are such men, who, amid injury, and insult, and misconstruction, and the pointed finger, and the scornful lip of pride, stand firm in their integrity and allegiance to a lot-