CHAPTER LI.

SOLDIERS, CEMETERIES, POUNDS, AND APOSTLES.

SYNOPSIS.—Colonel Collins' Garrison Orders.—Departure of Colonel Collins.—Military Changes.—The First Military Court-martial.—The First Military Funeral.—Military Gossip.—Burial Grounds.—Burial Hill.—Early Interments.—The First Monolith.—The Jewish Burial Ground.—Funeral of Miss Davis.—Preparations for Mr. Michael Cashmore.—Mr. Lewis Hart's Interment.—The Old Cemetery.—The First Male Interment There.—The First Female Interment.—John Batman's Burial.—Monuments of Cemetery Grants to Dissenters.—A Funereal Tariff.—Primitive Undertakers and Undertakers.—The First 'Professional' Undertaker.—Resurrectionism and Ghosts.—Abduction of a 'Lady' Corpse.—Point Ormond Burial Ground.—The Graves at Ring's Island.—Melbourne General Cemetery.—Pounds.—A Marvellous Magpie.

I

n 1878 there was issued from the Government Printing Office a Parliamentary paper intituled, Early Historical Records of Port Phillip, and it would not be easy to find more curiously interesting reading, as it treats of the exploration of Port Phillip by Mr. Charles Grimes, the New South Wales Surveyor-General, in 1802-3; and the abortive attempt of Lieut. Governor Collins to found a convict colony at Sorrento in 1803-4. Its contents are three-fold: (a) The Journal of Exploration, (b) The Order Book of Collins, and (c) The Journal of the Rev. Robert Knopwood, Episcopalian chaplain, appointed to the cure of souls in the projected settlement. Such historically invaluable relics would, in all probability, have never seen the light of publicity but for the praiseworthy industry of Mr. John J. Shillinglaw, the Secretary of the Central Board of Health, who succeeded in disintering in the Colonial Secretary's office (Sydney), the Grimes' Reliquioz. The second mentioned was supplied by Mr. C. E. Collett, Sub-librarian of the Tasmanian Parliament; and the third is a presentation to the Victorian Government by Mr. J. E. Calder, an ex-Surveyor-General of Tasmania.

I avail myself of the opportunity now offered to testify to the laudable public spirit manifested by Mr. Shillinglaw (no mean authority himself in all appertaining to our early annals), and to thank him for his invariable courtesy to myself, his readiness to oblige whenever consulted, and the kindly interest taken in my efforts to save from oblivion many a by-gone incident that would otherwise have been irretrievably lost.

MILITARY.

The first armed force stationed in Port Phillip dates back more than thirty years before the arrival of either Batman or Fawkner. Accompanying the Collins Convict Expedition was a detachment of Royal Marines, the rank and file of which consisted of:—First Lieutenant, William Sladden; Second Lieutenant, J. M. Johnson; Third Lieutenant, Edward Lord; Sergeants, 3; Drummer, 1; Fifer, 1; and 39 privates. Their duty was to maintain order, and protect life and property at the Convict Settlement at Sorrento, where they were under canvas. David Collins, the Commandant or Governor of the little colony, was also a Colonel of Marines, and on the 18th October, 1803, as Commander-in-Chief, he issued the subjoined "Garrison Orders":—

The Lieut.-Colonel on taking command of the detachment of Royal Marines, landed at Port Phillip, entertains a hope that they will all feel a just sense of the honourable situation in which they are placed. They have been selected by their Sovereign to compose the garrison for the protection of this infant settlement. He trusts this will stimulate them to use their best exertions, and enable the Lieut.-Colonel to report to the Secretary of State that such a trust has not been unworthily placed in them. He hopes they all know that obedience to orders, sobriety, and cleanliness form the
essential points in the character of a good soldier. While he observes that these are attended to, he shall feel a pride in having them under his command, and shall hold it his duty, by every means in his power, to render their situation comfortable. He is unwilling to mention the word "punishment," but it is necessary they should know his firm determination to have the strictest obedience paid to such orders as he may think proper to give from time to time for their regulation, and trusts that when at a future period this shall be joined by other detachments of their brave comrades, he shall be able with pleasure to hold up this small band as an example worthy their imitation. The officer of the day will have the charge of the guards, and once during the night will go the visiting rounds. A patrol of a corporal and two privates will occasionally, between the relief of the centinels, go round the encampment and take up all persons that they may find after the tattoo has beat, and bring them to the quarter-guard. The detachment off duty will parade for drill at seven o'clock every morning (Sundays excepted), if the weather will permit. The civil and military officers wanting the countersign may have it on application to Lieut. Sladden. The quarter-guard to be augmented by three privates to-morrow; the additional centinel is for the preservation of two water-casks at the watering-place, which are appropriated solely to the use of the civil and military establishment."

The salutary lessons instilled by this proclamation may be learned with advantage now as then, and as a rule they were acted up to by those for whose benefit they were intended, though there was occasionally a notable exception. It was only on the following day (the 19th) that the Commandant was obliged to constitute a tribunal for the trial of delinquents, in the form of a Garrison Court-Martial at 11 a.m., at Lieut. Johnson's marquee, when a prisoner was tried for drunkenness and insubordination, and the result was thus publicly announced on the 23rd—

"Sergt. Richard, sergeant of the 1st parade company having been found guilty of the crime with which he stood charged before a Court-Martial, was sentenced to be reduced to the pay and duty of a a private centinel, but some alleviating circumstances having appeared in the course of the proceedings, and in the defence offered by the prisoner, he was recommended by the Court to the clemency of the Commanding Officer, which recommendation he was pleased to confirm, and the prisoner was restored to his former situation."

A perusal of the several Garrison Orders issued by Collins during his brief stay (from 16th October, 1803, to 26th January, 1804), discloses an amusing inkling of the military life of the period, and a few extracts will be read with interest.

"23rd October.—This being the anniversary of His Majesty's accession to the throne, the detachment will assemble in front of the encampment at twelve o'clock, and fire three volleys in honour of the day, after which the guard will mount at two o'clock."

"The presence of the officer of the day being at all times indispensably requisite in the camp, he is not, on any pretence, to quit it without the knowledge of the Commanding Officer. The comfort and appearance of the military depending much upon their cleanliness, the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty were pleased to admit a certain number of women to accompany their husbands on the present expedition, for the purpose of contributing to that end, by washing for the detachment. The Commanding Officer therefore directs and appoints the following women to be so employed, and in the following manner, namely:—The wife of William Bean, private, to wash for 15 persons; the wife of George Carley, private, to wash for 15 persons; the wife of James Spooner to wash for 14 persons; and as an ample supply of necessaries has been sent out with the detachment, he will not admit of any excuse for their appearing in a dirty, unsoldierlike manner, discreditable to themselves and to the corps to which they belong. The different packages and cases in which the marine stores and clothing are contained, are not, on any account, when emptied, to be destroyed or converted to any other use without the approbation of the Commanding Officer."

"1st November.—The Commanding Officer is obliged to direct that in future the allowance of spirits shall be mixed with three waters, and issued twice a day to the detachment. The officer of the day will taste it when mixed. The quarter-master will continue to receive the allowance daily
from the Commissary, but he will take it into his charge, and see that it is mixed agreeable to the above order at the marine store tent.

8th November.—The two casks at the watering-place, which have been appropriated to the use of the civil and military officers, being properly prepared to be shut up during the night, the sentinel at that post will be withdrawn at seven o'clock at night, and planted there at the same hour in the morning. The keys of these casks are to be lodged with the Adjutant, and the persons concerned will attend to the regulation, and cause whatever water they may require to be got within the above hours.

13th November.—The quarter-master will employ the tailor belonging to the detachment, and such other tailors as the Commanding Officer may appoint, in altering the clothing that became due in June last. The suits are to be fitted to the men, and made up according to the pattern established by the Admiralty. Each suit when finished is to be labelled, and put into the care of the quarter-master, until the whole are completed, when they will be issued. This work will be put in hand on Monday. A review of arms and necessaries to-morrow morning as usual, after which the Articles of War will be read.

16th November.—A copper being erected near the watering-place for cooking the provisions, and proper persons appointed to attend it, the Lieutenant Governor prohibits the making of fires for cooking the convicts' provisions, in any other part of the encampment except on the beach near the carpenter's hut, where another copper will be put up for the accommodation of the people at that end of the encampment. The superintendents will attend to this regulation.

21st November.—The Commanding Officer is concerned to be under the necessity of establishing the following drill for the non-commissioned officers. On Wednesday from six until seven in the morning; on Saturdays from two until three in the afternoon.

23rd November.—The Commanding Officer is surprised to observe the unsteady appearance of the men at the evening parade. This can only proceed from their determination to evade the regulations which he adopted in the hope of preventing this unsoldierlike appearance that he complains of in them, and which if persisted in will compel him not to increase the quantity of water, but reduce the quantity of spirits which is at present allowed them.

27th December.—The Commanding Officer is concerned to observe the shameful conduct of several of the soldiers of the detachment. Drunkenness is a crime that he will never pass over, and to prevent as far as in him lies their disgracing themselves, and the Royal and Honourable Corps to which they belong, by incurring the censures of Courts Martial, he directs that in future their allowance of watered spirits shall not be taken to their tents but drank at the place where it is mixed, in the presence of the officer of the day. If this regulation shall be found insufficient, he assures them that the first man who is found guilty of drunkenness by a Court-Martial shall never again receive the allowance of spirits.

It will be observed from this notification that what is now adopted as the modern specific for an universal nuisance, was one of very early introduction into the colony.
feels it necessary to point out to them that it is the duty of all good soldiers to discountenance such a proceeding, and report it to their officers, as their concealing it may be attended with consequences very fatal to themselves, as well as injurious to the Service of their Sovereign, to whom every man has sworn and owes allegiance.

"17th January.—The detachment will parade at half-past eleven in the forenoon to-morrow, and at twelve o'clock fire three volleys, it being the anniversary of the day upon which Her Majesty's birth is kept. The quarter-master will issue a new clothing to the detachment, who will wear it to-morrow."

The penal settlement was broken up on 30th January, 1804, and Collins passed away for good from the harbour of Port Phillip.

In consequence of the semi-convict element in the primitive population of Port Phillip, and the existence of un-manumitted prisoners in the Government and assigned service, the presence of a detachment of soldiers in Melbourne was indispensible, and consequently four days after the arrival of Captain Lonsdale, the first Police Magistrate and Commandant, the "Stirlingshire" from Sydney (5th October, 1836) brought Ensign King with a detachment of 30 men from the 4th Regiment, and such was Melbourne's first military garrison. In 1838 a slight augmentation was made, bringing the number up to 35 rank and file, under two subalterns, with a "band" consisting of a drummer, minus a fife or other accompaniment. In January, 1839, there was a further increase, the town was made the headquarters of a Company, and the Officers were—Captain Smith, Lieutenant Vignolles, and Ensign McCormac. In December, 1840, the military establishment of Port Phillip is thus classified:—Captain: Charles F. H. Smith; Lieutenant: Francis Durell Vignolles; Ensign: Samuel Rawson. Present—fit for duty at Melbourne—1 Captain, 2 subalterns, 2 sergeants, 3 corporals, 1 drummer, and 26 privates. At Geelong: 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 6 privates. On escort to Sydney—(not returned)—1 sergeant, 1 corporal, and 5 privates. Commissariat Department: Deputy Assistant Commissary General—Charles Howard.

At the commencement of 1841 Captain Smith retired from the service, and the command for the time devolved upon Lieutenant Vignolles.

In 1842 the military consisted of a detachment of the 80th Regiment, and there were stationed in Melbourne:—Captain: C. Lewis; Ensign: M. D. Freeman; with 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, and 37 rank and file. At Geelong: 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 6 rank and file; and at Portland: Lieutenant H. A. Hollinsworth, 1 sergeant, 6 rank and file. Commissariat, as before.

Thus the number went on alternating, and in a few years substantially increasing, the Officers were popular, and identifying themselves with every sport, amusement, and reunion on the cards; as ready to ride in a race as to participate in a duel; to dance at a ball as to assist in putting out a fire, and on the whole considered thorough good fellows. The Non-Commissioned Officers and privates also fraternized with the townspeople. Their duty mainly consisted in supplying gaol-guards and escorts, and only on a couple of occasions were they called out to quell a popular tumult.

The military for several years were miserably barracked, the soldiers in hovels, and the Officers in huts with some, but small, pretensions to comfort. The first barracks was a clay, bark, and bush erection on the "Government block" between King and Spencer Streets; the second the old brick gaol in Collins Street West, on its vacation as a prison; the third a corrugated iron range of buildings off Spencer Street, at the end of Latrobe Street, and the present barrack site on the St. Kilda Road was not thought of until January, 1849, when an Ordnance Officer from Sydney selected it.

The first Court-Martial held in the colony was on the 25th August, 1839, presided over by Major Ryan, from Launceston, when a private named Stokes was tried for robbing a comrade, and received a sentence of seven years' transportation. The second occurred on the 9th June, 1846, when Private Warrington was convicted of the double offence of drunkenness and using abusive language to Sergeant Leary. The Report of the Court was transmitted to the Commander of the Forces at Sydney, and the final result was three months' imprisonment.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

The first soldier's funeral in the colony was on the 11th March, 1844. Sergeant M'Culla, of the 99th Regiment, was seized with sudden illness, and died in a few hours, presenting the indications generally attendant upon Asiatic cholera. His body turned blue, and when this got to be known, there was great alarm through the town, and rumour speedily circulated the astounding intelligence that several persons were attacked by similar symptoms, which was subsequently ascertained to be only a scare. Notwithstanding the temporary panic, M'Culla was interred in the (now) old burial ground with military honours, and a firing party of twenty placated his manes with the orthodox farewell volley.

In April, 1847, four small pieces of Ordnance were received in the town, and carriaged outside the barracks walls in Collins Street West, with their muzzles pointed towards the Yarra, as if to warn off any invading force rash enough to come up the river. There were then no intervening buildings to intercept the view.

The gold discoveries in 1851 necessitated a further increase of the military force, and consequently, on the 27th December, a reinforcement of Ensign Finch and 31 rank and file of the 11th Regiment arrived from Sydney. The immediate purpose of the addition was to enable the Officer in command (Captain Conran) to provide a Non-Commissioned Officers' guard for the Treasury, where much of the gold brought by the escorts from the diggings, used to be deposited; and an Officers' guard for the Gold Commissioners' tent at Mount Alexander. Lieutenant Maunsell was ordered to the Mount with a contingent, which was not to do any police duty. He was to have 10s., and the men 2s. 6d., extra pay per diem, an arrangement to which they could have no objection.

As with everything else, so with the military, did the immediate future work changes little expected by even the greatest wiseacre of the time.

The Old Colonist with the "marvellous memory," to whose kindness I have referred in other chapters, has favoured me with a memo, of military gossip of a highly readable kind. His style is more discursive than my sketch, and he does not limit himself to the chronological lines which I have drawn. As he writes solely from personal recollection, some discrepancies may be noticeable between him and me; but, after making all reasonable allowances, the communication may be perused with much interest at the present day:

"The first Garrison in Melbourne was composed of a detachment of the 4th Regiment, the 'King's Own,' a renowned and highly distinguished contingent of the British army. For upwards of 200 years this corps had been noted for its bravery, especially under Wellington in the Peninsular campaign. When Sir Richard Bourke visited the infant settlement of Port Phillip in 1837, and landed where is now the Queen's Wharf, he was received by a guard of honour of the 'King's Own.' Captain Lonsdale, the first Police Magistrate of the new Province, and other officials, belonged to the same regiment, as also did Mr. George Wintle, the first gaoler, who had been regimental drum-major.

"In 1839 the barracks, consisting of a long slab building on the Government Block, between West Bourke and Collins Streets, were occupied by the Grenadier Company of the 28th Regiment, who all wore bearskin hats, branded with the regimental number on the front and back. This distinction was given them to commemorate a deed of valour displayed when they landed at Aboukir Bay, in 1801, under General Sir Ralph Abercrombie. They were encountered by a French Infantry Regiment, which, at the point of the bayonet, they drove up the sand hills near the landing place, and, while thus engaged, were suddenly attacked in the rear by another French regiment; but they were equal to the occasion, for while the front rank defeated their antagonists, the rear rank faced about and served their opponents in a similar manner, an event unique in the annals of war, and worthy of being held in remembrance. One of these number died while in Melbourne, and the funeral procession, preceded by a fifer and drummer, playing 'Adeste Fideles,' passed down Collins and along Queen Streets, to the cemetery.

"The 28th were succeeded in Melbourne by the 80th, the head-quarters of which were stationed in Sydney. A Company, under the command of Captain R. Lewis, was ordered to
Melbourne. Captain Lewis was a Waterloo veteran, and a very determined man, as was shown by a circumstance that happened during his stay in Melbourne. A riot took place at the time when Mr. Henry Condell was elected a member of the New South Wales Legislature in 1843. A mob attacked the premises of a Mr. Green, an ironmonger, in Elizabeth Street, opposite the Post Office, and he used firearms to protect himself, and the soldiers having been sent for, the 80th, under Captain Lewis, appeared on the scene with fixed bayonets, and charged up Elizabeth Street from the Post Office as far as St. Francis' Church. The mob being thus dispersed, Captain Lewis told them to be careful and not bring them down a second time, otherwise he would have some of their lives. The warning had so much effect that no further trouble was given. This brave veteran eventually became Colonel of the Regiment, and saw much service in India. Lieutenant Beers, the second in command of the Company, and a cadet of a distinguished North of Ireland family, died here, and was buried by his comrades early one morning in a very quiet manner.

The detachment of the 80th Regiment was replaced by a Company of the 99th, the head-quarters of which had recently arrived in Sydney. The 99th Regiment, all told, numbered 1,100 men, with an average height of 5 feet 7 inches. Several of their superior Officers were Peninsular veterans, and altogether they were a splendid Regiment. They had a capital band, which introduced the celebrated 'Railway Galop' to these colonies, and delighted the citizens of Sydney by playing frequently in the Domain. The 99th lost their Colour-Sergeant while stationed here. Going out duck-shooting in the swamp, near Batman's Hill, and catching cold, it settled on his lungs, and carried him off in a few hours; he was buried with military honours. The Company of the 99th did not remain here long, and were relieved by a company of the 58th, only lately arrived from England, in New South Wales, and in about twelve months they in their turn were relieved again by another Company of the same regiment, which arrived by the 'Shannock' steamer from Sydney; and as there was not sufficient room in the barracks for two Companies, they were quartered in a store in Flinders Street.

A number of juveniles were present to witness their landing, and as there were two Grenadiers with bearskins among the number, one of the boys was quite frightened by their appearance, and bolted off. The following Sunday the citizens were gratified to see two whole Companies of soldiers marching to church. They came along by Bourke Street to William Street, where the Protestants filed off to St. James', while the Roman Catholics, headed by Grenadier-Corporal M'Guinis (who afterwards joined the police), proceeded to St. Francis'. Sergeant Matthews, who was watch-house keeper for many years, also belonged to this Regiment.

"The 58th did not remain long here, as owing to the Maori outbreaks in New Zealand, the 58th and 99th regiments were ordered off there, and some hundreds of the soldiers lost their lives through the incapacity of the Colonel of the latter Regiment, who was the senior officer. The 11th Regiment, which, by this time, had arrived in Sydney, supplied a Company to replace the 58th, under the command of Major Blosse, and during their stay the Orange riot at the Pastoral Hotel took place, in reference to a dinner given by the Orange Lodge on the 13th July, 1846, when banners were hung out of the windows, occasioning an exciting popular tumult. A number of men broke into Blundell's (a gunmaker's shop in Queen Street), and carrying off all the arms they could lay hands on commenced a fusillade at the hotel. The soldiers were summoned, and paraded under the command of Lieutenant Wilton, a Roman Catholic (as Major Blosse, the Commander of the Company, was laid up with a broken leg). He ordered them to load with ball, and if directed to fire, to fire low. They then marched off to the Pastoral Hotel, and on arriving there two sections were placed facing up and down Queen Street, and other two sections in Little Bourke Street. The Mayor then read the Riot Act, and requested the people to disperse, which they did very quickly, and thus the soldiers were saved the very disagreeable duty of firing on them. The 11th were succeeded by a Company of the 99th Regiment again, under the command of Major Reeves, and after remaining some time were again relieved by another Company of the 11th, under Captain Conran. The 11th were stationed here when the Prince's Bridge was opened in November, 1850, and fired a salute from some cannons placed on the south bank of the Yarra. They remained in Melbourne until the advent of the 40th Regiment in November, 1852. Much had been heard of this celebrated corps, so
that when they arrived in the 'Vulcan' troopship, the townspeople were sorry to learn that owing to sickness on board, the vessel had been placed in quarantine for a few days. As the 'Vulcan' was anchored off St. Kilda, the residents of that locality were delighted every evening by hearing the strains of the magnificent regimental band. At length the day came when the Regiment was transhipped into the 'Diamond' river-steamer for conveyance to Melbourne, and as she passed the abattoirs on her way up the river the band played that beautiful air from Maritana, 'In Happy Moments.' This favourite piece was the first and last music heard from the 40th band, as it was played by them when leaving the Railway Pier for New Zealand in 1860.

"As many of the men were two medals for service in India, and were of splendid physique, there were few Regiments in the service that could have presented such an appearance. The colonists were proud of having such a distinguished Regiment in their midst, and many will never forget the numerous musical treats afforded them by the hand, under the leadership of that efficient musician and first-rate performer, Mr. Henry Johnson, who is still in our midst as collector for the Melbourne Hospital. It seems almost as if the good old times and the Fortieth Band were inseparably associated. -Adieu."

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The eminence north-westward of the township of Melbourne, and then away in the country, which was afterwards used as a signal station for shipping, was first named "Burial Hill" by the European settlers. In after times it was favourably known as the Flagstaff Hill, for it was a most popular and pleasant recreation ground for the inhabitants.

Here upon the green hillside was inhumed the first white corpse—the remains of Willie, the child of James Goodman, who was buried there on the 13th May, 1836—the first of the new colonists who found an early and final resting-place in a Melbourne Cemetery.

The second funeral there was that of Mr. Charles Franks and his shepherd, murdered by some of the Goulburn blacks, on Franks' station, at Mount Cottrell, near the River Werribee. The bodies were conveyed on a dray to Melbourne, and accorded a species of public funeral.

The next occupant was a seaman attached to the revenue-cutter "Rattlesnake," a cruiser between Sydney and Melbourne. One day a boat shoved off from the vessel to land some firearms at Williamstown, and whilst the deceased was handling a loaded gun, it exploded and accidentally shot him.

The next was the wife of John Ross, a carpenter, who, in a fit of delirium tremens, committed suicide by shooting herself with a pistol. Her husband survived her for several years, and was a well-known resident of Heidelberg.

The infant child of a Mr. Wells closes the small death-roll.

In 1836 there were only three deaths recorded in Port Phillip, and but one in 1837, whilst the number ascended to twenty in 1838. In the beginning of the last-mentioned year the unsuitability of the place for a burial-ground capable of satisfying the increasing requirements of an enlarged population was so manifest that funeral operations were abandoned on the hill, and a more convenient locality sought elsewhere. It is to be regretted that the half-dozen corpses embedded in the Flagstaff Hill were not transferred to the first regularly constituted cemetery. Some years ago, on the transformation of the hill into a public garden, the burial-ground was not only securely railed in, but distinguished by a monolith, lettered on one side with the following brief, vague, and sad story:—

EREPTED
TO THE
MEMORY OF
SOME OF THE EARLIEST OF
THE PIONEERS OF THIS COLONY
WHOSE REMAINS WERE INTERRED
NEAR THIS SPOT.

This monument stands on the rise of the hill, a short distance from the Garden entry, at the intersection of Latrobe and King Streets.
An erroneous impression prevails, no doubt strengthened by misconceptions of old colonists, that no white people were ever buried on this hill, and that the human remains admitted to be there were the relics of half-a-dozen Aboriginals, the first who died in the Melbourne district after its European occupation. But there never was any reasonable ground for such a supposition. After the appropriation of a regular site for a burial-ground, some blackfellows and executed criminals were interred outside its Northern boundary, near the Eastern corner, a portion of the now Queen Victoria Market in Victoria Street. When certain excavations were being made there, the poor remnants of mortality were rudely disturbed, and those who were unable to account for the circumstance were only too willing to assign it to some terrible unatoned-for tragedies perpetrated during the exceptionally sensational crisis which marked the first two or three years supervening on the gold discoveries.

