SYDNEY AND ITS HARBOR.

Compared, Queensland, April 20, 1896. In sailing down the east coast of Australia it will be seen that avery small indentation in the coast marks the entrance to Sydney Harbor. A person a few miles out at sea would never suppose that such a narrow break in the coast line could possibly be the entrance to the well-known and much-talked-of Port Jackson. But look at it. The high bluffs on the north and south of the narrow entrance are spoken of as the heads, and on the south head is placed a powerful electric light which I am told flashes its intelligence into Sydney is near for seventy miles through the darkness of night.

On reaching the entrance the vessel glides in so close to the cliffs that if a person could throw a stone from the deck to the fortifications above are musically visible on the southern and north-eastern sides. Passing on inside a large bay is seen to the right on extensive sheet of water stretched away to the left, while opposite to the entrance and less than half a mile inside the heads, a wall of brown sandstone rock stands up in defiance of the waves which rush in through the narrow entrance and break at its base. Very little time is allowed the "new chum" to contemplate as to which way the vessel is to go to Sydney, for as soon as the vessel is well inside the outer line a sharp turn is made to the left and a few minutes steaming is sufficient to place the ship of lucky coast known as the South Head, between the ship and the ocean's power. Though the waves lash themselves into foam, but a short distance astern, no motion is transmitted from them to the ship, and we are very pleasantly made aware that after braving the dangers of the rolling sea we are at last safely ensconced in what is generally the finest harbor in the world. Sydney people point to it in praise. The first question the new comer has to answer generally is, "What do you think of the harbor?" It may not so beautiful the repeated questioning might become very tiring, and as it is, a person often feels inclined to give some sarcastic or industry wholly due to the energy and skill of the people, to which they can point with some pride.

Sydney harbor is not so safe as the harbor of San Francisco but is spacious for all that owing to the depth of the water and the fact that it is from five miles from the Heads to the city. The beauty is partly lost to the tourists on the water, as there are no steady trips when vessels regularly leave the Heads and go up the harbor, so that the tourist is left to see the harbor as best he can, and which in some places are covered with verdure and extensive forest growth. But to my mind, the numerous bays or horse-shoe heads, as I might call them, with which the shores of the harbor are indented having rugged rocks "points" or steep romantic projections here and there with shady nooks or bays between, so suggestive of that solitude where one is most alone, greatly assist in making an harbor so attractive to the eye.

As many of these bays reside members of the great army of office workers in the city, who find the bay the only so very exhausting after the heat and confinement of the day in town. The splendid view of the harbor with its ever shifting scenery of shipping craft, that is had from the rising ground near the bays, and the opportunity of having one's own bays and enjoying a quiet dell on Sundays, makes these bays the favorite "Close to the harbor." But doubtless many appreciate the health giving power of the ocean breeze to only reach those bays, the shelter afforded by the rising ground and the porous nature of the rocky soil, and then seek to escape the deadly sleeping gases.

Some of these public bays are used as pleasure resorts, and judging by the crowds that throng the steamers that run to such places on special occasions as well as public holidays, the investment must be a good one. The coloniers, by the way, are well supplied with holidays and also with the class of people who believe in availing themselves of every opportunity of having fun, whether they can afford it or not. Times are said to be hard, but there seems to be very few of the people who delay themselves or think of tomorrow. "One world at a time" seems to be the idea of many of the people as far as religious thought is concerned, and the idea of time seems to be the thought of the majority of the people in the spending of their earnings. The motto seems to be,

"Enjoy the wine youth and pleasure now,
Age comes creeping and death pursues fast."

In firing up one of these harbor resorts after the shelter afforded by a shadow a large dancing hall and refreshment rooms are built, a boat shed well supplied with boats and a store put are placed and the place is ready for business. The dense growth of timber and shrubbery from the beach to the hills is never disturbed in any extent. The Australian people seem to think the hand of man but mars the gifts of nature, and hence around these pleasure resorts the sandy blackbutt and grass trees may generally be seen growing in all their original crookedness and scantiness of leaves. Scattered over the hills may be seen masses of sandstone protruding above the surface, interspersed with clumps of banksiands, masses of lilies, sarsaparilla vines and wild cucumbers, making a network of vines and scrub that is very difficult to penetrate, and in When Australian wild cucumbers are mentioned, the reader must not picture to himself the large black cucumber of Utah, but imagine something about the size of a smaller three cent, green in color and possessing a great deal of the acidity of a lime, but will not make a mouth.

At many of these resorts I am sorry to say, the bar seems to be one of the principal attractions and it is no uncommon thing to see male bars of the "Young Australia" or Sandham type, who, when more in because more, as they term, have risen the water with oath an old bushman and relate experiences of some mining or bush life in a manner so strong, as it is explanatory and not to mention.

Passing down the harbor the "new coacher" what is called another beach, about six miles inside the heads, is situated near the center of the inner reach at this point is about two miles across. This beach is one which the English government and is used as a place of storage and supplies for the many crystal cruisers of which may generally be seen anchored close by. In time of war, this island would possibly be most rare valuable owing to the best possible cover for any of the warships in command of the harbor, and is accordingly so fortifications.

Further down we pass the pretty bay known as Fort Cuba and lay in wait of subway's celebrated "Bay" and "Bay" and south of which Fort Bay has known as Quarantine, or "Quarantine" to Sydney. Fort Bay is a very pretty place, and is a favorite resort of people, as the steamers run to it every half hour. Quarantine