

MISCELLANEOUS.

Written for this Paper.
AUSTRALIA.

"Coolgardie" has become almost a household word in the colonies, and the Muncchausen stories from the Western Australian goldfields have caused a great rush westward. During the months of August and September the New Zealand steamers were crowded with eager fortune hunters, and "Gold! Gold! Gold!" was the all-prevailing topic. On September 17th and 18th, three large steamers left Auckland loaded with passengers to their utmost capacity. The S. S. Mararoa had about five hundred passengers aboard, and the wharves were crowded with friends and relatives who were not deterred by the cold, drizzling rain from bidding their associates and kindred "goodbye," and wishing them success in the golden west.

At 2:30 p. m. the last signal whistle was blown, and the stately vessel slowly moved away from the wharf. 'Twas a pleasant sight to witness the hundreds of waving hats and handkerchiefs, and to hear the cheering farewell greetings from the lusty throats of the enthusiastic multitude on shore; and even the humble Mormon Elder rejoiced to know that amongst that eager, happy throng, were a few honest-hearted souls, wishing him "God speed" on his mission of love.

After a pleasant sail of nearly five days, the rock-ribbed shores of Australia were dimly seen in the distance. Many of the readers of the News, probably, have no idea of the vastness of this great continent in the Southern Pacific, and the illimitable resources of its five colonies, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, containing nearly three million square miles of territory. History says that the coast was first sighted by Portuguese mariners in 1540, but to the Dutch belongs the honor of publishing the first authentic account, and in 1644 they named it Terra Australis, or Great South Land. More than a century later, the brave and intrepid English mariner, Captain James Cook, explored the eastern coast, and claimed the country for the British crown. It was an opportune discovery, having been secured while England was hopelessly struggling to retain control of her American colonies, and it served to console and compensate her, to some extent, for the loss of an empire. It is claimed to be the noblest reward of Britain's maritime enterprise. The accession differed from other colonial conquests, in the fact that it was gained without the sword. It proved to be a great extension of English borders without the bloodshed and sanguinary battles which too often mar her victories. Neither was it a conquest obtained by fraud, or violence. The conquerors were not ruthless and bloodthirsty warriors, but courageous and determined explorers, at whose advent the degraded and debased aboriginal cannibals fled in terror inland, crying "Warra, Warra," (go away, go away.)

In 1770, Captain Cook reported definite information with regard to the land then known as New Holland, having

approached it through Torres Straits on the north, and explored down the east coast. Seventeen years later, England commenced to utilize her new dominions by founding penal settlements at Botany Bay, the scene of Cook's principal explorations. With the arrival of the first cargo of convicts in 1788, the beautiful harbor of Port Jackson was discovered. On disembarking, the new population was found to consist of 1,030 individuals, nearly all convicts, and the entire live stock, three months later, consisted of five horned stock, seven horses, forty-eight sheep and goats, seventy-four pigs, besides a limited supply of turkeys, geese, ducks, etc.

It is not advisable to detail the sufferings and hardships endured by such a system of colonization. Flour and other provisions had to be imported. The convicts were almost uncontrollable, as they were goaded to desperation by innumerable acts of cruelty. It must not be supposed that these exiles were all hardened criminals. At that period, the criminal laws of England were very severe, and for the most trifling offenses some of the noblest and best British blood was branded with a convict stain. What are classed as indiscretions today, were then heinous crimes, punished with penal servitude for life. No wonder that many of these innocent victims of spite, jealousy, and treachery should resist the inhuman tasks imposed upon them by unprincipled warders and officers. The lynchings in the Southern States pale into insignificance when compared with the blood curdling atrocities perpetrated here, in the name of law and justice, and it will require centuries to efface this blot from the British escutcheon. It is too soon for officious English committees to inquire into the supposed shortcomings of their neighbors,—re Southern States lynchings,—and it savors too much of Pharisaism and the "whited sepulchre." The scenes of wholesale whippings and hangings are still notorious landmarks, causing one to shudder at the thought of "man's inhumanity to man." Well may colonial writers endeavor to draw a veil over this dark page of what may be termed the convict period. They frankly confess that they "cannot afford to stir too deeply the mud of early-day brutality," and all concur in letting the dead past bury its dead.

For many years after the first landing there were no colonists in Australia but convicts, and no proper settlers but ticket-of-leave men, some of whose descendants are now found amongst the wealthiest and aristocratic classes in the colonies. Thirty years later, New South Wales, which then embraced the whole eastern seaboard of Australia, possessed a population of 29,783, but three fourths of these were convicts. Since then the colonies of Victoria and Queensland have been formed out of this territory, leaving New South Wales with an area of 311,000 square miles, about twice as large as California. Its distance from the equator is about the same as Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The climate is exceedingly mild, and, even on the coast, the cold in winter is seldom so severe as to require fires. The country suffers the most from the prolonged drouths in summer. Wool

is the chief product of the colony, and today's sales in the Sidney market amount to 9,339 bales. Scoured wools were sold privately at twenty eight cents, new clip greasy wools at fourteen cents. Merino and cross-bred wools from fifteen cents to seventeen cents per pound. The immense flocks and herds furnish the colonial cities with meat, and also sustain a large export trade. In 1890, New South Wales reported fifty-six million sheep, and nearly two million cattle. The agricultural resources are also well-developed, and vineyards and orange-groves are numerous and extensive. All kinds of semi-tropical, and many of the tropical fruits thrive well. The present population of the colony is 1,121,000.

Sydney is the capital and metropolis of the colony, and is beautifully situated upon Port Jackson harbor, which is said to be the finest harbor in the world, consisting of a calm expanse of deep water extending ten miles inland. It was a magnificent sight gazing from the deck of the vessel upon the green-clad hills, the landscape relieved with thousands of suburban residences, and the coast line broken with innumerable inlets and bays. Large and well-equipped ferry steamers were plying in all directions, conveying thousands of passengers to their places of business. Sydney is a veritable European town, but its narrow, irregular streets are not proportionate to the rush of traffic, and hence the thoroughfares are often blocked. Electric cars (cable,) have just been introduced, and they are quite an improvement on the unwieldy and unsightly steam tram cars which fill the air with dust and smoke, and terrify foot-passengers, with their whistle and din, as they rush through the principal streets. The city possesses a large number of very fine business blocks and imposing public buildings, the most important of which are the town hall and the general post office. The latter is one of the handsomest and largest structures in the Southern hemisphere. This imposing edifice is rendered doubly conspicuous by a lofty and majestic tower, which can be seen from all parts of the city. Permission was obtained to ascend the clock tower, 242 feet high. The dials are fifteen feet in diameter. The striking and chiming bells weigh nearly eight and a half tons, and on each bell is inscribed a line from Tennyson's "In Memoriam."

Ring out the false—ring in the true,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring out redress to all mankind;
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
Ring in the common love of good.

An extensive panoramic view of the city and surrounding country was obtained from the glass lantern at the summit of the tower, but it was almost a pleasure to descend from the dizzy height.

The attractions of Sydney are too numerous to mention, such as the botanical gardens, Hyde Park, the museum, etc., etc. The national art gallery contains many of the finest works produced in modern times, one of which cost \$15,000. The sculpture on exhibition attracts general attention. One prominent piece illustrates Hood's "Song of the Shirt," and was purchased for \$5,250.

The most central and magnificent site in the city is reserved as the Public Domain, and contains 138 acres. The