There is a curious history connected with the first Jewish burial-ground. It was a piece of land presented for the purpose by a Mr. Abraham, one of the early colonists. It was on a stony rise at the Merri Creek, between the now Northcote and Merri Creek bridges, and in no way adapted for such a mortuary purpose. The deceased was a lady of nineteen, a Miss Davis, the daughter of a Melbourne innkeeper. Previous to the interment a sexton was despatched to prepare a grave; but when he commenced to do so, he found himself working on what nature had designed for a quarry, and he was able to make little or no progress downward. Two quarrymen were enlisted to help him; pick and shovel and crowbar delved away amongst the bluestone, and by the time the cortege had arrived the excavation was not half-made. In fact the grave had to be absolutely quarried, and the funeral was delayed for several hours. At length Mr. Michael Cashmore—one of our Corporation Inspectors in 1884—read the usual prayers, and Miss Davis might be said to have found a resting-place in a sort of rude sarcophagus. Subsequently the coffin was exhumed and transhipped to Hobart Town. As a repetition of quarrying operations would be inconvenient on future occasions, the Jewish community applied to the Government for a burial-ground adjoining the reserve granted for a general one, and it was in some degree owing to the exertions of Mr. Ashur Hymen Hart that the request was, after some delay, acceded to. It is a singular and melancholy fact that the first Jew buried there was Mr. Lewis Hart, brother to A. H. Hart, by whom the obituary services were rendered. Mr. A. H. Hart afterwards had a handsome tombstone erected to the memory of the deceased. This monument bore the first Hebraic inscription in the colony, and it was written by the bereaved brother.

The Old Cemetery.

Unoccupied land abounded everywhere, and it had only to be asked for for public purposes. Accordingly an area of eight acres was assigned in 1838 as a public burial-ground. This space was afterwards extended to satisfy the demands of the various religious denominations. The Episcopalians obtained the first grant, next the Presbyterians, and the Wesleyans, Roman Catholics, Independents, and other sects at various times. Though the Government freely parted with the land, no public funds were allowed for fencing, and for a while the cemetery was an open common, trampled by cattle and horses and swine. To remedy in some measure this disgraceful state of things recourse was had to a public subscription, and the preaching of charity sermons. The management of the cemetery was very defective, probably by reason of the divided proprietary. The heads of the several religious communities were culpable for their irreligion in this respect, as a simple regard for the dead ought to have impelled them to concerted action. The Government neither cared or interfered.

The first male interred there was John Smith, a shepherd in the employ of Captain Pollock, a primitive settler in the Geelong district. He was speared one day by the Aborigines, and his remains were brought to Melbourne for interment. The second tenant was a child of Mr. Skene Craig, the first Commissariat Officer in the province, and alive (1884) in England.

The first female buried there was a young unmarried woman named Hannah Mayne. As the deaths recorded throughout the entire province in 1838 were only 20, and 67 in 1839, and as John Batman's funeral took place on the 8th May of the latter year, his was, probably, about the thirtieth interment in the Old Cemetery. As to the necessity for keeping anything like a register of the
interments, such a notion seems never to have occurred to the persons connected with the place; and some idea of the looseness observed may be gathered from the following extract of a communication with which Mr. George Walstab has favoured me:

"My connection with the Old Cemetery as Secretary to the present Trustees, commenced in 1866, without records of any kind. The cemetery was closed by Proclamation, dated 1st June, 1854. The interments from 1866 to 1881, both inclusive, are 217." The "closure" indicated, was not an absolute prohibition to bury, as an exception was made in favour of those who had interment allotments purchased. The families of such persons still possess the right of burial there, but it is not often availed of. Even many who had relatives interred there purchased other burial sites, and had the human remains exhumed and re-interred in what was known for years as the New Cemetery.

It appears that originally the Governors of New South Wales were empowered to grant land for burial grounds and other public purposes—but by the Acts 5 and 6 Victoria, c. 36, sec. 3, special authorization was given to reserve land as sites for the interment of the dead. The following memo. on the legal history of the Old Melbourne Cemetery, supplied by a "learned friend," whose researches have occasionally been of a rather weird character, and dry-as-dust reading, is of sufficient interest from an antiquarian point of view, to be included in a narrative of this kind:

"Previous to the year 1843, pieces of ground forming the Old Melbourne Cemetery seem to have been set apart and used by different religious denominations for the burial of the dead.

On the 30th January, 1843, a Crown grant was issued to George Lilly, William Wilton, J. Jones Peers, Thomas Jennings, and William Willoughby, in trust for the interment of the dead according to the use of the Wesleyan Methodists.

On the 18th May, 1843, a Crown grant was issued to the Right Rev. Wm. Grant Broughton, D.D., in trust for the interment of the dead, according to the use of the United Church of England and Ireland.

On the 19th October, 1843, a Crown grant was issued to William Ryrie, James Oliphant Denny, and J. Hunter Patterson, in trust for the interment of the dead, according to the use of the Church of Scotland.

On the 18th December, 1844, a Crown grant was issued to Michael Cashmore, Solomon Benjamin, and Ashur Hymen Hart, in trust for the interment of the dead, according to the custom of the Jews.

On the 18th December, 1844, a Crown grant was issued to Michael Cashmore, Solomon Benjamin, and Ashur Hymen Hart, in trust for the interment of the dead, according to the use of the Society of Friends.

And on the 30th November, 1847, another Crown grant was issued to the Rev. Alexander Morison, Thomas Fulton, and Edwin Mawney Sayers, upon trust, for the interment of the dead, according to the use of the Independents.

The pieces of land comprised in these grants do not include the whole pieces of land known as the Old Melbourne Cemetery, but there is a portion which was used by the Roman Catholics, and another portion which was set apart for the burial of Aboriginals, which appear to be still vested in Her Majesty—no grants appearing of record.

By the Act 14, Victoria No. 19, sec. 18, the Officer Administering the Government of Port Phillip was empowered by Proclamation to close the cemetery, except as to vaults or enclosed portions of land that were private property.

By Proclamation of 1st June, 1854, John V. Foster, the Officer Administering the Government, closed the cemetery in accordance with the last-mentioned Act. After this Proclamation, the Old Cemetery seems to have slept for 10 years, and all about the previous title, too, seems to have been forgotten.

By Order-in-Council (18th April, 1864), Richard Hale Budd, Alexander Brock, J. Cosgrave, J. Phillips, Robert Smith, and Moses Rintel, were appointed Trustees. This Order seems to have been made ignoring the previous Trustees altogether, and under the assumption that the provisions of the Cemeteries Statute 1864 were applicable.

N.B.—These Trustees seem to have acted as under the Cemeteries Statute, 1864.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

"By Part I. of the Amending Health Act, No. 310 (6th September, 1867) sec. 5, power was given to the Governor-in-Council to close any cemetery subject to exceptions, and by the 5th section of the Act rights of exclusive burial were saved if claimed as there mentioned.

"By Order-in-Council (28th October, 1867), under the last-mentioned Act, it was ordered that burials in the Old Cemetery should be discontinued, except by persons having rights of burial, who claim the right by notice in writing, left at the department of the Public Works within three months. This Order is published in the Gazette of 8th November, 1867.

"Application was made to the City Council to allow the foundations of a new wall proposed to be built round the Old Cemetery to be brought out on the footpath, and it appears that a new wall was built by arrangement with the City Council without reference to the parcels actually included in the grants of the Old Cemetery."

The Episcopalian subdivision of the ground was consecrated 18th April, 1838, by Dr. Broughton, the Metropolitan of New South Wales, on the occasion of his first Episcopal visitation, to Port Phillip; and on 20th October, 1844, a similar ceremonial was performed for the Roman Catholic compartment, by Archbishop Polding, then in Melbourne from Sydney.

In 1839, the Church of England authorities issued a formidable looking Schedule of Diocesan Fees, from which I transcribe the following items, as bearing on the topic under treatment:—

Burial in a grave—Clergyman, 2s.; Parish Clerk, 1s.; Sexton, 3s. 6d.; Total, 6s. 6d. Burial in a brick or stone grave—Clergyman, 10s.; Parish Clerk, 5s. 6d.; Sexton, 5s. 6d.; Total, £1 1s. Burial in a vault—Clergyman, £1 1s.; Parish Clerk, 7s. 6d.; Sexton, 7s. 6d.; Total, £1 16s.

The proportionate equity of this tariff of required disbursements is not so self-evident as would be desirable, for one cannot well see any just reason why a Clergyman should be paid five-fold as much for reading at a stone grave as at an ordinary one, and more than ten-fold in a vault; or that whilst the Clerk's responses were worth only a shilling in one instance, they should run up to 7s. 6d. in another, without the addition of a single syllable in the latter case. The Sexton as the hardest worked, was underpaid in proportion; but then his grave digging was soft and shallow, and in no way to be compared with similar work at the present day. The charges made by other religious denominations were much the same, and except the prayerful portion, whose efficacy I do not presume to question, precious little equivalent was given. In addition to these items the ground had also to be paid for.

One of the pioneer grave-diggers is, I am informed, alive in the year of grace, 1884, a resident of Collingwood. His name is William Willis, and though past his seventy-sixth year, is a hearty old buffer, who was provident in making provision for the sunset of life, and is reported to be fairly well in.

As was to be naturally expected, the tenanting of graves was followed by the erection of tombstones, and other more ostentatious monumental remembrances. Some of the mementoes were fabricated of wood, and those of stone were chiselled out of a material imported from Hobart Town.

Vaults after a time followed. The most skilful artist in this branch of masonry, was an individual named John Hughes, who stuck to his craft until after the gold discoveries of 1851, when he turned shopkeeper in a general way, and sold his wares at a small tenement in Bourke Street, next to the now so well known "Beehive" corner. He died in a few years, leaving a wife and son. The wife still lives in Fitzroy, and the boy, grown into a curious looking mannikin, was a well-known pauper exhibit in Bourke Street, where with a tin plate, inscribed "The Oldest White Child in Melbourne," fastened on his breast, he solicited the alms of the thousands of wayfarers who daily passed him. He too has followed his father to that country where mendicancy is unknown.

PRIMITIVE FUNERALS AND UNDERTAKERS.

Nothing could well exceed the rough-and-ready style in which some of the early funerals were conducted, before the era of solemn-faced undertakers, glass hearse, nodding plumes, and automatic anthes. The coffins were uncouth specimens of clumsy carpentry—small packing-cases—wherein the defunct were thrust, with little or no attempt at sentiment. In one notable instance, an un-coffined
corpse was buried in Melbourne. One day in November, 1838, the remains of a man recently dead, were found in a hut a short distance from the intersection of Collins and Queen Streets. No one knew who he was, and there was no one to care what became of him. But, to permit his body to remain in a scorching hot wind was out of the question. At length three or four of the townsmen wrapped the poor corpse in some old bagging, placed it on a chair, and so chaired it away to the cemetery. Arriving there, there was no official to render any help; the buryers had to turn grave-diggers, and the ceremony perfunctorily got through was soon over.

For some years the conveyance of coffins to the grave was a carriage on men's shoulders, and for the best of reasons, viz.—there was no other town mode available.

There has been a controversy more than once raised as to the identity of the first person obliging enough to undertake professionally for the becoming disposal of the dead, and more than one claim has been advanced, for a distinction posthumous in every sense. The following advertisement (10th January, 1839) to my mind effectually settles the question:

CARPENTER, JOINER, AND UNDERTAKER.

ROBERT FROST begs to inform the inhabitants at Port Phillip generally, that he has commenced business in the above branches, in Collins Street, Melbourne, and assures those persons who may honour him with their patronage, that all orders entrusted to his care will be promptly executed on moderate terms.

Funerals attended on the shortest notice.

This bill of mortality did not promise much for fortune making in the particular line, because, as before stated, there were only 20 deaths in the province during 1838, 67 in 1839, though the rate rose in 1840 to 198.

The luxury of a hearse was unknown until the arrival of Mr. Samuel Crook, who opened a "Cabinet and upholstery warehouse," in William Street, near the wharf. In January, 1840, he issued a trade manifesto, concluding with the consolatory intimation that "Funerals would be furnished punctually, and conducted in the nearest manner possible; and a hearse is in course of building and will be let out on hire." Crook soon after removed his coffin factory to the site of the present Victoria Coffee Palace, adjoining the Town Hall, in Collins Street, where he worked his mortuary appliances for many years. A year after, Mr. Thomas Croft endeavoured to improve on Crook's announcement for he "Combines the office of sexton and undertaker, and performs funerals on the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms." As an N.B. he adds "A mourning hearse if required." There was also a well-known undertaker for a long time recognized as a Melbourne identity. He was Mr. Thomas Jennings, who, in his day, saw many of the residents of the Melbourne cemeteries quietly disposed of, and it was not until 1884 that he followed them.

Formerly burial-grounds were identical with church-yards, and under denominational control. As a consequence, the parish clerk was a small pluralist as to his duties, commencing with his various ecclesiastical attentions to the pastor and other sacred belongings, and ending with grave-digging. All his functions were covered by his appointment as sexton, a term of much comprehension, and thus it came, that, when the grave-yards were placed apart from the religious edifices, the sexton's vocation made him as much at home in the cemetery as in the vestry. But the march of time and the change of circumstances rendered it incompatible with the dignity of the clerkship, that the amalgamation of the "professions" should continue, and it was so divided that, the grave-digger was declared to be a separate, though not an independent functionary.

RESURRECTIONISM AND GHOSTS.

For several years the Old Graveyard (cemetery it was never called) was quite outside the town. Northward the town in reality did not extend beyond Lonsdale Street, and the suburban residences
in that quarter consisted of a few comfortable hut-like cottages, some of them more than a mile apart. Vulgar credulity was exercised by rumours of resurrectionism and apparitions; and if only a tithe of what was gossiped about had happened, the ghostly fittings must have been incessant from curfew to sunrise. If one were disposed to give the subject any serious consideration, it would be found utterly untenable; for assuming the reality of a pro-medical raid, there would be no company left to perform in the hobgoblin pantomimes declared to be of common occurrence. If the graves so gave up their dead for the pecuniary advantage of the human night-ghouls known in Cockney slang as “bone-grubbers,” it is not to be supposed that the ghosts would remain behind, though where they would betake themselves is not so certain. The looting and the spiritualistic theories are therefore irreconcilable.

The “body-snatching” scare, I have little doubt, was kept alive by the drunken maulderings of a once Collins Street denizen, who was transported from England for plundering a London cemetery; and whenever he over-indulged (frequently the case) he loved to fight his churchyard battles o’er again, and pate of the unholy exploits in which he was concerned before the London slums saw the last of him. Certainly at the time I write of, there were no public institutions where a practitioner could procure a subject for surgical experiments. We had no Professors of Anatomy, no University Medical School or students requiring ocular demonstration in the science of dissection, and the Doctors and Surgeons of Melbourne were, as a rule, a jolly easy-going race, satisfied with a paying practice, and not troubling their heads much in adding to their store of demonstrative physiological knowledge. I have, therefore, not the slightest hesitation in pronouncing the wholesale assertion so made as simply preposterous, though I have heard of three cases which did really occur.

The operators at the graves and in the surgery have, like the abstracted bodies, passed out of this world to account for themselves in another. The children of some of them are now holding positions of consideration in the present generation, and I have therefore, no intention of awaking the silence of the tomb by mentioning names. The following incident was communicated to me recently by a friend to whom I am much indebted in connection with my Old Time CHRONICLES. Some years ago in company with a Melbourne mechanic (since dead) he was passing the Old Cemetery, at which the companion warningly pointed, and with an ominous shake of the head, exclaimed, “Well, Sir, I should not like to have been buried yonder in the old times.” On being asked why, his answer was that once upon a time the vault of an old colonist in which his wife was supposed to rest in peace, was believed to require some repairing in consequence of the wet having penetrated the foundation. He was commissioned to have the work done, and in doing so the vault was opened, and a careful look inside revealed the extraordinary circumstance that the lid had been shifted from the lady’s coffin, and the coffin was empty. Shocked at this disclosure the repairer did not know well how to act, but had the presence of mind to re-adjust the lid without an assistant workman becoming aware of the circumstances. The vault was then put to rights, and it was a source of anxious thought with the discoverer of the corpse abstraction, whether he should communicate the shocking occurrence to the unsuspecting husband. After due consideration he made up his mind that as the harm had been done and the period of the crime was uncertain, no good could result from simply rendering the unsuspecting husband miserable, who consequently remained in utter ignorance of a diabolical outrage, which it would be impossible for him to avenge. So the abduction of the lady corpse remained a close secret, and is now given to the public for the first time, but without the slightest notion of establishing any identity.

The ghost stories were even much more unreliable, though surely they could not be denied a “shade” of probability. Whenever a person at all notable died, the body was hardly cold in the earth, when it was rumoured the deceased appeared in some place or other; and though no person in sober senses was ever forthcoming to bear witness to the fact, the mystic canards obtained a large share of belief. John Batman, it was solemnly averred, perambulated his favourite hill at “high twelve” every night, and continued “beating the boundaries” until even after the first crow of cock. His ghost-ship was effectually laid when in 1870, the levelling of the hill commenced, and he never troubled it after. Twice he was said to have haunted his venomous rival “Johnny” Fawkner; once at Pascoe Vale on the Moonee Ponds, where J. P. F. resided for several years, and once in Smith Street, Collingwood,
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

Fawkner's habitat for some time before he died. Fawkner when questioned on the subject, met it with an indignant denial. "Ho! Ho! take my word, Batman would not be such a fool to play me such a trick, even if he could; and if he tried it on with me I would make it warm for the fellow."

The comfortable old house in Victoria Parade, at the corner of Fitzroy Street, was erected at a very early date for Mr. Arthur Kemmis, one of the primitive merchants. He resided there only for a few months, when he died; and I have heard it solemnly asseverated that the place was haunted until Mr. (now Sir A.) Michie moved into it, and whilst there delivered a lecture on "Ghosts," in the Melbourne Mechanics' Institute. The presumed cause of the ghostly disappearance is the exorcising influence generated by the intellectual chemicals employed in the preparation of the lecture.

There is a popular superstition amongst believers in the supernatural, viz.—that ghosts particularly affect places of Divine worship, and consequently the old churches of St. James, St. Francis, the Wesleyan Chapel (once where the Bank of Australasia is now), and the first Scots' Kirk, had, in vulgar belief, their nightly disembodied visitants through the appearance of the several individuals who first officiated as clerks in these "holy places." Faint shimmering lights, it was said, used to be seen there, and while the attendant at the Roman Catholic Church loudly intoned a Litany, the others exercised their vocal powers in appropriate selections of hymnody. The most searching enquiry, however, could never elicit anything but the vaguest hearsay testimony on the subject. It used to be also stated and believed by not a few, that a ghost would occasionally make a night-run on the banks, unlock the safes, roll out the cash on the counter, and amuse himself as a teller by rattling the gold, silver, and coppers, without ever paying or receiving any current coin of the realm.

The old Union Bank, at the north-west corner of Queen and Little Flinders Streets, was reputedly the most often so patronised whilst it was under the management of the late Mr. William Highett. In a conversation one day with him he assured me that the only nocturnal disturbance he ever heard there, was on an occasion when some depredators in the flesh displaced a number of bricks from the southern wall of the building, and would have succeeded in removing the bank safe with all the working cash, had he not been awakened by the noise, and appeared inside on the spot in the nick of time to spoil "their little game."

The early newspaper offices were particularly susceptible of spirituous influences, even of a more ardent flavour than the distillation of a cemetery, and it could not therefore be expected that such establishments should be disregarded in the spiritual world. The three primary journals—the Gazette, Patriot, and Herald, were consequently "ghosted," notwithstanding the efforts of "the Father of the Chapel" attached to each, to banish such inscrutable influences. The Gazette office was near the (now) Union Bank in Collins Street, and the hauntor (or rather hauntress) was a white lady costumed in the style of an Irish Banshee, who was supposed to have "set her cap" (more properly her long undulating curls), at Mr. George Arden, the sprightly, smart pungent-penned editor. But her modesty prevented her ever appearing when he was there. The newspapers then were bi-weekly; so the editorial room was two-thirds of its time, especially at night, deserted. It was then she appeared on the tapi, overhauled Arden's writing-desk, sat in his chair, and read his letters. A veteran compositor, known as "Jupiter" Brown, declared that he often saw her. He used to be much about there at all hours, and she would glide quietly past him with as scant ceremony as if he had no existence, strike a light, not with a match-box as now, but by dipping the top of a lucifer in a small acid bottle, the primitive mode, quietly sit down, and set to work. He declared he had often followed, with the determination of questioning the unbidden intruder; but when he arrived within talking distance, some spell gave his tongue such a twist, and so benumbed his brain, as to render him unable to carry out his intention. When afterwards asked to account for his repeated faint-heartedness he curtly and invariably answered with a Latin quotation, the only one he was ever known to know or employ—"Obstupui, steteruntque coma, et vox faucibus hazsit."

Old "Jupiter" often put me off with this illogical platitude, and it was my fixed conviction that, as there was a tavern known as the Imperial close by, where Brown was a frequent visitor, as Minerva is said to have sprung from the head of the Olympian Zeus, so by the aid of Bacchus the White Lady of Arden was the imaginary cerebral offspring of the Melbourne Jupiter.
The ghost of the *Patriot* office, situated rearward of the now Union Club Hotel, Collins Street, was supposed to be the *umbra* of a compositor, first bullied and then discharged by the proprietor, J. P. Fawkner, when he went on a "bust," overdrank himself, got turned over into the Yarra, and drowned. To take it out of "Johnny" he watched his opportunity, penetrated to the limited premises when the men were away, and made "pye" of everything within fingers' reach. The disordered type was often shown to Fawkner, who would get into terrible tantrums, and vow vengeance on the dead man if ever he got hold of him. It occurred to me that the "pye" was the confectionery of living hands, for Fawkner's irritable temperament often thrust him into hot water, and made him the frequent victim of unseemly practical jokes. To all newspaper offices there is attached a subordinate ministering imp, designated the "Printer's Devil," and a diminutive specimen of this order of terrestrials was once connected with the *Herald*. He was simply known as Charlie, and no one, not even himself, could tell his patronymic. He was a wee street Arab, picked out of the gutter when such animals were scarce—a stray lamb rescued from destitution by Cavenagh, the first proprietor, and for his years was a smart, precocious, useful little fellow. One day he was killed by tumbling out of a baker's cart, wherein he was enjoying a free jaunt, and the sudden death of Charlie was regretted by all his confreres, old and young.

There was in the office a very smart compositor, named Mullins, rather given to "swiping," both on and off duty, and soon after Charlie's disappearance, Mullins, on what were known as "pub nights," declared that the boy used to appear to him at frequent intervals. Mullins would start, vow that the ghostling was right before him, grimacing and posturing, and then would rush to a neighbouring tavern, and absorbing there a counter-irritant, return refreshed, or, as he declared, all right for the time. The *Herald* office then comprised two detached cottages, situated near the Little Collins Street entrance to the Royal Arcade, and I had lately joined the establishment. One night I was up to my eyes with proof reading in the small, but not uncomfortable, editor's crib, when Mullins staggered in for something I was correcting. Looking up at him I banteringly asked, "Well, Jem, have you seen the devil to-night?" and I had no sooner done so than Mullins shook as if with terror, and pointing to the blazing wood fire in the corner, exclaimed, "Look, sir, there he is, perched on the uppermost burning log. Look! look! how he thrusts out his tongue and grins like a cat. Ah! there, he's off now, I hear him tramping about the place; there, he's off now, and I hear him tramping about the place in every direction." Needless to say, I neither saw nor heard anything to alarm me; so I told the scared Mullins that the devil tramping was in reality the "D.T-ing" of certain spirituous influences peculiar to his system, and teetotally differing in flavour and smell from the graveyard emanations by which he seemed to be possessed. The manifestations continued whilst Mullins remained on the *Herald*, and when he left they evaporated with him, and the ghost of the so much talked-of poor little "printer's devil" was laid for evermore.

But the most hideously grotesque ghost "yarn" spun in the olden time, sprung out of the first and second criminal executions witnessed in Melbourne in 1842. The first men hanged in the colony were two Van Diemonian black murderers, on the 20th January, and the next batch three white bushrangers, 28th June of that year. The condemned burial-ground was, as before noted, close by the north-easterly corner of the public cemetery outside the fence. Therein were deposited the remains of the blackfellows, and nothing further was heard of them for more than five months, when they were joined by the white fellows, and shortly after it began to be rumoured that certain nights of the week (Tuesdays and Fridays) the most unearthly doings were indulged in by the ghosts of the five defunct individuals, who had the outside graveyard to themselves, but who, so soon as the night was well in, jumped out of their graves, and plunged into vagaries of a most astounding character, a species of pedestrianism which might be termed a combination of corroboree and hornpipe. The blackfellows in opossum rugs, and the whites in shrouds romped about in wild confusion, kicking and sparring at each other, prancing along by the northern boundary, westward to where the Melbourne pound was situated, and back to the starting point. The cattle-yard was at the now intersection of Elizabeth and Victoria Streets, and persons engaged here at unseasonable hours declared that they witnessed such exhibitions. One of these individuals
induced me to accompany him on a winter night to attest the performances, and though he protested
he could see everything as described passing before his eyes, the only view I could obtain was
the "cold, chaste moon," looking sulkyly down through a dim cloud; and the only conclusion to
which I could come was that my companion's superiority of vision was a species of second-sight,
produced by the enlightening influence of an over-indulgence in alcoholism; and when I hinted
so much I was plainly laughed at as a fool, who could not see beyond his nose. Richmond,
Prahran, and Collingwood Flat had each its special guardian goblin in the popular latitude, and though
no reliable evidence, either direct or circumstantial, could ever be adduced to elicit a verdict of the
existence of supernatural appearances, even from a jury of spiritists, a vague belief in such could not
be effectually divorced from the public opinion of the period.

Readers at the present highly-educated time may consider it unpardonable trifling to reproduce
such items of Port Phillip folk-lore, and my reason for so doing is a desire to convey an accurate
notion of one of the idiosyncrasies of the time treated of. Besides, I am disposed to think that there
is no country or era without its special psychological absurdities, and some of the supernatural fads of
the present day are just as absurd and irrational as the gruesome traditions evolved from the Old
Cemetery. From all I have read and heard of such mysterious influences, I have formed a conviction
that the ghost theory in all aspects and ages is about the most arrant myth that ever imposed upon
humanity. I cannot by any mental process bring myself to believe that any churchyard ever yawned
in the sense enunciated by Shakspeare, or that in the discomforting dictum of Milton—

" Millions of spiritual creatures walk the earth
Unseen, both when we wake and when we sleep."

POINT ORMOND BURIAL GROUND.

Beyond St. Kilda, near what was once known as "The Little Red Bluff," moulders the dust
of three men buried so long ago as the 21st April, 1840. Their names were—William Armstrong,
Samuel Craig, and John James. They were passengers by the "Glen Huntly" immigrant ship, from
Greenock, which arrived in the Bay on the 17th April, and having typhus fever on board, she was
quarantined there, and all hands were camped near the beach. The three men were buried close by,
and where they lay was enclosed with a wooden railing. The enclosure was preserved with some
ordinary regard to decency for several years, but during the last decade, or more, it has been so
utterly neglected that at the present time it is difficult to find the whereabouts of the graves. There
are four or five old posts stuck in the ground, but in such a manner as not to distinguish the
spot from the rest of the bare, weather-beaten plateau. Having, in the course of 1883, heard it stated
that the municipal authorities of St. Kilda intended to take some steps to protect and specialize the
locality in a befitting manner, and finding, after some time, that the project did not progress beyond
the stage of intention, I ventured to communicate with the Town Clerk on the subject. For
the courteous consideration accorded to my enquiries I beg to tender my acknowledgments,
and as the topic has been lately ventilated in some of the Melbourne newspapers, I would hope that the following
letters, addressed to me, may be deemed of sufficient interest to justify their publication:—

Town Clerk's Office,
Town Hall, St. Kilda,
7th January, 1884.

Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 31st ult., enquiring whether the St. Kilda
Borough Council has done anything to enclose and distinguish the spot where three persons were buried at Point Ormond, in
1840.

In reply, I beg to inform you that as yet nothing has been done in the direction indicated. Some two years
since the matter was brought under their notice (the Council), and it was intended to enclose the graves, and erect a
memorial slab. The matter, however, still rests in suspense. Within the last six months the Council made application
to the Lands Department to have the reserve at Point Ormond placed under their control, with a view to a fence being
erected along the cliff, and to plant certain portions, but was not successful.
The Reserve is at present under the control of a Committee of Management, consisting of the Honourable J. G. Dougharty, James Osborn, Samuel Griffiths, H. V. Duigan, and R. E. Jacomb, Esquires.

I have, &c, &c.,

JNO. N. BROWNE,
Town Clerk.

"Garryowen,"
Herald Office, Melbourne.

To "Garryowen,"
Herald Office, Melbourne.

Sir,—Referring to my letter of the 7th inst. acknowledging the receipt of yours of the 31st ult. respecting the graves at Point Ormond, I have now the honour by direction of the Council to inform you that it was their intention to expend a sum of money to enclose the graves of the three persons buried at the Red Bluff in 1840, had the ground in question been placed under their control, instead of which the Government placed this reserve under the control of several gentlemen, whose names were indicated in my previous letter. Whether those gentlemen will carry out the Council's intention in the matter I am unable to state.

I have, &c, &c.,

JNO. N. BROWNE,
Town Clerk.

It seems tolerably evident from the above that the St. Kilda Council has done all that could be reasonably expected to discharge its responsibility in the matter, and whatever blame may arise from a discreditable neglect must be transferred to other shoulders. To expend Borough funds in improving where no public ownership was legally vested, would amount to little short of a misappropriation. When the Government placed the reserve in a special trust, it was no doubt with the view that the Trustees should do something in the way of amendment, and the gentlemen nominated to the position, if they would not rest content with a somewhat inglorious sinecure, should bestir themselves in the public interest, and insist upon being supplied with sufficient funds to do at least what the Council offered. No outlay could possibly replace the Point in its condition in 1840, when the quarantine station was proclaimed there, for never again can it have the picturesquely umbrageous surroundings then so lavishly supplied by Nature. Civilization has not only shorn it of all its pristine attractions, but stripped it as bare as a picked bone. It is now a dreary, desolate, skeletony spot, though by a judicious and not excessive outlay, may be transformed into a most enjoyable and salubrious marine pleasure ground.

The Graves at King's Island.

There is another old graveyard, now almost forgotten, around which gloomier memories associate than any of the preceding. Though not within the territorial circuit of the colony of Victoria, as the catastrophe through which it was inaugurated once overwhelmed Port Phillip with a profound feeling of sorrow, it may be regarded as coming within the legitimate scope of this narrative.

On a rising ground at King's Island, wrapt in the murmurs of the sad sea waves, and washed by the wild storm-spray, are five common graves containing the relics of three hundred and four human beings, the melancholy remnants of three hundred and ninety-nine persons who, in August 1845, perished in the wreck of the "Cataraqui," an emigrant ship from Liverpool bound for Hobson's Bay. The spot was enclosed and a memorial tablet erected at the expense of the New South Wales Government. Unable to say if this mournful monument was kept in a proper state of renovation; and desirous (if possible) of ascertaining its present condition, I sought for information on the subject in various quarters; but in vain, for no one could tell anything about it. At length I found a friend in need in Mr. A. A. Le Soeuf, the Usher of the Legislative Council, to whom I am much indebted for valuable information in connection with several chapters of my CHRONICLES.
He kindly volunteered his services, and most effectually kept his word. Through him I ascertained that the Melbourne Customs department possessed no special information on the subject. All that could be said was that King's Island was within the Governmental jurisdiction of Tasmania. A promise was, however, given that an official enquiry should be made. This was done accordingly, and on the 25th March, 1884, I was afforded an opportunity through Mr. Le Soeuf, of perusing a correspondence in relation to the matter. A communication from Mr. Alexander Wilson, Engineer in charge of Ports and Harbours, dated 24th March, enclosed a letter from Mr. Edward Nash Spong, ex-Superintendent of Cape Dickham Light, addressed to the Master Warden, Hobart. It was dated, Rhyndaston, 17th March, 1884, and supplied certain information, in the words of the writer, "chiefly obtained from my sons, who have often visited the spot." Next follows a rough pen and ink drawing of an "iron tablet about 6 feet by 3 feet, in three pieces fastened to a large rock just above high water mark." This description does not tally with the one printed in the Melbourne newspapers of the period. Next is given the "Inscription from Memory," also materially different from the published version. The communication proceeds thus:—"David Howie, the Straits Constable, arrived on the island three or four days after the wreck to visit the four Tasmanian women (Aboriginals) employed by him hunting for kangaroo on the island, and who informed him of the wreck. He buried all the bodies he found washed up, in two large pits, just above high water mark, which were afterwards fenced in by the Port Phillip Government, but all traces of fencing have long since disappeared from lapse of time and bush fires. The tablet is in a very corroded state from the action of sea water, and the lack of paint for so many years." The latter portion of this extract is, I fear, only too true; but the first half about the lady kangarooers is an amusing exercise of some fertile imagination. The circumstances under which Howie, at the time a sealer, found the survivors, and saved them from the horrors of starvation, have been truthfully and specifically detailed in the chapter devoted to Shipwrecks. As to the improvised cemetery referred to, it should be a sacred obligation on the Tasmanian Executive to save it from oblivion.*

The Melbourne General Cemetery.

As years rolled on, the City gradually spread its wings northward, and houses sprung up so close to the Old Cemetery, as to render it necessary to obtain another site more proportionate to the increasing mortuary necessities of the population. Accordingly, in February 1849, the City Council adopted a resolution on the subject, which was transmitted to his Honor the Superintendent, but nothing definite was determined until the following year, when on the 23rd May a communication was received by the Council intimating that 40 acres of land had been reserved for a new cemetery about one mile northward of the town, and this was the nucleus of the now "Melbourne General Cemetery." In September 1850, the Act 14, Vic. No. 19, was passed "For the Establishment and Regulation by Trustees of a General Cemetery, near the City of Melbourne." This new necropolis was opened for public use on the 1st June, 1853, and how admirably it has been managed there is no need to say. Its present extent is 100 acres; and, through the courtesy of Mr. A. Purchas, Secretary to the Trustees (who though far from being the least zealous of our public officers, is far from being the least abused), I am enabled to state that the number of interments there, viz., from the opening day to the 31st December, 1887, was 132,414, inclusive of both sexes.

The first male buried there was John Alexander Burnett, and the first female Jane Bell. If I mistake not, this Mr. Burnett was formerly chief clerk to the well-known mercantile firm of Dalgety, Borradale and Co. in Bourke Street West, and was esteemed a man of a highly-cultivated intelligence, and much commercial knowledge. Burnett Street, St. Kilda, was so named in compliment to him.

*Full particulars of the wreck of the "Cataraqui" will be found on page 582, ante.
The first Pound was established on the 13th March, 1839, off Flinders, between Swanston and Russell Streets, just northward of the Corporation Free Baths. Its keeper was a Mr. George Scarborough, who, though he would not take a champion prize for good looks, was a worthy and energetic fellow in his way. He lived in Melbourne until a few years ago, and often in days of yore had troublesome times of it, in his altercations with goat-owning and fowl-loving ladies in their efforts to get impounded live chattels out of his grip, without paying his demands for fees and damage.

Ex. gra.:—It is recorded that on the 4th March, 1846, as Police-Sergeant O'Connor and some constables were driving a mixed herd of about 150 goats, mobilized in Melbourne and suburbs, to the Pound, and whilst the jailer was gleefully making arrangements for the reception of his welcome guests, the owner of a portion of them came to the rescue. She was a Mrs. Neave (a market poultry vendor), and aided only by a chopper which she brandished in a thorough Amazonian fashion, and single-handed, effected a deliverance. For such audacious lawlessness the officer “pulled” her before the Police Court, where she was fined 35s., with 3s. 6d. costs.

A monster sale of impounded goats was held 1st February, 1849, when 140 animals were knocked down for £9, though the Poundage fees alone would amount to £30. The Yarra-bank Pound was in a position which left it an easy prey to any unusual flooding of the river, and the keeper was ever in a state of uneasiness as to the probability of a flood. The inundation of December, 1839, swept over the place, and carried off most of the fencing; but as there happened on that day to be only a few temporary sojourners in “limbo,” no further injury was done. At the period of the August flood of 1842, the Pound was crowded with a mob of offending cattle, which had a hairbreadth escape from wholesale drowning; but Scarborough was just in time with a staff of volunteer drovers to prevent the disaster by transferring the prisoners to a large yard attached to the Caledonian Hotel, in Lonsdale Street, a short way from the south-west corner of Swanston Street, where an asylum was found well above any probable flood mark. This led to the removal of the Pound from contiguity with the river, to west of the Old Cemetery, near the corner of Capel Street.

A MARVELLOUS MAGPIE.

There was for a time attached to the original Pound, as an aide-de-camp of the keeper, a member of the Ornithological tribe, a special favourite with the Pound habitues, from his liveliness of disposition, recklessness of habits, and looseness of tongue. It was a magpie, and such were the gifts natural and acquired of this wonderful bird, that he got to be known as “The Professor,” though such an Institution as an University was about the remotest thing to be thought of. The biped had received a limited education, not taught at a Sunday-school, for his language was very bad, and his phrases, though choice, were extremely inelegant. He picked up a little of the worst slang from the ex-convict bullock-drivers and stockmen with whom he concerted, could fly into a public-house and call for “beer,” and when a bar toper would oblige him, the “Professor” had the human accomplishment not disdained by some modern Professors of getting intoxicated, and when so muddled behaving in a very ungentlemanly manner indeed. Occasionally he would sink into the besotted condition that would justify a policeman in locking him up, not only as a drunken and disorderly character, but for using blasphemous and obscene language. But as he could not by even the longest stretch of legal ingenuity, be regarded as a “person” within the meaning of the Town’s Police Act then in force, he possessed an immunity from the watch-house which he sadly abused. One Sunday forenoon the “Professor,” through a desire to shake off the effects of a heavy spree, started from the Pound for a stroll up the Yarra. Captain Lonsdale resided in a comfortable cottage, at the western end of Yarra Park, then known as the Government Paddock. The inmates, with the exception of the lady of the mansion and a maid-servant, had gone to church,
and the former was engaged in private devotions. The “Professor” hopped his way to the house, and noiselessly entering the parlour stationed himself in a corner, and for some time was an unseen and attentive listener to the prayers he heard read. Suddenly the lady was thunderstruck by hearing within a few yards of where she sat, a cracked, screaming, unhuman voice, bidding her to be off at once to an unutterable region of a name unmentionable, and on turning round in extreme alarm to question the intruder, she was horrified at beholding not only a speaking but a swearing magpie—certainly not a bird of Paradise, but more like a feathered imp, escaped from that mysterious region with the name of which he was so familiar. Whilst hesitating as to summoning assistance to eject the unholy visitant, the disturber solved the uncertainty for her by ejaculating a stunning oath or two, and making his exit through the open window.

But the “Professor” was gifted with another accomplishment less objectionable, and at times profitable to his proprietor. From habit in listening at the frequently-held Pound sales, and a course of drilling, he acquired the art of bidding at the beck of the auctioneer. Of course he could only do so in the most restricted sense; as his lingual faculty in this respect was limited to the enunciation of the word “ten” whenever his master indulged in a peculiar nod. The bird would be stowed away in sight of the vendor, upon whom on all such occasions he would keep a constant eye, and so the moment the signal came from the one, the “ten” issued from the throat of the other. This style of puffing was often the source of endless fun, though occasionally a bidder was bitten by the magpie’s intelligence. Once there was a largely-attended sale of impounded horses and cattle, and amongst the former was a filly, much fancied by a well-known publican (“Jack Lamb”) who reckoned upon knocking her down for a trifle more than a song. The bidding commenced at a pound, and to the surprise of most present, was run up by two voices (Lamb’s and some other unknown person’s in the crowd). After Lamb’s pound bid, the other clapped on a “ten,” which the auctioneer was not slow to pick up, and thus it see-sawed between the pounds and the shillings, until Lamb made it £2, when the opposition ceased and he was declared the purchaser. It was not until after the money was paid that the vendee became aware that he had been victimized by the magpie, who thus conspired with the Pound-keeper in this almost incredible and irresistibly comic mode of “skinning the Lamb.” The “Professor” terminated his earthly career by a fate which has destroyed many an inebriate since. He was a special favourite at one or two taverns in Little Flinders Street, which he used to visit and “shout” for himself. In these places he was on “free grass,” and always got what he asked for without payment. One evening he overdrank himself, and labouring under some affection not unlike a touch of D. T. in staggering home, he missed his way, tumbled into the Yarra, was unable to recover his equilibrium, and there was an end of him.

The second Pound was established south of the Yarra, under the charge of a Mr. T. M. Atkinson, and others soon followed in various country places. By a strange chance the Pentridge Pound was within the reserve of the now monster prison. In 1845, a Mr. G. P. Anderson was the Pound-keeper, and he promulgated a notice that if a number of cattle in his custody were not released within a specified time, they should be sold without reserve in the Pound-yard. Pounds were then a kind of roughly-enclosed stockade, and as the Great Penal Stockade (as it was at first called) was not commenced until five years after, the one must not be mistaken for the other. The black cattle now under the charge of the Inspector Poundkeeper-General, though select, are a very mixed herd. As they are not likely to be claimed, they would, no doubt, have no objection to be knocked down in “the Pound-yard,” but the finding of purchasers would be rather difficult.
CHAPTER LII.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

SYNOPSIS:—A Commercial “Ring.”—The Personality of the “Twelve Apostles.”—Mr. Rucker Makes an Assignment.—The Bank’s Bond.—Rucker Outwits the Bank Manager.—Rucker’s Anti-marital Settlement.—His Marriages.—“A Man of Straw.”—Bank Manager Boyd Puts on “the Screw.”—The Apostles “Cornered.”—Panegyric on Mr. Were.—His Official Dignities.—Sketch of the “Twelve Apostles.”—Mr. Pucker’s Letter to Mr. Were.

RING,” in old slang, was synonymous with “whitewashing,” or taking the benefit of the Insolvent Act, and in the early commercial traditions of Port Phillip is to be found a curious combination or “ring,” which, though not intending it, ultimately terminated in a general daubing of whitewash, either through direct insolvency or by assignment to creditors. Without, perhaps, a single exception, it was a general burst up, though three-fourths of the members afterwards recovered from the shock, did well and lived long in the colony. The “Ring” was known as “The Twelve Apostles,” though for any special reason, except that they numbered just the round dozen, I could never ascertain. In 1841 the great commercial depression, which for three years overwhelmed the district, set in. A system of inter-trading and mutual paper accommodation existed of so reticulated a character as to render it not only possible but something not far from a certainty, that if any of the so-styled principal mercantile or trading houses collapsed, others would be brought down, and there would be a grand smash, and thus the instinct of self-preservation fostered an ardent, and no doubt genuine, feeling of sympathy. It happened that Mr. W. F. A. Rucker, one of the pioneer traders, was indebted to the Union Bank in the sum of £10,000, and the Directory, apprehensive of some of the coming squalls, requested him either to reduce or “secure” this then large liability. Rucker had nominally ample assets, but of an immediately unrealizable nature, except at a ruinous loss; and he went fishing about the commercial waters in quest of any “gulls” who would consent to join him in a bond to the bank. He had formidable difficulties to encounter, for several to whom he applied refused to “bite” through considerations of ordinary prudence, and Mr. D. C. McArthur, the Manager of the Bank of Australasia, fairly warned some of his customers that if they had anything whatever to do with the Rucker imbroglio, they would have to remove their accounts from his money mart, and wipe out overdrafts where they existed. Rucker, however, persisted, and the fear of an approaching panic brought him success, for, after repeated refusals, he contrived to enlist a circle of backers in the following individuals:—

1. WILLIAM FREDERICK AUGUSTUS RUCKER, Merchant.
2. THOMAS HERBERT POWHER, Auctioneer.
3. JOHN PASCOE FAWKNER, Landholder.
4. ALEXANDER MCKILLOP, Settler.
5. JOHN MOFFAT CHISHOLM, Landowner.
6. JOHN HUNTER PATTERSON, Landowner.
7. JAMES PURVES, Landowner.
8. JOHN MAUDE WOOLLEY, Settler.
9. ABRAHAM ABRAHAMS, Merchant.
10. JONATHAN BINNS WERE, Merchant.
11. HORATIO NELSON CARRINGTON, Solicitor.
12. PATRICIUS WILLIAM WELSH, Merchant.
This classification is taken from Kerr's Port Phillip Directory for 1842; but though some of them are rated as landowners or merchants, they were all neck deep in other speculations, mostly of a risky character.

Such were the so-styled ‘Twelve Apostles’ of Port Phillip to whom Rucker made an assignment of his property, nominally assessed as worth £40,000, and by a curiously peculiar arrangement, the ‘Holy Brotherhood’ were rendered jointly and individually liable to the Union Bank of Australasia, not for the sum claimed, but for £10,000 each, or £120,000. Though these ‘Saints’ comprised what might be termed a smart, wide-awake lot, one of them was so superlatively cute that, by a rapid and pleasant stroke of business, he showed himself the superior of his fellows, and actually succeeded in outwitting the Bank. After all the legal preliminaries were arranged, and the ominous parchments cut and dry, ready for the signatories, a certain hour of a certain day was appointed to put the finishing touches of pen and ink to the deed, which was lying like a State prisoner in the Bank parlour. The sharp practitioner referred to had his weather-eye open wider than the Bank Manager’s, and, setting his solicitor to work, an ante-nuptial settlement of all his property was prepared in favour of an attractive spinster, whose services were retained as governess in a family residing at Heidelberg, and thither on the evening before the doomsday he hied, led off the consenting lady in triumph to the Hymeneal altar, and duplicated the prior settlement by another, ratified through the joint agency of a minister, a book, and a ring. He was present, however, at his post, in compliance with the Bank appointment, and no one there, save himself, had the slightest notion that there was a veritable ‘man of straw’ amongst them. By this adroit move, one of the ten thousand pounder assets was finally disposed of. But it could be well spared, for when the time for action arrived, Mr. Thomas Elder Boyd, who succeeded Mr. William Higgett in the Union Bank management, made short work with the Army of (Rucker’s) Salvation, for he put on the screw most mercilessly, rushed station and various other kinds of property into a market where there was little demand for any sort of commodity, and at these forced sales everything was sold without reserve. “A tremendous sacrifice” was effected, and though the “Apostles” had to pay the piper, others danced to the joyous tune of some £30,000 ultimately netted by the purchasers, who, I have been informed upon reliable authority, were believed to have acted in complicity, if not with the Bank, certainly with its Manager. Three things are certain, viz., that the original £10,000 liability was paid, that certain persons pocketed handsome profits out of the purchases, and that the “Apostles” were so far cornered as to be compelled either to fly for refuge to the Insolvent Court, or compromise with their creditors. Even the hero of the ante-nuptial coup did not weather the storm, for he too went under water through other commercial causes. It was not to be expected that such a bouleversement could have run its course without the intervention of the Law Courts, and the consequence was a network of suits in Equity, Nisi Prius, and Insolvency, whose intricacies nearly exhausted the ingenuity and patience of Bench, Bar, and Jurors, a detail of which would fill a tolerably-sized volume. Sufficient to state that the “Apostles” withdrew from the struggle like a dozen squeezed oranges, yet with a recuperative power in the pips, which enabled them to resume the battle of life, and fight it so lustily that, except three or four of them, who either died soon after or left the country, they worked themselves into good positions in life; some in easy and some in affluent circumstances. Of the Twelve, ten are sojourning in that bourne from which there is no return, and only two remained amongst us until a recent period. One of these twins, and the chief of the tribe (Mr. Rucker), passed out of the world in 1882. “The Last of the Mohicans,” the ultimus Romanorum, the solitary Apostle now remaining on earth, is Mr. J. B. Were,* an old colonist, dating from 1839, who has seen much of the ups and downs of Victoria; and, from various points of view, has been accounted both a good and bad fellow, using the adjectives in a general and indifferent sense, as the goodness outweighed the badness in his organisation. Largely engaged in the early commercial and other speculations, he had so shrewd an eye to business that certain sharp customers who were unable to “do” him were wont to indulge in a little spiteful merriment, by recasting his name and declaring that, though conventionally J. B., it should in reality be Jonathan “Be-Ware.”

* Mr. Were died in 1885, since the above was written.—Ed.
Mr. Were had more greatness thrust upon him than any other individual in the colony. On the 5th October, 1840, he was sworn in as a Territorial Magistrate, and claims to be the first specially appointed J.P. for Port Phillip, and the Senior Magistrate of Victoria. Mr. Were was also President of the first Bible Society, and the first importer of whisky; Director of the Union Bank; Director of the Melbourne Bridge Company; President of the first Chamber of Commerce; the first Agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company; a member of the Society of Antiquaries of Copenhagen; the first Member for Brighton in our Legislative Assembly; and Consul for Heaven only knows how many distant realms, scattered over the globe from Norway to Peru, from Denmark to Brazil; indeed it would fill a catalogue to enumerate all his large and small dignities. In 1873 he was created by Christian the Ninth of Denmark, a Chevalier of the Third Class of the Order of Dannebrog (Standard of Denmark), which confers the rank and title of a Knight-Commander. In 1874, King Oscar, of Sweden and Norway, bestowed upon him a Knighthood of the Order of Wasa; and in 1883 he obtained a Knight-Companionship of St. Michael and St. George through the gracious favour of Queen Victoria. It would be a sight worth looking at to behold Chevalier Were, A.B.C., &c., &c., “doing the Block,” bedizened with the insignia of the various distinguished offices filled by him, the stars and ribands decorating a not unimposing figure, moving in a halo of pride and pomp.

As a sequel to notice I append two documents which will speak for themselves. The first is a brief sketch of “The Twelve Apostles” found amongst the papers of one of them, and courteously forwarded to me. It is in “the Saint’s” own manuscript, and from an Apostolic standpoint, may be accepted as an authorized version of an incident often talked and joked over in the days of “Auld Lang Syne,” though now rarely mentioned and comparatively unknown. It is written in a style to induce a belief that the author intended it for publication at some time or other. Here it is:

“About this time an Association of mercantile men was formed, for the protection of the estate of W. F. A. Rucker, one of the earliest traders from Tasmania, who represented various interests there. Rucker had nominally possessed himself of houses and lands in and near to Melbourne. His bankers (the Union Bank of Australia) had, however, called upon him either to reduce his account or to realize upon his property. The cloud of pressure had began to rise over the infant colony, indicating heavier pressure, and Rucker, it is supposed, at the suggestion of William Highett, the manager of the Bank, sought for guarantees to the Bank. It came about that he made a deed of assignment for the benefit of his creditors (of which the Bank and Highett were the principal) of all his property, the deed setting out that the assignees should be jointly and severally liable for ten thousand each. This was done, the property was scheduled to the following as assignees or trustees:

* * * * * * * * * *

and the deeds deposited with the Union Bank. There was another outstanding liability of Rucker, about £2,500, to the Bank of Australasia. The manager, D. C. M'Arthur, objected to be a party to the general assignment but he also held some deeds. It was arranged that Mr. J. B. Were, one of the Twelve, should give his bills to the Bank for the amount, and his security would be the deeds held by the Bank of Australasia. When this liability of Mr. Were's became due the property was not realizable. Mr. Were had a summons to pay the Bank of Australasia, and had to stump up something under £2,500 for which he was handed bills of several of his brother Apostles to cover the amount, and the deeds representing these were handed to the Union Bank to represent a portion of the security made to the Twelve.

The bills fell due, were dishonoured, and the property representing them being unrealizable, a sort of panic set in among the settlers, coin was scarce and credit nearly defunct. The Apostles being the principal mercantile men, one after the other getting into difficulties. The Insolvent Court was sought for protection by most, and at the head of the schedules was the ten thousand pounds liability to the Union Bank. Some made assignments, others married making ante-nuptial settlements; but early or late the whole Twelve succumbed to the pressure, and the record is now matter of
The property had been gradually sold by the Union Bank, who are said to have recouped themselves with compound interest, with some lands which had been purchased from the Union Bank by Rucker, but none of the Apostles or their representatives were ever paid for their trouble, and Were, the only one of them who was compelled to advance £2500 some forty years ago, has not directly or indirectly to himself or representatives been recouped one farthing.

One peculiar feature of the arrangement may be mentioned, viz., that Hightett had taken over amongst his personal securities from one of the Apostles (Welsh) "The Hightett Paddock," originally purchased for a firm at the Cape of Good Hope.

This paddock was never put publicly into the market for sale until after Hightett's decease, and it was always considered by the Apostles that it was part of their original protective security.

The following communication, addressed by the Arch-Apostle to not the least prominent of the Brethren, has been placed at my service by the recipient, with a declaration that he has no recollection whatever of the incident referred to in paragraph 4. It is worth a place in these CHRONICLES, as embodying the version of the principal actor:

Melbourne, 2nd December 1867.

My dear Were,—The following statement comprises all the information which recollection, and the few papers in my possession bearing upon the circumstances attending your unfortunate entanglement in my affairs in November 1841, enable me to give you:

1. That you joined ten others of our leading brother colonists of that day, in a generous and spirited endeavour to rescue me from a position of extreme embarrassment and danger, the effect of the first, and all things considered, perhaps the most disastrous crisis, with which the commerce of this colony has had to contend.

2. That I conveyed the whole of my landed property, which I had not long before acquired at a cost of about £44,000, to yourself and those ten gentlemen in trust, to provide funds for the retirement of my paper, then held by the Bank of Australasia, the Union Bank, and the Port Phillip Bank, in all about £16,000.

3. That by a subsequent arrangement between yourselves you undertook to settle with the first-named bank, whilst your co-trustees were left to arrange with the other two; and

4. That in April, 1846, you conveyed to the Union Bank your estate and interest in the before-mentioned properties for the sum of £386 5s.

You are, of course, aware that the Union Bank have realized a very large sum from those properties, confessedly £50,000, but believed to be much more; and that they refuse to account for the balance in excess of my liability to them (about £5000) proceeds, £50,000, blast, £5000; balance excess, £45,000; contending that the conveyances from yourself and co-trustees to the bank were not as we represent them to be, a continuation of the trust, but an absolute sale.—Yours very truly,

W. F. A. Rucker.

J. B. Were, Esq., Hall of Commerce.
CHAPTER LIII.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

SYNOPSIS:— The First Races in Melbourne.—"Collar Grinning."—The Second Race Meeting.—The First Race Meeting at Flemington.—Formation of the Port Phillip Turf Club.—The Meeting of 1841,—Subsequent Meetings to 1846.—The Melbourne Meeting.—Petrel and "the Polka."—Subsequent Meetings to 1848.—"In Memoriam" of Mr. Isaac Hinds.—A Retrospect.—Venery.—The First Hunt.—"Old Tom Brown."—Mr. T. H. Pyke.—The First Pack of Hounds.—The Corio Club.—Death of Mr. John Perks.—The Werribee Hunt Club.—Mr. James Henderson.—The Hounds at Emerald Hill.

THE TURF.

HISTORY hath it that Melicyius, a king of Thessaly, was the first to tame horses for the use of man,

"And he himself did first the horse bestride;"

But history knoweth not, and is silent as to the personnel of the first horse-breaker in Port Phillip. Given the proverbial germs of an Australian township, the water-hole, forge, store and grog-shop, amongst all British-born colonizers, these are usually succeeded by a Wesleyan Chapel, a Temperance Society, a race club, or cricket club; and so it was in the instance I am writing of. The Wesleyans and the Teetotallers got the start of the Sporting fraternity, for in the beginning of 1838 a kind of association was improvised, which dubbed itself the "Melbourne Race Club," and its first step was a preliminary canter towards the inauguration of those "Isthmian Games" which afterwards became so racey of Port Phillip soil, and have since placed Victoria second to no other offshoot of the Mother-country in that sport which has maintained a popularity in every clime and age, drifting back as far as a glimmer of history can be found to light the way. "Johnny Fawkner" commenced the role of the demagogue in this remote era, and he so far patronised the club as to permit it to hold its first gathering at Fawkner's Hotel, on the 15th January, when a Mr. Henry Allen was voted to the Chair. Business was commenced by a declaration that it was right and proper to initiate annual races, and the following office-bearers were elected:—

Stewards : Messrs. Henry Arthur and William Wood; Secretary and Treasurer: Mr. Francis Nodin; Clerk of the Course : Mr. David Morley. It was decided that the races should come off on the 6th and 7th March, and the stakes to be competed for were:—FIRST DAY.—Town Plate—25 sovs.; entrance, 1 sov.; distance, 2 miles; heats; the weights varying from 8st. 6lb. for three-year-olds to 9st. 12lb. for six yearers and aged. Ladies' Purse—Of 20 sovs.; 1 sov. entrance; gentlemen riders; distance one mile; heats; and weights from 9st. 12lb. to 12sl.; adapted to the ages from three to six years and over. SECOND DAY.—The Hunter Stakes—15 sov.; entrance, 1 sov.; gentlemen riders; heats; one mile and a distance, with five leaps of four feet in height; catch weights. Beaten Horses—10s., post entry; one mile and a distance; heats; Town Plate weights. The following rules of management were agreed to:—No horses to be entered unless the real property of a subscriber of £2 to the race fund. The Clerk was authorized to superintend the marking out of the course and preparing it for the races; and the members of the Club were to dine at Fawkner's Hotel on the evening of the day upon which the Hunter Stakes were disposed of. All horses were to be entered for "the three first races" on the 5th March, between 7 and 10 p.m. Winning horses were to pay £2 to the Clerk of the Course "for the use and porterage of the scales and weights," and disputes (if any) were to be settled on the course by the Stewards, whose decision was to be final. Great were the preparations made for this interesting "Maiden" event, and the young men and maidens of
the time (children being then an almost unknown luxury) were on the tiptoe of expectation for al fresco flirtations.

Batman's Hill (which has since disappeared to make room for the splendid beauty spots about Melbourne) was then one of the half-dozen of steeds of different calibre, the steaming coursers with iron ribs and steel muscles) was as if formed by Nature's hand for a racecourse, unless when inundated by floods. Here, where the Spencer Street Railway Station now stands, was marked out with a few stakes, saplings, and broad palings, Melbourne's first racing ground. A "Grand Stand" was formed by the lashing together of a couple of large bullock drays; and the jumps for the hunters were made up of a few logs and gum-tree branches. No such folly was then indulged in as training horses, for the animals brought to the post were the rough, hardy, hard-worked animals of the bush. The era for sporting silk jackets and caps, top boots and buff breeches had not arrived. The jocks were well content to show off in red and blue flannel shirts, cabbage-tree hats, and leather leggings; and the only accessories to modern sporting tournaments then in vogue were spurs and whip-cord, both of which were plied unmercifully. At the date of the races Fawkner's MS. journal had passed from the caligraphic into the typographic state, and of this printed prodigy there is no copy extant giving a report of the first races. Some years ago, however, an old colonist—long since gone to his account—favoured me with some viva voce particulars of the occasion.

First Day, 6th March, 1838.

The morning was as promising as the most ardent lover of a modern Cup Day could desire. Several hundred persons were present on the course, and order was preserved by half-a-dozen expiree convicts appointed as special constables for the purpose. Settlers rode in several miles from the country to be "all there," and five miles then counted for more than fifty now, for the bush was thick and troublesome, the travelling tracks few in number, and, such as they were, they were cut up into deep ruts by the lumbering bullock teams by which they were usually traversed.

Anything in the semblance of convenient locomotion was an extreme rarity in the small rural area of the province then settled, and folks coming from any distance for the occasion did so on horseback.

The starting post was fixed close by the now North Melbourne Railway Station, and the run was semi-circular, sweeping round in the direction of the Metropolitan Gas Works, thence straight home to the north-western ascent of the Hill, where a scanty scrap of bunting fluttered as a winning post from a pole of the clothes-line order.

J. P. Fawkner and Michael Carr, two of the earliest publicans, had put up what, for want of better, passed as refreshment booths. Each was simply a small cart, or rather truck, surrounded by four wooden uprights driven into the ground, with some old sails and bags nailed around to provide a precarious shelter. The liquors absorbed were rum, brandy, ginger-beer, and bottled porter. There were no sixpenny or threepenny "goes." The Jamaica, Cognac, Bass, or their very inferior counterfeits, were one shilling each "tot;" but the tipple most in demand was a "spider" (an infusion of brandy and ginger-beer), and the price paid for the "insect" was fifteenpence. Weak shandygaff (ginger-beer and beer) was the favourite beverage of such of the ladies as indulged in an outdoor restorative. For the Town Plate there were three entries—viz., Postboy, belonging to Mr. Robinson; the names of the other horses are not known, but they were owned by Messrs. Woods and Russell. Both heats were won by Postboy. The Ladies' Purse was won by Mr. Wedge's mare, beating two others—names unknown; and though the sport was of a very indifferent quality, the spectators were willing to make allowance for unavoidable shortcomings, so pleased were they at the introduction of a pastime which recalled the kindred scenes of the mother
country they had left, the remembrance of which is always fondly cherished by the immigrant during the first few years of his expatriation.

Collar Grinning.

Amongst the obsolete amusements of Old England was a contortion contest known as "grinning" for a wager, and an ancient chronicler records that on Whit Tuesday (9th June, of 1786) a grand grinning match for a gold-laced hat came off at Hendon, in Middlesex. Six competitors were ranged on a platform, over which waved a banner thus inscribed in large capital letters:—

"DETRU TETRIORI; or
The Ugliest Grinner
Shall be the Winner."

Each individual was supplied with a horse collar, through which he was to perform. A solo of five minutes' facial distortion was to be executed seriatim, and then all were to join in a grinning chorus. The prize was won by an employé of a vinegar merchant, though he was accused of a foul, in consequence of having, just before the exhibition, rinsed his mouth with verjuice, whereby the dilated orifice would be rendered more hideous. There could be as little unfair play in so doing, one would imagine, as in a jockey artificially sweating down to a required light weight, or other preliminary training for any muscular competition. However, at the conclusion of the day's racing, the edifying scene of grinning through a horse collar was publicly witnessed for the first, and I believe, the last time in the colony.

As the assemblage was on the point of dispersing, some humorous customer, in a happy moment of swipy inspiration, suggested as a suitable afterpiece to the billed programme, that a grinning match be extemporized. Though there was no golden decked bell-topper for a guerdon, a hat was pressed into the service, and taken round to receive the contributions of the crowd. Silver coinage amounting to about forty shillings was soon dropped in, an inducement which quickly brought to the scratch four or five of the ugliest mugged fellows of the small community. The Grand Stand was to be the convincing ground. The equipments were borrowed without much difficulty, and a huge ticket-of-leave holder, afterwards well-known as "Big Mick," was, by common consent, appointed master of the ceremonies. He mounted the shaky, drop-like contrivance, and with the apparatus under his arm, looked as hangmanish as a "Jack Ketch," at an execution. When the competing team turned out, the favourite (decidedly the most ill-favoured), was found in the person of Thomas Curnew, about fifty years of age, and a carpenter by trade. Though he had not much hair, the crop was rugged and red, and so pronounced in colour as to make him appear skull-capped in fire. His mouth was a spheroid, slightly twisted, and his laugh was in itself, a whole grin, set off by an enormous set of tusky teeth. Divesting himself of a seedy peajacket, he was the first on board, and facing the populace, made such a frightfully wry face as cowed all opposition, and secured for him the distinction of a walk, or rather, grin over. "Big Mick," in a quick, business manner, adjusted the collar by arranging it on the other's head with as much painstaking as a modiste would evince in fitting a new bonnet, and shaking him by the hand, wished him luck, and jumped down. The "phizical" pantomime then commenced, and for ten minutes there was a display of physiognomical posturing, difficult to be accounted for by any deductions of anatomization. The bones, muscles, sinews, and tissues of Curnew's head seemed as if composed of whalebone and India-rubber. At one time his tongue looked as if jumping out of his mouth, his lips and palate would be drawn in as if about to be swallowed, whilst the chin and forehead approached as if to meet. His antics evoked thunders of acclamation, in the midst of which he regained terra firma, secured the proceeds of the hat-shaking, and betook himself to the Fawknerian booth, where the stakes were speedily melted down through the agency of a "fire-water."

And so wound up the first public race day in Victoria.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

Second Day.—7th March, 1838.

If the first day was a comparative failure, the second was almost a total one. The Hunter Stakes came to an utter fiasco. The five gum-tree leaps were so clumsily constructed that their appearance, frightening the horses, caused some of them to refuse absolutely, whilst another topped the eminence, and one of his forelegs slipping through the branches, both man and beast were so securely trapped as to be extricated with danger and difficulty. Mr. Wood's horse, ridden by Mr. De Villiers, subsequently an Officer in the Black Mounted Police, pulled off the prize, after one spill. For the Beaten Horse Stakes no one offered, probably because they were so beaten up by their previous efforts that they were reluctant to stake any more, post or no post entry. Besides, there was not much inducement, for the winner would fob nothing but the entrance money, and therefore no glory, and but very little of anything else was to be gained. The club dinner at Fawkner’s, to which some outsiders were admitted, was a great success, considering the numerical strength of the company, and the excessive compotation indulged in. There was such a run on the landlord's limited stock of bad champagne, that it lasted no time, when the diners turned to hot toddy, and from that to brandy neat, and thenceforth straight drinking was the order of the night until the following morning, when there was scarcely a man amongst them who was not what is technically known as “suffering a recovery.” Betting was very little indulged in at this meeting, and, as far as it went, it was even wagering. Some of the swells staked bell-topper and Manilla hats with each other, and gloves with the very few ladies in attendance. The mechanic, or the bush hand, ventured as far as bottles of rum, which were not only freely paid, but more freely drank, and the only casualty was a wretched member of the demi-monde, which even then had made its appearance, who rushing, about daybreak, in a state of delirium tremens, from a disreputable den in Flinders Lane, jumped into the river near the “Falls,” and was drowned before any effectual assistance could be rendered.

The next year’s meeting (1839), exhibited a marked advance upon its predecessor. A superior class of horses was being imported, and the advertisements in the two regularly printed weekly newspapers included notices of several well-bred stallions for stud purposes. The population was also rapidly increasing, and the consequence was the manifestation of greater interest in the fostering of the principal national sport. The races were taken in hand with much more spirit, but this ought not to lessen the credit due to the few plucky pioneers of 1838. On the 9th February, 1839, a meeting was held at the Lamb Inn (on the site of the now Scott’s Hotel), “for the purpose of electing Stewards for the Melbourne Races.” Mr. W. D. G. Wood was installed as Chairman, and the following appointments were made for the current year, viz.:—Stewards: Messrs. W. D. G. Wood, Thomas Glass, Anthony Cottrell, and John Aitken; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John Wood; and Messrs. E. D. Wedge and John M’Nall, Clerks of the Course. Resolutions were passed:—

1. That the races be run over the Melbourne Course on the 15th and 16th March, each day at one o’clock; half-hour between starts.
2. The rules of the English Jockey Club to be observed, and no horse to be allowed to run unless the bond-fide property of a subscriber of two sovereigns to the Race Fund.
3. No horse to be allowed to run if imported after date.
4. Entries to be made between 8 and 10 p.m. on 14th March.
5. All matches to be entered by the Secretary; and
6. The winners of stakes or match to pay one sovereign to the Race Fund.

The movement having now assumed more pretentious and methodical proportions, some sort of system, though of a rude kind, was introduced. It was resolved to have an all-round or circular course about a mile in extent, and for the Grand Stand, instead of spliced drays, a small stage or platform was erected, not at all unlike the scaffold on which the first blackfellows were hanged in Melbourne, as uncouth-looking, insecure, and even more shaky.

On the eve of the battle all the entered horses were required to appear on view at Batman’s Hill for the gratification of the connoisseurs and gossips of the day, and though there had been but brief time for preparation, the turnout was better than expected.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

The Second Race Meeting.

First Day.—Monday, 12th March, 1839.

Town Plate, all ages, 2 sovs., 30 sovs. added from Race Fund; heats, 2 miles and a distance; weights, from two-year-olds, 7st. 9lb.; six and aged, 9st.; mares and geldings allowed 3st.

Mr. Brown's b m Mountain Maid
Mr. M'Nall's b g Peacock
Mr. P. Scott's c g Shamrock
Mr. Cottrell's b m Fancy

The Mountain Maid had it all her own way in both heats.

A Match for 20 sovs., p. p., Mr. Pitman's chestnut pony Tuppy against Mr. E. D. Wedge's piebald pony Friday; heats, twice round the course.

The Ladies' Purse of 2 sovs. each, with 30 sovs. added; weights same as Town Plate, heats; two miles; gentlemen riders.

Second Day.—16th March.

Such a wholesale turn out of the Melbournians was witnessed that it was said the town had more than doubled its entire population. The weather was glorious, Batman's Hill was grand, the course in capital order, the people in excellent humour, but the racing very poor.

Hurdle Race for all ages; 3 sovs. each, with 30 sovs. added; heats; two miles with six leaps of 4 ft. 6 in.; Town Plate weights; gentlemen riders. The winner of the Town Plate or Ladies' Purse to carry 5 lb. extra. Only two horses started, viz.:

Mr. Batman's Postboy
Mr. Wood's Trump... dis.

There were four jumps, and these, though in no way formidable, were awkwardly constructed. Trump was the superior animal, though he baulked the first leap, but was landed safely over with the third try. At the second jump Postboy knocked down a rail when Trump's owner, for some unstated reason, withdrew him and the other went his way leisurely, took the rest of the leaps, and, of course won. An objection lodged with the Stewards was compromised by the owners of the horses agreeing to another trial of speed, which was fixed for the 1st of April.

The Tavern Plate of 1 sov., with 20 sovs. added; heats; one mile and a distance; Town Plate weights; the winner of the Town Plate and Ladies' Purse to carry 5 lb. extra. Five horses started, viz.:

Mr. Cornell's Fancy
Mr. P. Scott's Shamrock
Mr. Batman's Postboy
Mr. Carr's Governor Bourke
Mr. Wood's Pet

Sweepstakes of 15 sovs.; heats; one mile and a distance. Post entry of 1 sov., and catch weights. No winner to compete. Three horses started, viz.:

Mr. P. Scott's Shamrock... dis.
Mr. Carr's Governor Bourke... dis.

Upon the whole the meeting was pronounced to have been a success. No accident of any account occurred, the people were more orderly than expected, the Stewards much lauded for the efficient manner in which they had acquitted themselves. The only contretemps, if it can be so termed, was a detected case of pocket-picking. There was some notion of pitching the Van Diemonian "buzz-bloke" into the river, but instead, he was kicked off about his business.
On Fools' Day, 1st April, the disputed match between Postboy and Trump was decided at the same place, and it proved the most sensational of any of the races yet run. Though the day was fine, the course was deep and slushy in consequence of recent heavy rain. Preliminary differences sprang up at the post which it took two hours to adjust, and, at length, when the people in attendance were putting it down as “a sell,” the horses were started. Postboy, in the first heat, did not take kindly to the four leaps, and had to negotiate each of them several times. He managed two by the help of steel and whalebone, but at the third fell heavily, shooting his rider upon his head so violently, that blood spirted through his nostrils. Yet, singular to say, he rallied sufficiently to be able not only to ride, but to win the second and third heats. Meantime, Trump took all the leaps flying, and won in fine style. After the lapse of some three-quarters of an hour Postboy’s rider was firmly re-mounted, and the horses went away on the second heat, but Trump became unmanageable, and so Postboy, evidently improved by his late reverse, scored an easy victory. The golden rule, Palman qui meruit fierat, was never so capriciously reversed by chance as on this occasion, as there could be no comparison between the horses. Trump was the favourite, as was also his owner, who had incurred much trouble and outlay in promoting the success of the past race meeting, and the public would have been better pleased if victory had declared herself on his side.

Preparations for the next year’s gathering (1840) were commenced at a more seasonable time than hitherto, for a public meeting to arrange for the ensuing races was held on the 9th October, at the Lamb Inn, with Mr. H. F. Gisborne presiding. This Mr. Gisborne had just arrived from England with the appointment of Commissioner of Crown Lands, and was not only the best amateur sportsman of those times, but as ready with pen as whip, and some very smartly-written turf notices of his appeared occasionally in the newspapers. The Stewards nominated were Messrs. H. F. Gisborne, W. H. Yaldwyn, J. D. Baillie, and John Hunter; Secretary and Treasurer: Dr. Barry Cotter; and Messrs. Salmon and Hawkes, Clerks of the Course. It was decided that the races should take place on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th of March, 1840, over a course to be selected by the Stewards; and the regulations were substantially similar to those of the previous meet, with the addition that horses imported after date from Van Dieman’s Land or New South Wales, and which had won any stake or plate, shall carry 7 lb. extra. A private match had been some time before run at Flemington between two mares belonging to Messrs. John Brown and John Hightett, and the superiority of this place for a race-course suggested itself so forcibly that it was determined that the coming race meeting should be held there. This, therefore, was the first time that the since far-famed Flemington was so utilized. Country visitors flocked into Melbourne before the races, and the inns, now increased in number and superior in accommodation, were crowded.

The First Race Meeting at Flemington.

First Day, 3rd March, 1840.

The new course had been put to rights as far as limited means and appliances would permit. The Grand Stand was a rough scaffolding near the river side. The winning-post was planted close by, and a short space of the run home was staked and roped. Ranged near the Stand, between the course and the river, were four publicans’ booths, kept by Messrs. Lewis Pedrana, Thomas Halfpenny, J. Moss, and William Sidebottom. Pedrana’s was the Grand Stand Refreshment mart, a sort of bower of Bacchus, fabricated out of ti-tree with the foliage left on. Moss and Sidebottom had small tents; but Halfpenny’s was a substantial, commodious, weatherboard three-roomed structure, partitioned with Chinese curtains. He had as head-waiter, for £1 10s. per diem, an individual who afterwards became a wealthy publican, was an Alderman of Fitzroy, with a street of that city called after him. He could reckon his annual income during the gold fever, by thousands; but, getting entangled in commercial shoals, he ultimately sank in lower water than ever. On the first day the Grand Stand booth (never the best paying one in the old times) took about £20; Halfpenny’s £80; and the others, some £40 each—large pickings considering the people present; but wages were high, and employment brisk.
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The fees paid by publicans for this privilege of out-of-town grog selling, went towards the remuneration of some special constables sworn-in to maintain good order. These pacificators (fear to non lucend) were, pro tem, under the control of the then Chief-Constable (Mr. William Wright, better known as "The Tulip"). This "Tulip," of whom some amusing reminiscences are given in an earlier chapter, was the Grand Marshal of several of the earlier meetings at Flemington, and he got through his unenviable mission as satisfactorily as could be reasonably expected. There was a large attendance from Melbourne, though pedestrians complained bitterly of the long tramp, and would have much preferred if the Stewards had not changed the venue. Numbers travelled by rowed boats from town, for river steamers were then an unattainable luxury, and rail transit was not even dreamed of. The other modes of conveyance were "mounted," dog-carts, bullock-drays, and the like.

THE FIRST RACE.

Though not in the official programme, the opening race was a match for fifty guineas, between Lieut. Vignolle's bl. c. Conrad, two years, and Mr. Gisborne's b. c. Hassan, two years; heats; two miles and a distance; owners riders. The betting had been freely offered and taken, two to one on Hassan.

The first heat was won without any extraordinary effort by Conrad. After starting in the second heat, Hassan threw his rider, Mr. Blakeney, and broke his arm, so that Conrad had easy work to make the winning. The riding by Gisborne, as the owner, was waived by consent, and Blakeney, unfortunately for him, acted as a substitute.

THE TOWN PLATE.—Of 5 sovs. each, with £50 added; heats, two miles and a distance; weights for age, from the two-year-old at 8 st. to 10 st. for the six-yearers and aged; mares and geldings to be allowed 3 lb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Colour</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Wood</td>
<td>Mountain Maid</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>black and red</td>
<td>3 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Powlett</td>
<td>Sir Charles</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>green and blue</td>
<td>2 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Browne</td>
<td>Old Countess</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>tartan and black cap</td>
<td>3 lb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On this race the betting ranged from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{1}$ against Sir Charles and the Mountain Maid, both freely backed against the field. None of the others were looked at.

THE LADIES' PURSE—Of 30 sovs., with 3 sovs. entrance added; three mile race; gentlemen riders, and weights from 9 st. for two-year-olds to 11 st. for six-yearers and over.

There were only three starters, viz.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Wood</td>
<td>Will-if-I-Can</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>red and black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Highett</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>crimson and black cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Russell</td>
<td>Freedom</td>
<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>green and gold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The owners of each animal rode, and Will-if-I-Can was the favourite. Whipcord seemed to be particularly in request, and applied accordingly. Mr. Wood had not much trouble in pulling off the prize.

THE MAIDEN PLATE.—For horses who never ran for any stake or plate. Entrance, 2 sovs., and £25 added. Heats, one mile and a distance. Weight for age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Colour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Carrington</td>
<td>Romeo</td>
<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>red and black</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Valdwyn</td>
<td>Blacklegs</td>
<td>4 yrs</td>
<td>black and white stripes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Powlett</td>
<td>Melish</td>
<td>2 yrs</td>
<td>green and blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Highett</td>
<td>Irish Lass</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>crimson and black cap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Russell</td>
<td>Pickwick</td>
<td>5 yrs</td>
<td>green and orange</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the betting, Matilda had the call at 2 to 1; and 2 to 1 were freely given against Blacklegs. Romeo could do as much as he liked in both heats; and Matilda was drawn after the first. Pick was nowhere.

A PRIVATE MATCH was run for 20 guineas, between Mr. Powlett’s bay pony Peter, and Mr. Highett’s bay pony Banker. One mile and a half; when Peter won easily.

-second Day.—4th March.

THE TAVERN PLATE.—For all ages. 3 sovs. entrance, with £50 added. Heats, two miles and a distance. Town Plate weights.

Mr. Brown’s ch m Countess, 6 years—tartan ... 1 1
Mr. Wood’s b m Mountain Maid, aged—black and red ... ... ... ... 2 2
Mr. Highett’s b m Luna, 4 years—striped tri-colour.

Only the two old mares started, and they appeared to be pretty well matched. It was almost neck and neck running throughout both heats, which were won by a shave. The old ladies got unmercifully punished, and until their dying hour ought not to forget that day’s whippings.

THE TRIAL STAKES.—For two and three-year-olds. Two sovs. entrance, with £30 added. Heats, one mile and a distance. Mares and geldings allowed 3 lbs.

Mr. Carrington’s ch g Romeo, 3 years—red and black ... ... ... ... 1 1
Mr. Powlett’s bl f Matilda, 2 years—blue and green ... ... ... ... 2 dis.
Mr. Ewart’s b f Deception, 2 years—black, pink and green ... ... ... ... 3 2
Mr. Gisborne’s b c Hassan, 2 years—black and crimson.
Mr. Vignolle’s bl c Concord, 2 years—pink and brown.
Mr. Bailie’s b f Western Lass, 2 years—pink and white.
Mr. Eraser’s b f Maid of the Mill, 2 years—tartan.

Matilda was the favourite, and disappointed her admirers. In the first heat she had no chance against Romeo, who was master of the situation all through; and in the second heat she ran against a post and threw her rider. Hassan made no show at all, and Conrad, Western Lass, and Maid of the Mill did not start.

PONY STAKES, for horses 14 hands and under, 1 sov. entrance, with £20 added; heats 1 mile and a distance; catch weights.

Mr. Powlett’s b h Peter—blue and green ... 4 1 1
Mr. Gourlay’s b p Banker ... ... ... ... 1 2 2
Mr. Bailie’s Tom Bowling—pink and white 2 3 3
Mr. Watson’s ch p Fairy—green.

Deception, the Baron, and Conservative were scratched; Fairy and Tory were not placed; and Peter, who put forth indomitable pluck, “broke the bank” after a hard day’s work and a well-won fight. Peter, Tom Bowling and Deception were the favourites, especially the latter, in whose favour 2 to 1 was freely offered. The result proved that so far as his backers’ pockets were concerned, his hippynomic was no misnomer.

-third Day.—5th March.

A HURDLE RACE was the first event on the card, for which there were only three starters.

Mr. Wood’s b g Capsicum, aged; owner rider—red.
Mr. Highett’s Irish Lass; 5 ypr.; owner rider—red and black.
A short time before the starting hour the Stewards very unceremoniously postponed this race to a day unnamed.

The Heidelberg Cup, 3 miles, gentleman riders, 50 sovs., and 5 guineas entrance. Town Plate weights.

Mr. Wood's br g Will-if-I-Can, aged—red and black 1
Mr. Highett's b m Music, 6 yrs.—crimson and black cap 2
Mr. Russell's b g Freedom, 6 yrs.—green and gold, black cap; withdrawn.
Mr. Powlett's br h Sir Charles, 5 yrs.—green and blue 3
Mr. Baillie's br h Duke of Argyle, 6 yrs.

The four that came to the post made a capital start, and kept well together until half round the course, when Blacklegs bolted, and so lost all chance of the race. Coming to the distance, Will-if-I-Can shot a head, and won by several lengths, Music and Sir Charles working hard for second place. The winner's condition rendered it an easy victory.

The Beaten Stakes (heats) summoned to the start half-a-dozen competitors for the first heat, but only the following two showed at the end:

Mr. Highett's b m Irish Lass 11 | Mr. Russell's br g Freedom 2 2

It was an easy race in both trials for the Lass, for Freedom never had the ghost of a chance.

A Hack Race (heats) wound up the day's sport. A dozen started, but only two were placed.

Mr. Reid's b m Medora 11 | Mr. Highett's b f Banker 2 2

This was almost a repetition of the running for the Beaten Stakes. Medora won both heats in a canter.

There was very little money wagering, but many pairs of gloves changed hands, a mode of gambling to which the ladies were by no means averse, for in any contingency the odds would be altogether in their favour. The great defect of the meeting was over-riding and over-beating, and but little or no regard was shown to weight or condition.

It was the first time that silk was sported, and the riders seemed so anxious to show off their uniforms that they appeared to the spectators as so many equestrian posturers instead of riders—coloured bipeds astride quadrupeds, working their bodies into every conceivable variety of position of which the human frame is capable, whilst their limbs wantoned in the most extravagant eccentricities of action. They evinced an utter recklessness of not only themselves, but the unfortunate animals they bestrode, and whether winning or losing they leathered the horses as if their arms were so many threshing machines. But there was much real enjoyment, for the populace went, saw, and laughed, returned home, some of them very drunk, and fewer quite sober, all comparatively in good humour.

The special constables during the three days had a jolly sinecure of it, for, when in the humour, their "Tulip" was not a hard task-master, so that between their pay, and the countless free nobblers, and pots of half-and-half they imbibed, their only wish, in all probability, was that the three days might be extended to three hundred and sixty five, Sundays included, and if it happened to be a leap-year, as it was, so much the better. Though there was a large ingress of settlers during the week, the nights passed quietly enough for the homely townpeople. An occasional wayfarer, policeman, or watchman was knocked into a gutter, but, unlike the larrikinism of now-a-days, the capsized individual, instead of being half-choked or robbed, would be picked up where he fell, taken to a neighbouring tavern, and there either grogged or cashed as a solatium for contused head or offended dignity.

I have described this first race meeting on the now famous Flemington Course with more minuteness than I should otherwise have done, through a desire to preserve in some permanent form, the particulars of an event memorable in the Sporting Annals of Victoria. Such is the why and wherefore of the foregoing narrative of the inauguration of horse-racing at a place which has become
par excellence the hippodrome of the Southern Hemisphere. Who shall be the récitateur of the run
for the last Cup won there?

"The Rubicon" was now crossed, racing was an accomplished fact, and the young province
most willingly committed to periodical race meetings near its capital. The spirit so kindled and
fanned during the two years, burned with a steadier flame during 1840, and private matches were
run in several country places. Towards the close of the year the expediency of placing the affairs
of the Turf on a permanent footing, engendered a desire for the foundation of some governing body
of a representative character, able and willing to assume authoritative functions. Action was promptly
taken accordingly, and the result was officially promulgated by the publication of the following notice
in the newspapers:

THE PORT PHILLIP TURF CLUB.

AT A MEETING
Held on the
12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1840,
At Melbourne,
For the purpose of Establishing
ANNUAL RACE MEETINGS
In the
COUNTY OF BOURKE,

With a view to the Improvement of the Breed of Horses in the Colony generally, it was resolved—

1st. That a Committee be formed, to be called "The Committee of the Port Phillip Turf Club," and that to
these and the Stewards be confided the entire management and arrangement of the races.
2nd. That the races take place annually, at such time or times as the Committee shall appoint, and that the first
meeting be held on the 13th, 14th and 15th April next.
3rd. That the Committee do take for their guidance and direction the rules of the Newmarket Jockey Club, as far
as the same are applicable to the circumstances of the colony.
4th. That annual subscriptions and donations be received, and that a book be opened for that purpose forthwith.
5th. That the following gentlemen do constitute a Committee, three to form a quorum:—
J. D. LYON CAMPBELL, Esq.
C. H. EBDEN, Esq.
J. HAWSON, Esq.
HUGH JAMIESON, Esq.
GEORGE B. SMYTH, Esq.
WILLIAM VERNER, Esq.

7th. That the following gentlemen be requested to act as Stewards at the ensuing races:—
J. HAWSON, Esq.
G. B. SMYTH, Esq.
W. VERNER, Esq.

Of the members of this first Turf Club Committee not one now (1884) survives. They were
all gentlemen of the highest respectability, public-spirited, and sincerely devoted to the land of their
adoption. Their names appear frequently in other chapters, wherein are described movements
of various kinds, with which either as regards some or all they were more or less identified.

The entrance fee for membership was to be five guineas, with an annual payment of £2 2s. 6d.,
and "The Port Phillip Turf Club" was to be constituted on the 2nd January, 1841, all the members
to be elected by ballot, the names of intending candidates to be sent to the Chairman (Mr. Verner)
by the 24th December.

Amongst the rules adopted was the following:—"All horses entered to race to take their ages
from the 1st day of August, that is, a horse foaled any time in 1840, after the 1st day of August,
will be deemed one year old on the 1st day of August, 1841."
Batman's Hill was now, by common consent, abandoned as a racing arena, for the special fitness of the Saltwater River Flat was undeniable. For several years the new locality was known simply as the Racecourse. Gradually a small hamlet sprung up on the main thoroughfare from Melbourne to Mount Macedon. "Bob" Fleming, one of the first colonists, who took to retailing meat for the sustenance of the Melbournians settled down there, and it was in compliment to this pioneer butcher, the down huts and shanties were dignified by the name of Flemington, a nomenclature subsequently extended to the racecourse. It was therefore determined by the Turf Club that the next meeting should come off there, and it did so accordingly, with Messrs. W. Gardiner, and J. Rowe as Clerks of the Course. At four o'clock on the evening of the entry day (the 12th April) all the competing horses were paraded on the eastern side of Batman's Hill, and there was a strong muster of Melbournians to behold the turn-out. On the opening morning and under favourable weather, people began to flock from all parts to the since well-known banks of the Saltwater River. There was a town band of three performers in attendance, mastered by Mr. G. B. Hailes, afterwards a prosperous timber merchant and J.P., who played on the bass viol. His services were retained for £20 by Mr. Thomas Halfpenny, the keeper of the principal booth, the William Tell, constructed of green bushes and canvas, and close by the Grand Stand a shaky concern of stringy bark and ti-tree.

The course is described "as an excellent piece of turf, selected with considerable judgment." The attendance on the first day was good, but as a drawback it is recorded that "for aristocracy, fashion, and beauty, the muster was scanty; and the fatal glances of the black eye and blue were 'Like angels' visits, few and far between.'"

**First Day.—Tuesday, 13th April.**

**TOWN PLATE.—Entrance 10 sovs., with 50 sovs. added; heats; two miles and a distance; weights, from 8 st. for three year-olds, up to 9 st. 10 lb. for six years and aged.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Digits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. M'Nail's g h Plenipo, aged, black and white stripes</td>
<td>3 2 1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Watson's ch m Countess, 6 yrs., crimson and black</td>
<td>1 3 3 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. A. Hunter's ch g Romeo, 5 yrs., crimson and green</td>
<td>2 1 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Carrington's b h Councillor, 4 yrs., black and red, black cap</td>
<td>4 4 dis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sherwin's g g Mustache, aged, blue</td>
<td>5 5 dis.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

There was no jockeyship, yet good racing. Plenipo, at starting five to one, took the lead, Countess and Romeo close up, and when within 100 yards of home, they passed him, had a very sharp run in, the lady beating the gentleman about his own length. In the second heat the same condition of things was repeated until near the close, when Romeo came to the front, with Plenipo a good second, but the two winners—the first and second heats—appeared much distressed. For the third heat Councillor and Mustache were drawn, and only the other three started. It was a spirited effort, in which the riders rendered but small service, Romeo winning by half a length. There were now three winners of a heat each, and what is very unusual, there was a fourth or conquering race to be decided. The three horses got off well, but the heavy day's work so told upon the Countess that her ladyship was obliged to strike her colours very soon. Plenipo got the lead, and several times struggled hard to bid "Romeo, Farewell;" but Romeo would not be shelved and was only conquered by a neck.

**THE PUBLICANS' PURSE.—Entrance, 6 sovs., with 50 sovs. added. Distance and weights same as before.** There were only three starters, and both heats were won through good riding by Lamb's b h Clinker, 3 years, beating M'Nail's b g Woodman, and Hunter's b m Venus.
THE MAIDEN PLATE, of 5 sovs. entrance, and 25 sovs. added, heats one mile and a distance, with same weights, was won (both heats) by Powlett’s Matilda, beating Snodgrass’s Baroness, Wright’s Freedom, Sherwin’s Viscount, and Reid’s Diamond.

Though the monetary affairs of the province were in a most unsettled condition, several hundreds of pounds changed hands by the day’s chances. The few policemen and special constables deputed to preserve order permitted much disorder, and drunken horsemen caused sad annoyance. One man was ridden down, and had his chest trampled in by an intoxicated, mounted scoundrel, who narrowly escaped lynching. There was a small party of the border police (an equestrian corps of ex-convicts) in attendance, and one of them getting mad drunk, drew his sword, and threatened to kill everybody. Though he did not keep his word, he acted in such a manner as to create a general panic, for he is reported to have “cloven one man through hat to skull, causing him to bleed freely, a second over the nose, dividing the cartilage, and a third over the shins making him dead lame.” He was at length secured, and under the existing Convict Regulations flogged within an inch of his life the following day.

Second Day.—Wednesday, 14th April.

LADIES’ PURSE.—Entry 5 sovs., with 20 sovs. or more added. A three-mile race, gentlemen riders. Weights from 10 st. 5 lb. for 3 years to 12 st. for 6 years and aged. This prize was won off by M’Nall’s Plenipo, from Powlett’s Boliva and Hunter’s Romeo.

TRIAL STAKES, for 2 and 3-year-olds, 4 sovs. entry, and 30 sovs. added. Heats, 1 mile and a distance. Weights: 2 years, 7 st. 4 lb; 3 years, 8 st., with an allowance of 3 lb. to mares and geldings. Five started, and the first heat was won easily by Ewart’s Prince Albert. The second heat was won by Clarke’s Tally-ho, with The Prince, who threw his rider, nowhere. In the interval before the third start, it was ascertained that the first winner was disqualified, and the stake was awarded to Tally-ho without any further trouble.

THE PONY STAKES was for horses 14 hands high and under, with 2 sovs. entry, 20 sovs. added; heats, 2 miles and distance. Catch weights. Half-a-dozen started, and both events were easily pulled off by Watson’s Medora.

The next was a SWEEPSTAKES for beaten horses. Catch weights. 1 sov. entrance, 15 sovs. added. Heats, 1 mile and a distance. Post entry. It was won by M’Nall’s Woodman, beating four indifferent competitors.

Third Day.—Thursday, 15th April.

THE TURF CLUB CUP.—STEEPLECHASE.—5 sovs. entrance added to 50 sovs., over 3 miles of country selected by the Stewards, with 9 leaps of 3 feet 3 inches, composed of three-railed fence, blocked with brushwood. Weights from 10 st. for 3 years to 11 st. 10 lb., 6 years and aged. Horses to be the bond-fide property of members of the Turf Club. Gentlemen riders. Three started, viz.—

Powlett’s Conrad, ridden by Mr. Monday
Arundel’s Camden, ridden by Mr. Hunter
Snodgrass’s Tom Jones, ridden by Lieut. Vignolles.

The trio had a good start. The first jump was baulked by Conrad and Camden. Tom Jones had a regular burster at the second last fence, but without injury to horse or rider. He was soon on his legs, and came in an easy winner. Conrad got on fairly well, but all the combined powers of steel and whip unstintingly applied failed to carry him over the last leap.

The finale was a HURDLE MATCH between seven starters, and won by Highett’s Una, with Tom Jones second. This stake was for all horses, 3 sovs. entry, and 20 sovs. added. Same distance and leaps as the Steeplechase.
In 1842

The interest connected with the yearly race gathering increased much in attractiveness for the public. It commenced on the 1st March, an intensely hot day, for a thermometer on the course was up to 135, and the publicans made a great harvest. This year each booth-holder had to pay £10 for permission to erect his grogery on the course, and the average cost of putting up an establishment was £40. The Town Plate was won by Lamb’s Plenipo, the Ladies’ Purse by Hunter’s Flying Shingler, and the Maiden Plate by Snodgrass’s Baroness. The horses were, generally speaking, in the reverse of good condition. The day’s amusements were varied by the occurrence of a curious case of police obstruction. At this time the police authorities had a rough-and-ready way of dealing with prisoners in custody, not only disdainful of anything like comfort, but frequently, of ordinary humanity. At race meetings it never occurred to them to erect a shed or pitch a tent on the course as a receptacle of persons arrested. A long strong chain stapled to a tree was the watch-house, to which the handcuffed culprits would be padlocked in all sorts of weather, wet or dry, baking or drenching, and here for hours unfortunates were exposed. There were present on the course a Mr. Oliver Gourlay, a fast “deil-may-care-ish” merchant of the period, and the Hon. James Erskine Murray, a Barrister, the most popularity-loving Scotchman in the province. Some half-a-dozen prisoners were on the chain, snarling, and incessantly yelling for water with not a drop to drink. Some constables marched up an additional prisoner charged with shying an emptied rum bottle at some person, and he was so roughly handled by his captors that Gourlay and Murray cried out shame, and backed up by such encouragement, a few rowdies had some notion of not only effecting a rescue, but shivering the main chain, and emancipating the whole lot. In the midst of the turmoil, Dr. Martin, a Territorial Magistrate, resident at Heidelberg, rode by, and seeing that an outbreak was imminent unless a prompt blow was struck, ordered the arrest of Gourlay, who was forthwith violently dragged from his horse by District Chief-Constable Brodie, pinioned, and chained up with the rest. Murray vehemently remonstrated, and would have been hooked on too, but owed his escape to the fortunate combination of being the scion of a noble Scottish house and a member of the Port Phillip Bar. After an hour’s parboiling, Gourlay was released on bail by Mr. William Verner, another J.P., and on appearing next morning at the Police Court, the alleged offender was committed for trial at the Criminal Sessions. Six weeks after this, Gourlay was one of five gentlemen volunteers who gallantly rode down and captured a band of bushrangers on the Plenty, and in consideration of the intrepidity so displayed, the Crown Prosecutor entered a nolle prosequi for the racecourse escapade.

In 1843

The races were run on three consecutive days in March, and in the interest taken in them there was a perceptible annual increase. The Town Plate for 50 sovs. added to 10 sovs. entrance was won (both heats) by Fletcher’s Romeo.

In 1844

The 19th March was the first of the three days’ races this year, and though a terrible financial crisis had purged the colony for the past two years, and times were hard enough, the monetary atmosphere was just brightening, and the settlers were in every disposition to enjoy themselves. The
consequence was the largest influx of strangers ever known to Melbourne, and the (then) immense number of 5000 persons witnessed the sports of the morrow. It was very sultry, the atmosphere muggy, with occasional puffs of hot wind, but towards noon there was a crashing thunderstorm, with slight showers of rain throughout the afternoon.

**The Town Plate** was won by Mercer's Rob Roy, whilst Snodgrass's Billy-go-by'em pocketed the Trial Stakes, and Kilgour's Bolivar the Publicans' Purse.

The weather was much pleasanter on the second day, the attendance good, and the running ditto. The result of the three days' meeting showed that though there was room for much improvement in the training and get-up of horses, evidences of no little progress in this respect were manifest, which would gradually render the Port Phillip Turf Club Meetings all that they should be.

**1845.**

A special charge of £5 per booth as a police rate was levied upon the racecourse publicans, to remunerate special constables for the maintenance of good order, and as there were a score of booths, a sum of £100 was available for the purpose. The command of the course was placed under Mr. Charles Brodie. There was fine weather on the opening day (25th March) and a numerous turn-out of the public. This was the year when the famous stock-horse Petrel made his debut, and carried all before him.

**The Town Plate** was for 40 sovs., added to 6 sovs. entrance. Heats; 2 miles and a distance; weights as for previous similar competitions, and the result was:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campbell's Petrel</td>
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<td>1 t</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collins' Smolensko</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2 dia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dowling's Romeo</td>
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<td>3 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purves' Banker</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lang's Hendric</td>
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Petrel was the favourite, and won the two heats without difficulty.

**The Maiden Plate** was won by Brown's Adela, beating 4 others; and the Publicans' Purse fell to Smolensko out of six applicants.

The Second Day was drenched with a drizzling rain, which soon cleared off, and there was a larger attendance than on the day before, and more enjoyment. The Saltwater River was studded with a flotilla of private boats unseen there previously, and unequalled since.

Smolensko won the Ladies' Purse, beating Romeo, Banker, and three others.

**The Port Phillip Stakes** fell to Crook's Gay Lad, and the Pony Stakes to Henderson's Pussy.

On the Third Day the Steeplechase was won by Bond's Flying Shingler. A Consolation and Hack Race concluded the meeting. The last day of the week witnessed a private match for £100 aside between Petrel and Smolensko (Tasmanian) 3 miles and a distance. The former won easily, and not less than £1000 was lost and gained on the event. The evening of the 28th was signalized by a grand Race Ball, but a heavy rain kept away a number of ladies who had intended to be present.

Smolensko beat all before him, and an excellent supper. The attendance numbered 120, and the proportionate paucity of the fair sex was compensated for by the complacency of the ladies there, who are reported in a Melbourne newspaper "to have worked double tides to keep the gentlemen in partners," and very ungallant and ungentlemanly was it to exact such a species of hard labour.

**1846.**

Early in March there was a very spirited race meeting at Geelong, when Petrel beat Smolensko and several others in the first heat for the Town Plate, and had a walk-over in the second. Here, also, it was where Austin's Bunyip essayed his first race, and won the Three Year-old Stakes.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

THE MELBOURNE MEETING

Commenced on the 24th March, and wonderful expectations were entertained as to what Petrel would do. For some weeks previously it was reported that the V.D.I. champion, Paganini, was coming over from Hobart Town to show his tail to every horse in Port Phillip; but this all ended in smoke. Another Vandemonian favourite, Paul Jones, was put forward with much consequence, and the loud and excited crowing of the partisans of the two horses was amusing. Each was heavily backed, and a big pot of money, for the time, changed pockets.

TOWN PLATE.—Heats; 2 miles and a distance. 50 sovs. added to 7 sovs. entrance. Weight for age: 3 yrs., 8 st.; 4 yrs., 8 st. 10 lb.; 5 yrs., 9 st. 4 lb.; 6 yrs. and aged, 9 st. 10 lb.

| C. Campbell's ch g Petrel, 4 yrs. | Quinan's bl m Maid of the Moat, 4 yrs. 3 |
| Carpenter's b h Paul Jones, 4 yrs. | Cowell's b h Quicksilver, aged ... ... Broke down. |

Petrel, on stripping, seemed in good condition, though perhaps a little high, whilst Paul had evidently the better training, and was in almost perfect racing order.

In the first heat Petrel was ridden by a bush jock named Muff, and from the manner in which he spoiled his horse's chance he did not belie his name. Paul Jones was splendidly piloted by one Tom Cooke, and after a good start Paul and Petrel ran some distance nose to nose, after which Paul succeeded in obtaining a short lead, and kept it by little more than a length until the run home, when Petrel made a spirited neck and neck race in, and Paul won by a head. "The Muff" unmercifully flogged his animal. Time, 4 min. 11 sec. The result nearly sent the Van Diemonian portion of the attendance wild with joy. They ranted and roared, and jumped and swore, and one fellow in his delirium made for the river, in which he leaped, and was with some difficulty saved from drowning.

In the second heat "The Muff" was cashiered, and his seat on Petrel transferred to a pig-skinner known as "Sandy, the Butcher." Only the two horses came to the post, and during the 55 minutes that intervened since the first heat, the excitement and expectation that prevailed was up to white heat The Port Philippians were confident that Petrel would yet recover his lost laurels, and the Van Diemonians never questioned the possibility of Paul Jones adding to the honours he had taken. Still amongst the aspirations cherished in the minds of both parties, there was the acid of uncertainty. After a capital start was effected, Paul Jones shot ahead and kept the lead for nearly half-way, when Petrel freed from the incubus of "The Muff" handicap, and well-handled, went up passed the other, never lost ground, and amidst vociferous acclamation was landed a winner by four lengths. The Van Diemonians were now beside themselves, but with feelings of a different kind, and the betting, which between the heats was 10 to 3 on Paul, now veered round to 5 to 1 on Petrel.

In the third heat Paul Jones again led, but was speedily overhauled, and afterwards made no show. Petrel won easily by several lengths, hard held.

For the MAIDEN PLATE five started, and there was a spirited neck and neck race between Rowan's Juliet and Collier's Figaro. These were both two-year-olds, and Juliet won by half-a-length. The distance was one mile, and it was done in what was considered good time, viz., 1 min. 56 sec.

THE PUBLICANS' PURSE was won by Collins' Smolensko. The course was in good condition and well kept, the weather was agreeable, the people orderly, and it was pronounced to be the best day's racing enjoyed in Port Phillip.

On the Second Day the LADIES' PURSE was carried off by Petrel, beating Smolensko and four more. Petrel led, and had it all his own way except for one short critical moment when the Smolenskoites had reason to hope, but that was all. The PORT PHILLIP STAKES were won by Austin's Bunyip, for whom greater triumphs were in store, and Kirk's Rough Robin was the conquering pony.

The Third Day was darkened by clouds of dust, and the sport much eclipsed in consequence, and the occasion was rendered notorious by acts of rascality, rarely, if ever, paralleled on the Melbourne Course. A HURDLE RACE was run, and won by Borradaile's Wild Harry. Several horses
started, and there were as many baulks and falls. Wild Harry was leading, and came down in taking
a hurdle, when as Jane, the next animal, was passing, several persons rushing between the mare and
the leap, prevented her going over. Mr. Dewing, the rider of Wild Harry, was lifted into the saddle,
and, resuming the race, came in cantering. Jane followed, and her rider, Mr. Main, jun., objected
to the help given to Dewing. As Dewing after the race was going from the weighing stand to the
Stewards' enclosure, he was bludgeoned by a ruffian and for a few moments it was thought he was
killed. He was lifted in a state of insensibility off the ground, carried on board a steamer, and
conveyed to Melbourne. He remained in a precarious state for several days at the Pastoral Hotel
in Queen Street. A reward of £100 was offered, and the murderous assailant, who was subsequently
identified, received a sentence of twelve months' imprisonment. In after years an appreciative modern
Government rewarded the political services rendered by this same individual by appointing him a
J.P., and one of the dispensers of justice to Her Majesty's subjects.

This meeting was characterized by much violent rioting on the outskirts of the course. On
one of the evenings Mr. Edward Argyle was quietly riding home from the day's fun, but fun of
another kind lay in wait for him on the road. Three scoundrels waylaid and attempted to murder
him. He rode for his life for two miles, pursued by the yelling savages, was at length overtaken,
felled from his horse by a blow with a loaded whip-handle, and whilst on the ground was kicked
and stoned to the very verge of death. His murder was prevented only by the galloping up of
a Mr. Page, by whose intervention he was saved. A person named John Maher was afterwards
arrested as one of the offenders, and tried at the Criminal Sessions. He was convicted of an assault
with intent to do grievous bodily harm, and Judge A'Beckett sentenced him to transportation for
life. He was sent away to Van Diemen's Land, and died there after a few years' penal servitude. This
unfortunate person, though his guilt was undoubted, was said to be the plant instrument through
which another party, who took good care to abtain from any overt participation in the disgraceful
outrage, wreaked vengeance for some personal enmity entertained towards Argyle.

There was no public man in the province now half such a favourite as the unknown
bush-hack, who had become so famous that hero-worship, if such a sentiment existed, was for the time
banished and horse-worship reigned in its stead. The name of Petrel was a household word.
Everyone was asking who was Petrel; where he came from; who was his sire; his dam, and what
was his pedigree? But poor Petrel had no place in a stud book. He was a species of foundling,
picked up by chance, and columns were written about him in the newspapers—much of it pure gossiping
invention. The following account of his antecedents is, I believe, substantially correct. A Sydney
racer, known as Steeltrap, was supposed to be his sire, and there was a strong family resemblance
between father and son. All that is known of Petrel's dam was that in 1841, a man journeying
overland from Sydney to Adelaide stayed for a short time at the Grampians. He had in his
possession two fine mares, supposed to have been stolen, and both in foal. The stranger found
employment on the station of a Mr. Riley, where the mares foaled and one of the youngsters was
Petrel. They remained there for a couple of years, and in 1843, when horseflesh was beginning
to command something like a price, John Giveng, an overseer of Dr. Martin, bought both colts for
£36. Petrel was then turned into a stock horse, there was much speed in him, and he exhibited
as a sort of show animal before strangers. One day as several stockmen were out riding, an emu
was sighted, a hunt extemporized, and Petrel not only distanced all the others, but ran the emu
down. Petrel at this time was rising four years old, a dark chestnut, 16 hands 1 inch high, the head
beautifully formed; but the build of the animal, though symmetrical, seemed as if too powerful
for a racer in the hind quarters. This imparted a clumsy appearance, but the same indications have
distinguished some of the fleetest English horses. Distance, whether long or short, or weight light
or heavy, were matters of small moment to him. Mr. Colin Campbell soon heard of this rough
diamond, and wishing to have him, the ownership was exchanged by Mr. Campbell swopping a
mare worth £20. Petrel was then carefully looked after, put in condition, and his first race was on the 20th February, 1845, at the Pyrenees, where he won the three-year-old stakes. The same year for the GEELONG TOWN PLATE, one-and-half-miles, he was beaten by Sweetmeat. One writer declares Petrel to have been foaled between the 10th and 15th October, 1841, by a Steeltrap mare from either Operator or Theorem.

Petrel was raffled on the evening of the 30th March, 1846, at the Royal Hotel, in Collins Street, when there were 40 members at £5 each, and the prize was drawn by Mr. J. C. Riddell, who in a few days after, had the horse put up to auction at Kirk's Bazaar in Bourke Street, when he was knocked down to Mr. Borradaile for 150 guineas. Subsequently he was despatched to Sydney to sweep the turf before him, but he was beaten by a celebrated New South Welsh horse—Jorrocks, and also by Blue Bonnet. The Sydney-ites went into raptures at the blowing being soon taken out of the Port Phillipians; but it could not be denied that Petrel had suffered much during a whole week's rough passage between Melbourne and Sydney, and that he was run too soon after his arrival.

More will be heard subsequently of Petrel's successes and reverses—for he experienced both. Suffice it here to state that after figuring in the race field until he was 14 years old, his then owner (Mr. James Austin) turned him loose, to live on grass for the rest of his life, and he so existed until he passed the quarter of a century.

**PETREL AND “THE POLKA.”**

Of all the unexpected events that could arise from the sudden appearance of a racing star in the sporting firmament, the most singular is that of Petrel being the medium through which the popular Polish dance of the “polka” should be first publicly introduced to the Terpsichorean votaries of Port Phillip. Yet so it was. The new owner of the horse (Mr. Riddell) took it into his head to finish up the race week of 1846 by giving, on the evening of the 31st March, a grand Petrel Ball in the Royal Hotel. It is recorded of it that 100 ladies and gentlemen participated in the festivities, that the “polka” was there “half-stepped” for the first time on Melbourne boards; and “at the end of the room were suspended over the fireplace, the saddle, bridle, spurs, whip, and colours used in Petrel’s turf performances.”

1847.

The meeting of this year was remarkable as the first time when race-goers in any number patronised what was then known as Picnic Hill. The Hill was so far away from the winning-post that, as a rule, sight-seers did not care much about it, but it was now slowly growing into favour. The 6th April was the appointed first day, and there was a good deal of interest shown in the meeting in consequence of the appearance of not only Petrel and Paul Jones, but of Bunyip, a horse of much promise, and Emerald, who had gathered some green bays in New South Wales.

**TOWN PLATE, 100 sovs., with 7 sovs. entrance. Weight for age, viz., 3 yrs., 8 st.; 4 yrs., 8 st. 10 lb.; 5 yrs., 9 st. 5 lb.; 6 yrs. and aged, 9 st. 10 lb. Heats, 2 miles and distance.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Entrance</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austin's br g Bunyip, 4 yrs</td>
<td>1 1</td>
<td>Wright's b Paul Jones</td>
<td>4 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Handford's b h Conrad, 4 yrs</td>
<td>2 2</td>
<td>Chamber's c g Emerald</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Gill's ch g Petrel, 5 yrs</td>
<td>3 dis</td>
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**FIRST HEAT.—**Petrel and Bunyip went together from the post, when the latter soon led, and so continued to the end an easy winner. During portion of the race Emerald and Petrel were side by side, when there was a jostle, and Petrel's rider (Sandy “the Butcher”) struck the other jock with his whip, and so caused Emerald to swerve outside a post. This had the effect of disqualifying Petrel's rider. Paul Jones behaved so indifferently as never to have had the ghost of a chance.

In the second heat Paul led, but soon retired from the front, which was taken and kept by Bunyip. Time—1st heat, 4 min. 14 sec; and, 4 min. 15 sec. The year before Petrel's time was 4 min. 11 sec.
The Trial Stakes were taken by Bessy Bedlam, a brown filly from the Austin Stable, and Bunyip won the Publicans' Purse in a field of eight.

This day passed off in an unprecedentedly quiet manner, the judicial punishments of the previous year probably exercising a salutary effect in preserving the peace.

On the second day Bunyip beat Petrel and three others for the Ladies' Purse, and the meeting went over the third day, and was pronounced to be a great success. In addition to Bunyip, the Austins got up a minor sensation by displaying on the course a four-legged goose, hatched on the station of Mr. Josiah Austin. The quadruped marched about on all fours as naturally as if the extra pair constituted no deformity.

Bunyip, the new idol, before whose prowess the short-lived renown of Petrel was doomed to pale, was got by the Duke of Argyle, a horse shipped from Sydney by the Hon. J. Erskine Murray, out of an imported Arab mare belonging to Mr. J. W. Shaw. She formed part of the stock of Messrs. Smyth and Prentice, squatters, and was purchased at a sale of Kirk and Hartin, well-known auctioneers. Bunyip, a yearling colt, was bought at the same sale for £7 10s. by Mr. Austin, and shortly after began to give indication of the stuff of which he was made. He was first run when a three-year-old, at Geelong, on 4th March, 1846, when he conquered Stevenson's Cornet. Three weeks after witnessed his début on the Melbourne course, where he secured the Port Phillip Stakes. His third appearance was at Colac, 4th February, 1847, where the Colac and Squatters' Purse fell to him; and turning westward, on the 16th of February he won the Town Plate and Ladies' Purse at Belfast. On the 10th March he pocketed the Geelong Town Plate, walked over for the Merchants' Purse, and the next day won the Publicans' Purse. Hitherto he had never been beaten, and was considered the champion of the turf.

1848.

Up to this period the Flemington Course was held under no stronger tenure than sufferance, and there was not even a line of writing to authorize its occupation. It was at length determined to apply to the Government for the issue of a ten years' lease to Messrs. W. F. Stawell, J. C. Riddell, and J. F. L Foster, as Trustees for the public. The application was granted, and the Turf Club commenced the partial fencing of the course, and had a substantial Grand Stand erected.

The meet of this year came off on the 5th, 6th, and 7th April, and this was the first occasion of a publican venturing to put up a drinking-booth on the Hill. The enterprising individual was Mr. Timothy ("Tim") Lane, a well-known Boniface of certain largely-developed peculiarities, but one who had a special knack of making money. He kept the Builders' Arms, in Little Collins Street, and no man of his time was better known, or oftener laughed at. "Tim's" establishment was accordingly perched on the hill-top, and he drove a roaring trade there for the first day; but on the second a strong wind came roaring about, and his tentage, barrels, pewters, bottles, grog and swipes were blown away as if they were a heap of egg-shells, and it was with much difficulty that the heterogeneous assortment was saved from destruction in the Saltwater River.

Petrel was the only favourite forthcoming, and his prestige had now waned—whilst as to Bunyip, from whom so much was expected, he was not only now out of running, but it was averred that the best of his running days were over. The weather was as unpropitious as it could possibly be. Day No. 1 was a terror of wind and dust; No. 2 more boisterous, if a shade less dusty; and as to No. 3, barring the dust, it was a combination of wind and rain, with the meteorological embellishments of thunder and lightning superadded. These discouraging climatic conditions exercised a depressing influence, and everything was flat and tame and dull.

Petrel won the Town Plate, beating Garrityown, a much-admired horse, belonging to Mr. Rawdon Greene, and was ridden by a Jockey named Holmes. He also took the Publicans' Purse,
The Geelong races were run on the 7th and 8th March, and the result of the first day was conveyed by overland express for the Herald, and arrived that night in time for next morning's issue of the paper. This was the first feat of the kind effected in the colony. The courier was a Mr. Patrick McGrath, then a shipping reporter on the paper, who was afterwards a City Councillor for Gipps Ward. He had a miserable, toilsome ride of it, for neither roads nor weather were in the best condition. But he did it with two good horses, and though he was half drowned at the Saltwater River, where in the darkness he missed the punt, he swam his horse safely over, and reached the office about midnight.

**The Melbourne Meet**

Of this year was not well patronised, occasioned by a scarcity of money, a fall in the price of wool, and the frequency of races in the interior; but an evident improvement was remarked in the general turn-out of the people, and the number of vehicles which put in an appearance.

The Town Plate was the great event of the first day (27th March), and six horses came to the post, including Petrel, now owned by Mr. T. Austin, and Bessy Bedlam, owned by J. Austin. Mr. Lyall, one of the Stewards, officiated as starter, and, on the dropping of a flag, the horses got away, and Petrel and Bessy soon had it all to themselves, the mare, after an exciting run, winning by half a length. The three miles were done in 5 min. 56 sec. Lyall now proclaimed it to be no race, inasmuch as though there was a lowering of the flag, he did not say "off," and a majority of the Stewards concurring, though none of the owners of the horses offered any objection, it was decided the race should be run again. Petrel was withdrawn, and Bessy Bedlam also won the second heat, beating Harper's Orlando, Greene's Garryowen, and Mills' Little John. Lyall's mismanagement was severely animadverted on, and, though the day's programme was thus unexpectedly increased, no one denied that a bungling, though unintentional, injustice had been done.

In the All-Aged Stakes (heats) Petrel ran away from the rest, and was an easy winner.

On the next day prizes fell to both Petrel and Bessy, the former winning the Ladies' Purse, and the latter the Publican's.

Some drunken scrimmages occurred, and a most cowardly and unprovoked assault was committed on Mr. John O'Shanassy, full particulars of which appear in the Chapter of Trials.

Petrel scored the Forced Handicap on the third day, and on squaring accounts had a balance on the right side of the ledger to the tune of a £50 note.

1850.

The course was now in part enclosed by a fence, and an entrance gate fixed close by the river. The meeting commenced on the 19th March, with a lack of interest through the disappearance of Petrel and Bunyip from the scene, without leaving any successor for the public favour, though Bessy Bedlam was in no want of admirers. The Town Plate was won by Bermingham's Merino, beating Bessy Bedlam and Crosbie's Waverley. Distance, 3 miles (heats). Time—1st, 5 min. 56 sec.; 2nd, 6 min. 4 sec.

Merino was a very fine black gelding, broad-hipped and deep-chested, bred in 1845, for Mr. James Henty. The Paul Jones Cup was contested by four, and won by Mr. Dwyer's Ellen, but the Stewards allowed a protest, when it was run again for on the second day, and won by Simpson's Maid of the Mist. The Trial Stakes terminated in a dead heat between Mr. Maine's...
b f Rachel and D. C. Simon's b f Maid of the Mist; the former by Romeo, and the other by Paul Jones. The others divided the spoil. The Ladies' Purse, 3 miles and a distance, was run in 6 min. 20 sec.—considered the fastest time for the length yet obtained. It was won by Merino over three others. The Steeplechase was taken by Mr. Chitty's Big Milk over one Sober Robin, and a very milky and sober affair it was. The winner was a clumsy, ugly brute, but his competitor had a drunken instead of a "sober" Robin on his back, who went very near landing brute and beast in the Saltwater River.

On the first day two men were killed—one run over by a gig, and the other ridden over. On the evening of the third day John Beech, a painter was drowned whilst returning to Melbourne in a steamer. Being drunk, he tumbled overboard—the first fatal accident of the kind. Much of the success of several annual gatherings about the time was justly attributed to the business tact and activity of Mr. James Henderson, the Club Secretary.

1851.

The 4th March was the first day, and there was a vast improvement in the attendance and quality of the sport as compared with the preceding year. Three steamers plied between Melbourne and the course, and one (the "Maitland") carried a thousand passengers.

The Town Plate was for 60 sovs., with 6 sovs. entrance. Four miles. Weights from 7 st. 6 lb. for 2 yrs., to 9 st. 10 lb. for 6 yrs. and aged.

McLaughlin's ch g Dauntless, 5 yrs. ..... 1 | Walker's bk g Blue Ruin ..... 3
Austin's b g Bunyip, aged ..... 2 | 
Four others started. The race was a capital one, and the time 8 min. 16 sec. Dauntless won by two lengths, the riders whipping severely. The winner is chronicled as "being in good condition, as wiry as a rat-trap, and with the wind of a blacksmith's bellows." Bunyip's owner was much surprised at, for him, a most unexpected result.

The St. Leger was for 100 sovs., with 10 sovs. entry, for three-year-old colts and fillies. Weight, 8 st. 10 lb., 1½ miles. Six started, and the winner was Mr. Geo. Maine's b f Maid of the Mist.

Time, 2 min. 52 sec, the fastest on the Melbourne course. Won "without turning a hair," and it was stated that at top speed it could be done in 3 sec. less.

The Romeo and Figaro Purse, 5 sovs. entry added to 100 sovs., the gift of Messrs. D. C. and H. N. Simon's, for two-year-old colts and fillies, the produce of Romeo and Figaro; the second horse to receive 25 sovs. out of the purse. Weight, 8 st. 7 lb. One mile and a distance.

H. N. Simon's b c Flying Pieman ..... 1 | H. N. Simon's ch f Enchantress ..... 0
Jas. Austin's br f Enigma ..... 2 | 
A neck-and-neck race between the two placed. When 200 yards from the start the saddle of Enchantress shifted, and the rider was rolled over.

The Publicans' Purse was won by Petrel.

On the Second Day the course was soaked with rain, and very heavy. The race of the day was the Stewards' Purse (heats) which fell to Petrel, beating Maid of the Mist, Dauntless, and others.

On the Third Day the Steeplechase was won by Henderson's b h Nimrod, beating half-a-dozen others, all of them aged, and each weighted at 11 st. 11 lb. There were 14 jumps, and several falls, but no one was much hurt.

The then Mayor of Melbourne (Mr. W. Nicholson) presented a 20 sovereign cup for beaten two and three-year-old colts and fillies, which was won by Rachel.

The meeting closed with an incident of a regretful character. Mr. Robert McNamara, a farmer, residing at the Moonee Ponds, was there throughout the meeting, and on the last evening, whilst returning from the course, was thrown from his horse, and so fatally injured that he died in a few days. His funeral was the largest attended known in Melbourne to that time.
I cannot close this résumé of the Melbourne Race Meetings without a few words in memoriam of an old sporting official whose name was for many years synonymous with the Flemington Course, with which he became early associated, and continued until a few years ago, when he retired, and death severed his earthly connection soon after. This gentleman was Mr. Isaac Hinds, and “Old Ike” was one of the best known of the Old Identities. He was the first bank-teller in the colony, being appointed to that position in 1837, when Mr. W. F. A. Rucker opened an agency for the Derwent Bank in Melbourne. Mr. Hinds was afterwards a wool-broker, and took high rank in our early Colonial Freemasonry. But I speak of him as the weigher of the Flemington Course, a position which he held for a long time, and in which he was regarded as a trusted favourite by all brought into business relations with him. He was an enthusiastic sportsman in more senses than racing, and his name should not soon fade out of public memory.

A RETROSPECT.

Wide as the poles asunder are the Cup Carnival of to-day, and the Flemington Meet of forty years ago; and there were many features of the Sports of the good old times which one would like to see mingled with the present. There was a touch of romance surrounding the early gatherings which has completely died out, and would now be looked for in vain. Everyone then went to see the races, whilst now three-fourths of the people go either to try their luck in sweeps, or with bookmakers, short off on the Lawn, or to get baked on the Hill, feeling very little more interest in the running than an anxiety that the horse they backed should win. For about twenty years the winning-post was up by the river, and extending down from it, towards the Hill, between the course and the river, was a row of pubicans’ booths, where the refreshments, though not of the daintiest, had a full and plentifulness about them which amply satisfied stomachic longings. A railway was then unheard of, and the two modes of egress and regress from and to Melbourne were the road and the river, both of which were always largely patronised. Steamers used to be laid on from the wharf to the course, leaving about eleven o’clock and returning at sunset. However they managed it, or wherever fished up, there was always a “nigger band” on board; if not the real article, undoubtedly an excellent black-phizzed imitation, and these whitey-black minstrels discoursed a discordance of “music” of the most “stunning” character. The steamers were invariably packed with passengers like herrings in a barrel, and, at 2s. 6d. per head each way, reaped a profitable harvest. What was known as a packet license was taken out by the master of each craft, which was supposed to authorize only the vending of grog in transitu, but this was a rule quietly ignored; for the moment the steamers were warped to gum-trees rearward of the Grand Stand, they engaged in an active nobblerizing competition with the pubicans ashore—a proceeding little relished by the landsmen. As the police and special constables on duty were not indisposed, for sufficient consideration, to connive at small breaches of the law in this way, the regular Boniface was obliged, resignedly, to grin and bear it. If there was amusement going down, it was nothing to the noisy and intoxicated babelment of the up trip, and the wonder was how half the passengers on board did not tumble overboard. Yet only on one occasion was there a death by drowning, and even a good dip rarely occurred in this way, whilst the risks and accidents by the overland route were numerous. The road journey out was always worth looking at. Carriages were then rarities, and even a four-in-hand drag seldom to be met with; but the Flemington Road, from Melbourne to the Saltwater River, was an irregularly-linked chain of vehicles of every grade, from the squatter’s or town swell’s tandem, rotating downward to the buggy, dog-cart, butcher’s or baker’s trap, and ending with the drays, where, in a promiscuous fashion, the mother of a family and a numerous brood of youngsters might be observed indulging in the open air enjoyment of a feather or shaff bed. The only engine of locomotion then available that I never saw on road duty of a race day, at least with a living passenger freight, was the bullock team. The vehicular branch of transit was, however, outdone by the equestrianism of the age, for every quill-driver, counter-jumper, tailor, or tinker who could raise a “few bob,” chartered some kind of a screw (old or young, good or bad, was no difference, provided only it had four movable legs), at the livery stables or “bazaars,” as they were
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

styled, where there was any number of them collected from every point of the compass for hire; and
thus Jack was as good as his master—for the time, at all events. The “croppers” along the road
were innumerable. Still there were very few broken limbs, either because the nags were not in the
 humour for bucking, or the road was soft and yielding. This was also the period of pleasant and
enjoyable picnics, and around by the bottom of the hill, embedded in thick bushwood, were scattered
groups of people, of every age and condition, partaking of the contents of crammed hampers and
baskets, and ready to hail every passer-by to “come and share pot luck.” As a rule there used to
be not only more eating in proportion to the attendance, but a great deal more drinking than now,
and a drunken row was the inevitable wind-up after the racing was over. There were special constables to
keep order on the course in the vicinity of the Stand and the run in; and a party of mounted police,
and as many of the town and country constabulary as could be spared for the general supervision of
the place. There was no such thing as a temporary lock-up for tipplers; but a readier, though less
comfortable, mode of detention was devised, and this consisted of two or three bullock chains welded
together and stapled to a tree, and to this, very unlike “Ori ent pearls at random strung,” the apprehended
Bacchanalians would be manacled by one wrist. Here the restrained toper might fret and fume as
he liked, and the punishment often amounted to torture from the broiling heat of the sun or the
pelting rain; but, wet or dry, it was all the same, for the chain remained a fixture until evening, when
the prisoners were marched into town by the police, headed by the Chief-Constable, travestying the
triumphal return of some Roman conqueror exulting over the living spolia he had secured in the wars.

Some of the race rows occasionally terminated seriously for the belligerent powers, and often afforded
an opportunity for squaring the score of an old feud or gratifying private revenge. A ruffianly system
of way-laying on or off the course was once introduced; but some convictions following, the transportation
of one would-be-murderer for life, and the imprisonment of two or three lesser culprits, put a stop
to such a cowardly and brutal practice.

As for the racing itself, its quality improved by degrees, and the performances of such crack
horses as Petrel, Bunyip, Bessy Bedlam, Merino, and others remained indelibly inscribed in the
early sporting annals of Port Phillip. Up about the Stand, by the river bank, and on the Flat, the
rum of busy life buzzed merrily about, and the adroitness of industrious rascality was not idle. The
bookmaking craft had not yet come to the front, and, as there was little or nothing done in sweeps,
the honourable occupation of the “welcher” had no scope. The pickpockets were, however, efficiently
represented, and they took good care to make their hauls in the field; for though the return steamers
might present ample opportunities for dishonest harvesting, the passengers, though full almost
to overflowing in a certain sense, almost unfailingly left the course with very empty pockets. The
broad-fakers, the magman, and the thimble-riggers affected the racecourse, and the unsuspecting were
accordingly victimized without scruple.

It would be difficult to say when gambling on the Melbourne racecourse first made its
appearance—probably with the first regular meeting there in 1840. This was before the era of the
bookmaking and welching tribes, and the police of the period used to make spasmodic efforts to
suppress any overt acts of “spideram” and “thimble-rigging.” They, however, neither whipped nor
killed the snake, which lengthened its coils every year, and at the race gathering in 1847 it is averred
that no less than seventy notorious gamblers were in professional attendance. As there was then no
enclosed “Hill,” and the winning-post was by the river side, the magman and rogue operated on
the Flat, where divers and sundry other “flats” of the kind specially wanted were willing victims for
sacrifice. On the second day of the races a thimble-rigger was caught cheating in flagrante delicto,
and it was proposed to rope and drown him in the Saltwater River; but the timely arrival of some
special constables saved the scoundrel from a fate which he almost deserved. The following morning
he got three months on a tread-mill, then in good working order at the gaol.

In the way of amusement, the first attempt at originality emanated from the brain of an
eccentric blacksmith, known as “Old Cooper,” who devised what he was pleased to denominate
an aerial machine,” and it paid him well for two or three meets. This curious fabric was a
wooden abortion, built something after the model of an un wheeled, hoodless perambulator, capacious
enough to seat six persons. Four posts were sunk in the ground, and, by means of some cross-beams and a couple of stout ropes and pulleys, worked by two men, the passengers were lifted up and let down in a jig-jog way that gave unbounded satisfaction to the customers. The tariff was one half-penny per head per minute, or half-a-crown an hour; but ten minutes was considered a sufficient turn. Cooper always stood by officiating as engineer-in-chief, cashier, and time-keeper—and there, with an old silver turnip of a watch in hand, he performed his duties with the most undeviating punctuality. He did good business, and worked hard till after the last race, when he usually adjourned to the next drinking-booth, and left the aerial machine to look after itself until next morning. The jolly old fellow was a general favourite, and even the most mischief-loving scamp (there were none of our latter-day larrikins) would never think of injuring him or his belongings. It was not to be always "cakes and ale" with the veteran Vulcan, for a regular merry-go-round soon drove him out of the running, and he went completely to the dogs soon after. When the Benevolent Asylum was opened "Old Cooper" became its first inmate, and he gave up the ghost there more than twenty years ago. Though off races were occasionally held at Sandridge, near Elsternwick and Williamstown, and country meetings came to be established in different parts of the province, the Melbourne gathering was the universally-accepted event of the year. The race nights were noisy ones in town, and many a rough handling the "Bobbies" got; but if there was a cut head the roysterers were generous in supplying a sticking-plaster of more patent healing power than Apothecaries' liniments. Bank notes would pass to the police exchequer if the phlebotomist were watch-housed as a solatium for either wounded head or dignity, and the police office charge-sheets were every morning so light as to be inexplicable to those who were neither in nor knew of the secret agency operating as a peacemaker.

There was also nightly a Race-ball, a dinner or other festive demonstration at the Lamb Inn, the Prince of Wales, or some other principal place of entertainment, and, taken as a whole, the Old Turf times were infinitely more jolly and enjoyable, notwithstanding all their drawbacks, than people of the present generation can bring themselves to imagine.

The writer of this sketch was the first to suggest the changing of the Grand Stand and winning-post from near the river to the hill. He was engaged on a Melbourne journal, and, when the paragraph appeared, was laughed at and chaffed for giving expression to a notion so preposterous. But he was no idle dreamer, and he knew that it was only a question of time when the suggestion would be turned into a reality. He has often since stood on "the Hill," gazing across at the whereabouts of the Old Stand, and looking around and over the heads of the many thousands congregated on a Cup Day, his memory strays back to the olden times, when the circumstances above detailed occurred, and he wonders still at what the unfathomable womb of the dim future may have in store for the Flemington Racecourse. Who will be on "the Hill" or the day when the last race will be run there? As there will, some time or other, be a last man, so will there be assuredly a last race meeting at Flemington; but when that event will come off is a question to which there can now be no answer.

Bonwick, in his Discovery and Settlement of Port Phillip, thus notices the earliest meet in the hunting field:—"The first hunt with hounds was on 28th August, 1839. There were fifteen red-coats, led on by 'Old Tom Brown.' A kangaroo was started; the chase was brilliant; the forester distanced the horses and dogs; and we have reason to believe, he regained his family home in safety." If the historian uses the term "red-coats" literally, as implying that the fifteen Nimrods were so costumed, I am disposed to question the accuracy of the statement, for it is extremely improbable that there was anything like fifteen fox-hunting uniforms then in the district. Furthermore, though this might have been the first mounted hunt "with hounds," it most assuredly was not the first kangaroo-hunting
with dogs, for Fawkner's party, who had two kangaroo dogs with them, beguiled their Sundays in 1835 in such an anti-Sabbatarian pastime.

The first name that I have met with as the keeper of a pack of hounds was Mr. T. H. Pyke, in 1844, who afforded the sportsmen in and around Melbourne occasional runs in the country, about the Werribee and Keilor. No doubt from the earliest time the settlers scattered throughout the province would, now and then, take the field after a kangaroo or emu, though this five-footer of a bird was not easily overhauled, and found little difficulty in kicking over the best kangaroo dog that might come to too close quarters which was not often the case unless in ascending a range. Down hill the emu could extend its short wings, and make short work of the chase. The dingo, or wild dog, was much more suitable as an object of hunting, for the animal might be said to partake as much of the nature of the fox as the dog; in size, form, and habits it resembled Reynard, and afforded good sport to a pack of hounds. The dingo, therefore, was as a rule, hunted until other favourites of the English chase were introduced. It was not very long before such began to appear in the country. By the middle of 1845, Pyke had some foxes; and on the 30th August one of them was started at Penny Royal Creek, some capital sport ensuing. The fox after a smart run shaped in the direction of Williamstown, and en route an amusingly unaccountable metamorphosis occurred, for the huntsmen were in at the death—not of a fox, but an emu, and by what possibility the exchange was effected could not be explained. A newspaper of the time records that Mr. William Stawell rode a horse chartered from Mr. J. G. Taylor, who kept the Bakers' Arms Hotel in Elizabeth Street, nearly opposite the Post Office, and that the animal was accidentally killed during the run.

By the next year hunting had become more general. A club, known as the Corio Club, was in existence at Geelong, and it had as its huntsman a Mr. John Perks, who was much of a favourite. He resided in a hut on Willis's Cattle Station, at Indented Head, and one day in November, 1846, going some distance into the bush, and not returning so soon as expected, some friends started out in search, found him dying, and he immediately expired. It is supposed he had been sun-struck. Messrs. Ferrers and Mercer also kept hounds, and hunted twice a week about Buninyong and the Leigh; and Mr. Rucclus, jun., showed off at the Werribee, where a Hunt Club was formed, when some fallow deer were imported to Geelong in June, 1849. On the 11th July, one of them, a poor little mite of a thing, was enlarged at the Little River, but in less than twenty minutes it was caught, and died shortly after. The next night there was a Hunt Ball at Geelong, attended by a hundred visitors. Mr. James Henderson, for years the Secretary of the Port Phillip Turf Club, was also the proprietor of a hunting pack, and in 1851 a stag was imported from Van Diemen's Land. On the 28th of September there was a grand turn-out of the Hendersonian hounds on Emerald Hill, and a field of fifty horsemen. The stag was let off, and after a two-mile spin towards Caulfield, then a houseless and unsettled region, the panting animal burst into a mia-mia of Aborigines, and frightened almost out of their senses, not only black men, women, and babies, but also the inevitable native camp following—a hungry horde of mangy dogs. The stag got off, making for what was then known as Big Brighton, where he was run down; but the dogs were whipped off, and the quarry saved for another day. Several of the equestrians were unwillingly treated to spills, but the most unfortunate of them was a once sporting physician, for a newspaper reports, "that Dr. Black had several falls in the commencement."
CHAPTER LIV.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES (CONTINUED).

SYNOPSIS:—Mr. Robert Russell, Mr. F. A. Powlett, Mr. D. Gordon, and Mr. McArthur, first Cricketers.—Formation of the Melbourne Cricket Club.—The First Cricket Match.—Formation of the Melbourne Union Cricket Club.—First Printed Score.—The First Inter-colonial Match.—Aquatics: First Sailing Match.—The First Regatta.—Introduction of Billiards.—Athletics: The First Football Match.—The First Prize-fights.—Matters Piscatorial: The Waltonian Club.—The First Oysters.

CRICKET.

Whatever doubt may surround the origin of horse-riding, there is little as to the fact of England being the cradle of cricket, though there is a singular omission of it as a game in the schedule of sports compiled by command of the first James. The term is derived from the Saxon word, Crice or Creag, a crooked club, shaped like the original bat, and cricket is supposed to be a modification of the old English amusement of Club and Ball.

It is, however, the national game of Englishmen, and as the sun is supposed never to set on the British Empire, cricket must be ever in a state of sunshine in some part or other of the globe, for the bat, ball and wicket, form an Institution wherever the "Meteor flag of England" floats on the breeze. Horse-racing nevertheless had the start of cricket in Port Phillip, though they were both inaugurated there in the same year (1838). The first race meeting commenced on the 6th March, and the first cricket match was played on the 22nd November, on the green velvety level near the foot of Batman's Hill, just off Spencer Street, on the site of the present Victorian Railway Station.

There is still surviving in Melbourne a gentleman who wielded the willow on this memorable occasion. He is Mr. Robert Russell, my antiquarian referee to whom I have already acknowledged my deep indebtedness for the valuable assistance cheerfully rendered in the most difficult branches of this work. Mr. Russell thus details the circumstances under which the Melbourne Cricket Club was formed:—"Mr. F. A. Powlett was the real originator. I remember well his proposal on Batman's Hill and a list was made at once. A copy being posted in the Pavilion of the M.C.C. The foundation-stone was thus laid by Mr. Powlett, probably the best cricketer of the time. It was Mr. D. Gordon M'Arthur (brother of D. C.) who purchased for the club the first bats, balls and stumps, the receipt for payment of which he handed to me as a memento."

Appended is a copy of the "list" referred to, which may be considered the Club's charter.

The original is in Mr. Russell's possession—

"It is proposed to form a Cricket Club with one guinea subscription.

"A. Powlett (paid), R. Russell (paid), A. M. Mundy (paid), C. F. N. Mundy (paid), Geo. B. Smyth (paid), Smith, Donald M'Arthur, P. Snodgrass, William Ryrie, Higbett, Williams, Meech, Jamieson, Webster, Sams, Brock, Racchus, Allen, Pitman, Hind, &c, &c, &c."

The Donald M'Arthur here named, has been dead for some years; but, another well-known name-take and brother of his, Mr. D. C. M'Arthur, the "Father" of all our bank managers, is still (1884) alive,* and he also did good service on the cricket ground in his day. Three days subsequent to the formation of the club the maiden match came off. No score or any detailed account of the play of such an historically interesting event is extant, but I find the following notice of it in the Port Phillip Gazette of 1st December, 1838:—

* Mr. D. C. M'Arthur, died on the 19th November, 1879.
“Pleasure and recreation are absolutely necessary to relieve our minds and bodies from too constant attention and labour. With truly gratified feelings therefore, did we witness the gentlemen of the district assemble last Saturday week, on the beautiful pleasure grounds around this fast rising town, to bring into practice one of the most elegant and manly sports that can be enjoyed. Yes, it was pleasurable to witness those whose mental and enterprising minds had turned this, but short time since, wilderness, into a busy emporium of traffic, relinquishing for a time their occupation, and uniting their efforts to establish sports such as these. During the week arrangements had been made by the Gentlemen Civilians of the district to play a match of cricket against the Military. Captain Smyth, with the enthusiasm natural to him, and desirous of forwarding everything, either really beneficial or of useful amusement, joined by many of those who had retired from the service, but whose hearts are still with it, mustered on the ground a company with which they would have attempted a more stirring contest. It was a heart-enlivening sight to witness from an adjacent hill the ground as it was laid out. Camps pitched, banners tastefully arranged, and the all-enlivening smiles of beauty that would have graced many a far-famed tournament of the olden times, formed a scene that we trust often again to witness. At twelve o'clock precisely, a signal called the players to their post, when the game commenced—the Military taking the first innings. We have not the particulars of the game before us, and can therefore, but briefly notice those who particularly distinguished themselves. After a duration of some hours it concluded by a triumph on the part of the Civilians. Mr. Powlett’s and Mr. Donald Gordon M’Arthur’s bowling, and Mr. Russell’s batting, attracted universal applause. On the whole the game was played with an esprit de corps, a judgment, and an activity, that a first-rate club in England might not be ashamed to boast of.”

To this, Mr. Russell supplies an addendum, viz.:—“As to the cricket match, I cannot say positively, but I feel sure it was played close beyond Batman’s Hill, not far from the Officers’ Quarters. A Captain Peppit, from Sydney, played on that occasion—a splendid point, very long in the reach. The Civilians won the match. I forget any special incidents—but I know I met Captain Peppit in the evening over a glass of grog at the Lamb Inn. No uniform or distinguishing dress was worn. The bats, stumps, &c, I have no doubt, were “O.K.” and probably were those purchased by D. G. M’Arthur for the club, the receipt for payment of which he gave me, and I still hold. I fancy Stubbs played on the side of the Military, but I may be wrong. The ‘Stubbs’ here referred to, was a once well-known Melbourne auctioneer, Mr. Thomas Stubbs, whose florid style of advertising and ‘pushing’ his wares, induced a belief that a shred of the puffing mantle of the whilom London George Robins had been blown over the seas to him.”

Outside the M.C.C. there were some fair average cricketers, and prompted by the good example, they hastened to start another Association under the designation of the “Melbourne Union Cricket Club.” This was mainly members by persons in retail lines of business and tradesmen. On the 12th January, 1839, a match was played between two branches of the community known respectively as “The Gentlemen of the District,” and “The Tradesmen of the Town,” when the “Gents” were soundly drubbed; but, in a return match on the 19th, the tables were completely turned, mainly through the exertions of “Gentleman” Powlett, who got 120 runs. Mr. James Webster, an excellent player, met with an accident in the height of the game, which prevented his continuing in it. Mr. Thomas Halfpenny, now of Studley Park, then a stalwart, strapping publican, was a prominent figure in batting and wicket-keeping with the Traders.

**THE SECOND CRICKET MATCH.**

*Benedick v. Bachelor.*

The Married and Single residents of Port Phillip met in a field on the 30th March, 1839, in a well-played and highly interesting game. The Husbands won with five wickets to fall.
A match in return was played between the Married and Single on 1st February, 1840, with the following result:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BACHELORS—First Innings</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>39</th>
<th>BENEDICKS—First Innings</th>
<th>...</th>
<th>90</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>180-189</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Bachelors winning by 77.

The play was at the old place at Batman's Hill, but as the weather was unfavourable, and it blew a gale throughout the day, the enjoyment was very much lessened by the high wet grass and the sticky soil.

The "Who shall," or conquering match, came off on the 7th March, and the following report is transcribed from an old '40 newspaper:

"CRICKET.—The third match between the Married Men and Bachelors of Melbourne ended in favour of the Single beating their opponents in one innings with 93 notches to spare. The bowling and batting of Mr. Powlett were beyond all praise; indeed, this gentleman's playing would do infinite credit to any cricket club in the world. The batting of Mr. T. F. Hamilton, too, was equally fine. "Tom" was the first to go in, and the last to come out, and was not idle during his innings. While the Single men can bring to the scratch such players as Messrs. Powlett and Hamilton, the Married folks have not the slightest chance with them. The fielding on both sides was much better than formerly, and here, if anything, the Benedicks had the advantage; but fielding well without good batting and bowling is of no use. The day was remarkably fine, and the players were honoured with the presence of several ladies."

The Bachelors won in a single innings, in which they made 197, against 104, the product of the double effort of the Married. As the score upon this occasion is the first ever printed in the colony, it is worthy of preservation as a rare historical stray:

**MARRIED—FIRST INNINGS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bowled by</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledbeater</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt. Bacchus</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovell</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundy</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vidalwyn</td>
<td>not out</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byes</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BACHELORS—FIRST INNINGS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bowled by</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chisholm</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draper</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browne</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vigodles</td>
<td>Macarthur</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huges</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittman</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samm</td>
<td>not out</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornick</td>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byes</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARRIED—SECOND INNINGS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bowled by</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lovell</td>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavenagh</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacchus</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundy</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledbeater</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacchus</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mundy</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledbeater</td>
<td>...</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BACHELORS—SECOND INNINGS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Bowled by</th>
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<td>Lovell</td>
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<tr>
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<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell</td>
<td>Powlett</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ledbeater</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the above the only two now in the colony are Mr. Robert Russell, a Benedick, and the Hon. T. F. Hamilton, a bachelor on the day of the match; but the Hon. "Tom" soon after abandoned his state of "single blessedness," and passed along the risky sacra via by which pilgrims are admitted to the elysium of matrimony.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

On the 1st November, 1841, a meeting of the Melbourne Cricket Club was held at the Exchange Hotel room, in Collins Street, when an election of a Directory took place, and the following appointments were made, viz.:—President: Mr. F. A. Powlett; Vice-President: Mr. H. F. Gurner; Hon. Sec.: Mr. George Cavenagh; Treasurer: Mr. W. V. M’Vitie; Committee of Management: Messrs. D. S. Campbell, C. Thompson, Robert Russell, George Were, Edward Sewell, Redmond Barry, T. F. Hamilton, J. W. Stevens, and Alexander Orr. Office-bearers to be members of Committee.

Powlett, Hamilton, and others of the early cricketers, brought their bats with them from Home, and Stubbs secured a supply of bats and wickets from Iapua. The Tradesmen’s or Union Club continued its practice, and in 1842 a Brighton Club was formed, and shortly after a Geelong Club sprang into existence. Frequent matches used to be played at Batman’s Hill, with an occasional move to the side of the Flagstaff Hill, and Brighton.

The Melbourne and Brighton Clubs

Had in contemplation a match which was long expected, and much talked about. It was at length played on the Easter Monday of 1845 (24th March) near Batman’s Hill. There was a grand turnout of the fashionable world there; and it received a solemn and “learned” imprimatur by the presence of the Superintendent (Latrobe), the Crown Prosecutor (Croke), the Deputy-Sheriff (M’Kenzie), the Crown Solicitor (Gurner), and a large admixture of both branches of the legal profession. The wickets were pitched at noon, and the play commenced with much spirit by the Melbournians going in and scoring 70 runs. The Brightonians then took their first innings, making 62. Both sides next “spelled” (it is not difficult to guess the “spelling-bee” operated upon for half-an-hour), and resumed, when the Melbournians were unable to cope with the terrible bowling of their opponents, and only scored 55. The Brightonians won with ease, and their bowling was figured at 70. It was of such a quality as, according to a cricketing authority, “to do honour to Kent at any time,” but the Melbourne fielding was the better of the two. In connection with this match the following incident proves incontestably that there are times when, even in the cricket field, an outsider may score a large innings: A Mr. John Highett was amongst the players, and being a gentleman whose purse never ran below low water-mark, on this day he had £500 worth of bank notes in one of his coat pockets. Stripping for the game, he unthinkingly left the money where it was, and placed his coat where he could conveniently find it when the fun was over. As dressing time arrived, the garment was non est, and the batsman had to return home sans coat or cash. The thief was, however, so conscientious, that next day the habiliment was found done up as a parcel, and deposited near the door of the Police Court. Though un-noted, it was labelled, and addressed to the care of the Chief Constable. No tidings of the thief or money ever turned up, but there can be little doubt that the paper money was promptly placed in the melting-pot of the publicans, and thus into speedy liquidation.

The return match was disposed of near the Brighton Beach on the 5th April. There were a few changes in the individuality of the teams. Brighton took the palm for bowling, and Melbourne for fielding, whilst it was a drawn battle over the eatables and drinkables at a dinner served at Croshie’s Hotel in the evening. There was a large influx of visitors from Melbourne, who enjoyed themselves immensely.

The score was:—Melbourne.—First innings, 55; second innings, 91. Total, 146. Brighton.—First innings, 121; second innings, 75. Total, 196.

Melbourne was the arena of the conquering match on the 26th April, where the Brightonians carried off a crushing victory in one innings, in consequence of some of the best Melbourne bowlers being on the absentee list.

The scoring was:—Melbourne.—First innings, 57; second innings, 10. Total, 67. Brighton.—First innings, 74. Total, 74.
Melbourne and Geelong.

On Easter Monday (5th April), 1847, the Melbourne and Geelong Clubs met on the Melbourne Ground, where there was an attendance both numerous and fashionable, the Superintendent (Latrobe) and the Resident Judge (A'Beckett) being the most imposing of the "big wigs." The bowling of Mr. Matson, and batting of Messrs. Thomson and Sladen (three Geelon-geese) was declared "to be unequalled in the colony, especially the bowling," whilst on the Melbourne side, the batting of Messrs. George Turnbull, William Philpott, and Lieutenant Rush was "remarkable" (whatever that may mean); and in fielding Melbourne established its superiority.

The score was:—Melbourne.—First innings, 99; second innings, 101. Total, 200. Geelong.—First innings, 45; second innings, 63. Total, 108. Won by 92.

At 7 p.m. both Clubs dined together at the Shakespeare Hotel, corner of Collins and Market Streets.

A new Club was formed in Melbourne, and great doings were promised on its behalf. It was called the Albion, and it was crowingly announced that a superior supply of bats and balls had been ordered from England, but little or nothing was afterwards heard of the movement.

A New Cricket Ground.

The temporary play-ground at Batman's Hill was found to be in some respects not the best adapted for cricketing, and the club selected a more commodious and convenient spot on the south bank of the Yarra, between the river and Emerald Hill. It was a slice of the place that "Johnny Fawkner" turned into a cultivation paddock in 1835, and grew a crop of wheat there. Something like the beginning of the Flemington Racecourse, it was "jumped" by the Club, and an unauthorized occupation winked at by the authorities. In 1848, the Superintendent gave a formal permission to use ten acres of the area as a Cricket Ground, and the cricketers were so elated with their good luck that they proposed to work wonders there in the way of fencing and planting, and innumerable other important etceteras. The club happened to be at this time in a condition of comparative prosperity, and consequently it effected a good deal of what was so promised. There were 127 members, and they went to work with a will. The ten acres were soon enclosed with a strong four-rail fence, at a cost of £30 13s. 4d., and 1116 yards of the ground turfed for £24 13s. 6d. September saw them not only out of debt, but when the outstanding subscriptions were got in, they would be £120 in credit. In the beginning of 1849, the Melbourne Club was challenged to play a match against all Van Diemen's Land, but obstacles intervened to prevent its acceptance.

Europeans v. New Hollanders.

What might be termed almost an International match was got up in 1850. It was a trial of strength between eleven natives of Europe and eleven New Hollanders—or natives of New South Wales (including of course Port Phillip, not yet separated). It was played on the 18th November at Geelong, on the ground of the Corio Cricket Club. The wickets were pitched at 11 o'clock, and the play showed that although the New Hollanders were the best bowlers, their fielding was indifferent.

The score was:—Europeans.—First innings, 25; second innings, 75. Total, 100. New Hollanders.—First innings, 59; second innings, 42. Total, 101.

And so the Antipodeans "saved their bacon" by 1.
Towards the end of 1850, the Melbourne Cricket Club challenged the cricketers of Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania) to play a match of eleven gentlemen of Port Phillip (now Victoria) against as many Van Diemonians. After due negotiation it was accepted, and came off at Launceston on the 11th February, 1851. It is needless to say that for many weeks it was the incessantly-talked-of topic, and excited an intense degree of interest at both sides of Bass' Straits. The toss for innings was won by the Tasmanians; the Victorians were put in. Mr. Powlett, the best all-round cricketer in Victoria, was prevented from playing through having sprained his ankle a few days before. In him the Victorians had an irreparable loss, and had he been there there was small doubt that the result would have been reversed. The Van Diemonians won by 2 with 3 wickets to spare. In batting the latter were indifferent, but their fielding was remarkably good, and on something like good ground the Victorians would, it was thought, have little difficulty in winning. Considering the many Inter-colonial and Inter-national cricket matches which have since taken place, as this was the precursor of so many subsequently renowned cricket tournaments, I have deemed the scoring on such a memorable occasion a relic of sufficient interest to be presented in detail.

### FIRST INNINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VICTORIA</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooper, b M'Dowell</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Philpott, c Maddox, b M'Dowell</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton, b M'Dowell</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lister, run out</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomson, b M'Dowell</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R. Philpott, b Henty</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antill, c Marshall</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodie, c Henty, b M'Dowell</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massden, b Henty</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hall, not out</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvey, b Henty</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byes</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg Byes</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time, 2 h. 5 m.</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SECOND INNINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASMANIANS</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Du Croz, b Antill</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall, c Lister, b Antill</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field, b Antill</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddox, b Antill</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson, b Hamilton</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westbrooke, b Antill</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthur, b Antill</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabart, b Hamilton</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giblin, not out</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry, b Antill</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M'Dowell, c Antill, b Hamilton</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byes</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leg Byes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide Balls</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time, 2 h. 40 m.</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Majority for Tasmanians 2 with 3 wickets to spare.
The Chronicles of Early Melbourne.

As a mark of the kindness and good feeling of the Tasmanians towards the Port Phillipians, not the slightest breath of applause escaped from the multitude, numbering over fifteen hundred collected on the ground during the two days over which the match extended; but a marked silence ensued, as though they thought they had committed a breach of hospitality in thus defeating their guests. This generous and manly feeling will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

In referring to the match a Melbourne newspaper thus remarks:—“No sooner had the ‘Shamrock’ discharged her passengers in Launceston, than the whole town was in a buzz, each and every person trying to outstrip his neighbour in every kind attention which the most genuine hospitality could suggest. Everybody invited everybody, and the difficulty was how to contrive so as to partake of all that was offered. From the time of landing to the time of embarking, the same spirit continued—dinners, balls, musical parties, picnics, and every description of entertainment was got up to give a hearty welcome to the strangers from Port Phillip. On the morning of departure from Launceston, as an indication of the good fellowship and friendly feeling displayed, the Launceston Band volunteered their services to enliven the scene, and cheer the return of the cricketers. They accordingly formed opposite the Cornwall Hotel, the head quarters of the Victorians, and played several tunes in first rate style, amongst them ‘Home Sweet Home.’”

The Tasmanian cricketers also met them there, and the opposite elevens, with their friends, walked arm-in-arm to the steamer, the band playing before them. On their arrival at the wharf, “God Save the Queen” was played, and Mr. Wm. Philpott, in a few brief remarks, thanked the assembled multitude, in the name of Victoria, for their unbounded kindness, and especially for this last pleasing demonstration at parting. The Victorians assembled on the deck of the “Shamrock” echoed the feelings uttered by Mr. Philpott with a thrice renewed explosion of cheers, a compliment as loudly reciprocated on shore.

Whiskers v. No Whiskers

Antecedent to the Victorian gold discoveries, towards the close of 1851, a bearded man was as much a rara avis in Melbourne as a bearded woman is in 1884. Whiskers of the patterns known in slangology as the “mutton chop,” or the “Newgate fringe,” were hirsute luxuries tolerated by the usages of city and suburban society, and though the bare faces were largely in the majority, whiskerandoes were to be frequently encountered. The M.C.C. included amongst its members individuals who wore whiskers and those who did not; and this is how it came about that a match was made between elevens of the Whiskered and Whiskerless. It was played on the 26th April, when there was a prime day’s fun on the Trans-Yarra Cricket Ground. There was a very large attendance, the day was fine, and the work commenced at ten o’clock. The result was that the “hairy side” won by seven wickets to spare, and here is the scoring total:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>WHISKERS</th>
<th>NO WHISKERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Innings</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Innings</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>177</td>
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As an amusing reminiscence I append the names of the players of this remarkable occasion:


The wonderful progress in cricket for the last thirty years has been well and often described in book and newspaper, and, perhaps, there is no incident in the strange eventful history of Victoria more calculated to exemplify the extraordinary development of the colony, than a comparison of the first cricket match on Batman’s Hill in 1838, and the cricketing feats recently witnessed in Melbourne.
and the astonishment evolved cannot fail to be amplified when it is borne in mind that Russell, one of the founders of the M.C.C., and Halfpenny, of the Union, still (1888) live and move amongst us, and though not as lively as of yore, like two old crickets chirping about the city, and beholding, with just feelings of self exultation, the results of a movement of which they were the originators, though, in the cricketing world of to-day their names, if not unknown, are probably never mentioned.

AQUATICS.

Salt or fresh-water amusements were not held in much esteem by the early Port Phillipians, possibly in consequence of the distance of the Bay from the town, and it was some years before any regularly organized movement towards establishing marine sports were inaugurated. Through the kindness of Captain David Fermaner, a veteran tar, and a resident of the locality modernly designated Newport, I am enabled to supply a brief record of the First Sailing Match in the colony. Towards the close of 1838, Mr. George Arden, a co-proprietor and editor of the Port Phillip Gazette, imported from Sydney, a cutter, baptized "The Devil Afloat." A Captain Boden, still, or recently living in Horsham district, owned a schooner-rigged boat known as the "Eliza," and he and Arden agreed upon a water race for £25 aside, the course to be across the bay, from Point Gellibrand, at Williamstown, to the Red Bluff (Point Ormond), near the place subsequently named St. Kilda, and back. It was arranged that Fermaner, who had a smart little cutter of his own, should anchor off the Bluff, and the competing boats were to round him, and then home. The most important personage on the water was Mr. John Batman, in a boat rowed by four of his historical Sydney Aboriginals. "Eliza" and the "Devil" started on their competing trip, and succeeded in safely circum-sailing Fermaner. Their progress, however, was not anything like first-class time, Fermaner reaching Williamstown before them.

Towards the close of 1840, when the few colonists were prepared to attempt anything suggested for business or pleasure, there popped up a notion to celebrate the infancy of the ensuing year by a grand marine demonstration, and accordingly rapid preparations were made to render the project a success. Subscriptions were raised, an elaborate programme (on paper) was issued, and Messrs. W. H. Yaldwyn, F. A. Powlett, and James Simpson, were nominated as stewards of

**THE FIRST REGATTA,**

Which was appointed to come off on the 12th January, 1841, in Hobson's Bay, accordingly. The attendance was by no means a popular gathering, for it was confined to such of the well-to-do townsfolk as felt disposed for a brief change of air. There was no steamer accommodation; boating down the river was not much cared about; and as for an overland excursion to Williamstown, the swampy, rocky, circuitous bush track by which it could only be made, was not attractive to either pedestrians or equestrians. Several boat-loads put off from the North Beach (Sandridge). Superintendent Latrobe was there, and an indifferent town band, playing on the poop of the "Eagle" (flagship), contributed a noisy quota of discordant music.

There were six matches in all, with a general entrance payment of 2 sovs., viz.:

| No. 1.—A £40 PURSE, FOR ALL SAILING BOATS OR CRAFT TRADING IN THE PORT. Won by Eagle (Willis), the second boat, the Fanny (Gilligan), receiving £10. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1st place (£30)** | **Nancy (Ward)** | 2nd place (£20) | **Male (Ward)** | 3rd place (£10) | **Midge (Fowler)** | 4th place (£10) | **Midge (Fowler)** |
| **1st place (£20)** | **The John (Cummins)** | 2nd place (£10) | **Midge (Fowler)** | 3rd place (£10) | **Eagle (Willis)** | 4th place (£10) | **Eagle (Willis)** |

There were on the card prizes for jolly-boats and dingies, but they eventuated in waste paper.
A lunch was given on board the "Eagle" by Captain Buckley, and there was a regatta ball the following evening, at the Caledonian Hotel in Lonsdale Street.

Two of the widest-awake of the Melbourne "pubs" (Thomas Halfpenny and William Mortimer) were amusingly "sold" in this affair. Led to believe that Sandridge Beach would be the centre of attraction, they planted booths at the southern end of the present Bay Street. Halfpenny chartered a monster canvas over-all known as the "Sadi-Mahomet Tent," used by a loud-puffing auctioneer (Charles Williams) as a portable auction mart. Mortimer simply transported an ordinary tent from town, and fixed it on a convenient site. Everything was ready on the appointed morning, except the customers, who gave Sandridge the go-by, and went away to Williamstown, the side of the Bay where the regatta really came off. Whilst the two disconsolate tapsters were bemoaning their ill-luck, intelligence arrived that there was to be a sort of steeplechase or hurdle race about a mile distant, in the direction of St. Kilda. Mortimer, being the lighter equipped of the two, decamped with his grog and a large tarpaulin, and on reaching the race-ground, near the present Beaconsfield Hotel, by means of a pole and a gum tree, quickly improvised a drinking saloon, and made well by it, for the day was excessively warm—porter, 3s. a bottle; other things in proportion—and he netted £120. Halfpenny was much embarrassed by his elaborate impedimenta. However, he hastily packed a lot of drinking stuff, with two chairs, into a dray, and, under the foliage of a large she-oak, he soon got rid of not only what he brought with him, but a relay of drinkables sent for during the day. "All's well that ends well," and so the evening's reflection of the two grog vendors wore a much more cheerful aspect than their ante-meridian meditations.

On the 1st January, 1844, there was to be a grand demonstration at Sandridge, and though there had been a deal of preparatory puffing, it ended in an amphibious fiasco. The thing had, no doubt, been got up as a New Year's ruse, by some enterprising publicans, who saw a chance of making something out of it. Induced by the displayed posters, a large number of persons repaired from Melbourne to Sandridge, and the so-called regatta was commenced by Mr. F. Liardet starting, with pistol-shot, the first race, viz.:—For Amateur Pulling Boats, £4 and £2 prizes for the first and second placed. The course was from Sandridge round the ship "Glentanner," anchored some way off Williamstown, and back. Three boats went into the contest, viz., the Naiad (whale-boat), pulled by Strode, Dunn, Young, Hodgson, M'Kay, and Stanway (steersman); the Lubra : Wilson, Tallan, White, Knight, and Kilburn (steerer); and The Peri: Carl, Passmore, M'Farlane, Kell, and Ker (steerer). The whaler had not a chance from the beginning, and was three-fourths of a mile rearward at the end. There was a spirited pull between the other two, and The Peri conquered.

The second event was a sailing match between the Spray, Shamrock, and Wave, for £10, and was won by the first-named. Sir John Franklin, the Governor of Van Diemen's Land, and Lady Franklin, being on a private visit to the Superintendent of Port Phillip, were present, accompanied by the Resident Judge (Jeffcott), and at the sight, according to an old journal, "pleasure beamed on every countenance." The managers of the "ursute" immediately decided on a change of front, and started a Pony Race for a saddle and bridle, valued at £7, which was taken by the animal of a Mr. M'Vitie. This was followed by a Hack Race for a new silver-handled whip, and won by the grey horse of a Mr. Ross. A town band was in attendance, which, if report is to be credited, "contributed its share to the general jubilee," though the public found little for joyfulness in the day's proceedings.

BILLIARDS.

This game was introduced to Port Phillip in 1838. The first licensed table was owned by Mr. J. H. Umpleby, the landlord of the Angel Inn, at the north-eastern corner of Queen and Collins Streets, where the new English, Scottish, and Australian Chartered Bank is now erected (1888). The room was a one story store-like brick structure, and facing Queen Street. For years after the discontinuance of the "groggery," it was well known as the auction mart of Mr. T. H. Power, anciently recognized as one of the "Twelve Apostles," and modernly as an honourable and independent...
member of the Legislative Council. Mr. William Smith, Melbourne's second publican, the keeper of the Lamb Inn, the biggest of the original hotels, which stood where is now Scott's Hotel, Collins Street West, was the next licensee, in 1839; and the third billiard-room was opened in 1840 by a Waterloo veteran named John Bullivant, in a small hostelry called by him the Waterloo Hotel, located at the north side of Little Collins Street, some twenty yards westward of Queen Street. One of the best early players was a Phil. Burgin, a confectioner, and singer of Irish comic songs at public entertainments; but his muffins were always more palatable than his melodies. The second best was Melbourne's primal barber, a notability in his day, and known as "Jack" Lamb. In course of time several spacious billiard rooms were erected as appendages to some of the principal hotels, and the game grew in popularity. Good players and good tables were not uncommon, and amongst the amateur workers of the cue the late Sir John O'Shanassy held a prominent position. It is on record that a very exciting game was played at the Royal Exchange Hotel, in Collins Street, on the 28th April, 1847, for £100 a side, 500 up. It was looked upon as a champion match, for one of the players was a Mr. Dalgleesh, of high repute in Van Diemen's Land, and his competitor was Auguste Suchet, a Parisian, a well-known nobbler vendor in King Street. The interest in the issue was very brisk, and so was the betting—the odds being, in the beginning, in favour of the Hobartonian, and subsequently veering Port Phillip-ward. The contest lasted for three mortal hours and a half, when the skill and coolness of the Frenchman triumphed, and he won by 151. A newspaper of the day thus crowns over the great conquest:—"This achievement is only another wreath to entwine in the crown of victory which has declared for Port Phillip in almost every sporting engagement undertaken by her adopted sons."

The first bagatelle table (a metallic one) was started on the 1st December, 1849, by a Mr. Davis, in Elizabeth Street, one door from Bourke Street.

Golf.

Though the term is derived from the Dutch Kolf, a club or bat, golf is a Scotch game, played with an end-crooked club or bat and a small ball. On an occasion of Mr. William Westgarth visiting Europe, a few individuals subscribed two guineas each, and deputed him to purchase a number of golf clubs and balls. The consignment came to hand in May, 1849, and some golf matches were started. As the play season would commence when cricketing ceased, golf, it was thought, would succeed as a popular pastime, but it did not. It seems to have dropped into oblivion, and with it disappeared the Westgarthian importation, whither or where is more than I am able to say.

Skittles.

Practically this old English game of ten pins, with one knocked off to evade an interdiction at one time imposed by the Home Government, was introduced at an early period of our history in connection with a race of publichouses requiring aids of an occasionally questionable character to help them in their business. An old English writer thus describes the game:—"The pins are set up in an alley, and thrown (not bowled) at with a round piece of hard wood, shaped like a small flat cheese." A skittle-ground was a favourite resort of the shady element attending the old races at Flemington, and Collingwood used to be a great place for pitching at nine pins; but in those open-air dens of what often bordered on iniquity, the proverb, "Tisn't all beer and skittles," was verified, for worse practices prevailed, and beer was always in more abundance than skittles. Of course, especially in later years, what was virtually a rule had many unobjectionable exceptions, and even in 1850 skittles was so far a recognized institution that a Society for its promotion was formed, and in October a prize-belt of the value of five guineas was offered to the best skitter. It was won by a confectioner named Pink, possibly from his skill in using a rolling-pin, and he was proclaimed the nine-pin champion of the Province.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

THE FIRST BALL-COURT.

The hotel at the northern side of Little Bourke Street, between Elizabeth and Russell Streets, which has never changed its name from the Rising Sun, is a very old hostelry, and was founded by Mr. Michael Lynch, long since dead. In his day he was not only actively associated with the various charitable institutions, but he indulged in private benevolences of which few, save himself and the beneficiaries, were cognizant. It was he who caused to be erected off the side of the street opposite the hotel the first ball-court in Melbourne. It was commenced in January, 1847, the walls of brick and flagging, with flagged floor, and a covering of net-work. It was placed in charge of a keeper, appositely named John Lyng, for a more nondescript looking old fish of a fellow could not be picked up anywhere. The place was opened on the 1st March (St. David's Day), when the first rubber of hand-ball in Victoria was played there. It was a match of two at a side—two soldiers and two civilians—the military representatives being Sergeant Simpson and Corporal M'Guinness of a detachment of the 87th Regiment, then quartered in Melbourne; and their opponents were Patrick Kennedy, a slightly eccentric bootmaker, and Daniel Wellesley O'Donovan. Lieutenant Rush, of the Regiment referred to, and Mr. John O'Shanassy were appointed scorers, and such was the interest felt as to the issue that £50 changed hands on the occasion. The rubber was three games, and the first was won by the Townsmen; the second, so well contested, that it ended in what is technically termed a "set"; and the third bout, after a struggle sustained by infinite activity and skill, was carried by the Townies. Kennedy's "tossing" was immensely admired, and the on-lookers were unanimously of opinion that it would be difficult to beat it. This ball-alley was in great vogue, and the hitherto hidden prowess of some first-rate players was waked up there, amongst them being a Mr. Richard ("Dick") Foley, the best hand-ball player that ever exercised thews and sinews in Melbourne. After the gold revolution in 1852, "Dick" tramped off gold hunting, and to the regret of a large circle of friends no tidings of him ever after reached Melbourne. The ball-court too met with a tragical end, for one night in May, when it was fast rising in public estimation, a terrible storm rumbled over the town, and amongst the damage done one-half of the alley was carried away.

ATHLETICS.

A fact not generally known by the present generation of Victorians, is that the first foot-racing in the colony was performed by the Aborigines, who also effected the first ascent of a greased pole here. In January, 1839, there arrived from Sydney what was known as the "Black" Protectorate, a Board of five gentlemen charged with the onerous duty of watching over the native race and providing, within certain limitations, for their temporal comfort and safety from European aggression. In the month of March, these delegates, wishful to ingratiate themselves with the tribes then hanging about the township, considered there was no more effectual way to produce a favourable impression on a blackfellow than through the oesophagus, and so invited some 400 or 500 dusky guests to a big feed of "tucker" on the afternoon of the 18th March. This gastronomic exhibition was held over the Yarra near the site of Government House, and the blacks cheerfully responded. Prior to the banquet, foot-racing was organized, and half-a-dozen matches were run for knives, tomahawks, and looking-glasses; but the distribution of prizes was not confined to the winners, for the donation was general. A ti-tree skinned and shaped into a smooth pole was well greased, and a cast-off bell-topper hoisted aloft. The novelty of trying to climb this, so unlike the ascent of unbarked trees, gave immense gratification to the darkies, and one strapping young fellow in the third attempt succeeded in carrying away the coveted trophy. Boots, blue shirts, and some pairs of old trousers were successively exalted to the pride of place, manfully struggled for and secured. At four o'clock the repast was served, and to anyone acquainted with the Aboriginal appetite for viands cooked in the English style, it is unnecessary to say, that the eating ceased only with the strength to masticate or, rather, to swallow. The "ladies and gentlemen" kept on devouring until they were absolutely brimful, and even then it
was with extreme reluctance they gave over. One huge fellow stowed away so much that he was only saved from bursting by a couple of his companions rolling him up and down the hill until the excessive food was subjected to a process of packing. The food provided consisted of heaps of bread and beef cut into junks, and two large boilers of strong, unmilked, yet well-sugared, tea; and though no knives nor forks were provided, the blacks easily dispensed with the latter, preferring Nature's fork, a good finger, to toys which, even in England in the middle of the seventeenth century, were sneered at as a piece of affectation.

There was a general turn-out of the townspeople to witness the day's doings, and such a sight has possibly not been since witnessed in Melbourne. The Aborigines, polite and grateful in their own way, gave a Corroboree for the gratification of the white fellows, with about 40 black performers.

**Gymnastics.**

In 1830 a movement was commenced for the initiation of an annual gathering, as a means of fostering a taste for the useful and salutary exercises of the gymnasium. It was taken up with much favour, and it was announced as being "under the patronage of His Honor the Superintendent, His Honor the Resident Judge, and His Worship the Mayor." The meeting was to be held on the Melbourne Racecourse, commencing at 11 o'clock on Monday, 12th August.

Those games excited fully as much interest as the Annual Races, and nearly as many persons were assembled to witness them.

At the appointed hour a bugle sounded to prepare, and, according to the newspaper report, there must have been from five to six thousand persons on the course. The Stand was filled with ladies, and the carriages opposite gave brilliancy to the meeting; which, judging from the eager smiling faces, was one of very pleasurable excitement.

**First Prize:** Quoits, 21 yards. Entrance, 10s. 1st prize, £2; 2nd, £1. The competitors were: Messrs. Hamilton, Sutcliffe, Cooper, Hervey, Wood, Swanston, and Rankin.

**A Hundred Yards Level Race, £5.** Entrance, 2s. 6d. The starters were Messrs. F. Stephen, Pinkerton, G. Meredith, J. Johnson, Davies, J. M'Lean, T. Butler, G. Barnes, J. Holmes, W. Richardson, J. Lyall, H. Manuel, C. Fraser, H. Stephen, G. Ross. Manuel passed at a winning pace, which he kept up to the winning-post, increasing his distance from the rest as he drew to the close. Pinkerton made a good second, and indeed the whole field made a capital run of it. The ground was covered in 11 seconds.

**Jumping in Length, £5.** Entrance, 2s. 6d. Competitors: Messrs. Toner, Lyall, Bruce, Ryan, and Clements. Ryan, who was an athletic, well-formed man of much elasticity, won, though not without great competition, by about two inches only. The jumps were very close, and the winning one was ten feet two inches.

**Three Running Jumps in Length, £3.** Entrance, 2s. 6d. Messrs. Patrick Ryan, George Meredith, W. Lyall, M. Keogh, Robert Fenton, and William Toner competed, and the winner was Ryan, who covered thirty two feet four inches in the three jumps.

**Putting the Heavy Stone of 22 lb., £5.** Entrance, 5s. Entries:—Messrs. Ritchie, M'Dougall, Toner, Grant, and Bell. A deal of interest was excited by this contest. The cast of M'Dougall, thirty feet in his first throw, tested the metal of the others, and no one could compete with him, until Bell, without divesting himself of his coat, very coolly pitched the stone two feet further. M'Dougall strained every nerve in his after throws, and although near the mark could not come up to Bell, who was declared the conqueror.

**Putting the Light Stone of 14 lb., £3.** Entrance 2s. 6d. Entries:—Messrs. Shumack, Bruce, Ebner, Grant, Hogan, Crocker, Manuel, M'Kenzie, Mason, Ritchie, M'Dougall, Armstrong, M'Nabb, and Hoffman. This game was but indifferently contested; the throwing was inferior to that of the heavy stone, and the furthest throw, that of Mason, the winner, was little further than Bell's cast with the 22 lb. The winning cast was 33 ft. 4 in.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

THROWING THE HEAVY HAMMER of 20 lb. £5. Entrance 2s. 6d., was contested by Messrs. Campbell, M'Dougall, Mason, and Ritchie. The issue lay between Campbell and M'Dougall, the other two being far behind. The pitches of these named were within a few lines of each other and delivered easily and scientifically. The prize was, after a hard contest awarded to M'Dougall, for a cast of 47 ft. 8 in.

THROWING THE LIGHT HAMMER of 9 lbs. £3. Entrance 2s. 6d. There were nine entries, but in consequence of the first cast, made by a Mr. Armstrong, sending the hammer into the crowd who pressed into the ring, this game was postponed. The hammer, which was propelled with great force, struck a horse and gave it the staggers. Had it missed the horse, in all human probability it might have done something much worse and brought the games to a lamentable conclusion.

HURDLE RACE of 400 yards, six leaps three feet six inches high. To the 1st, £8, 2nd £3. Entry 5s. This was essentially the event of the day, and the starters were Messrs. Weston, Hamilton, Henry Stevens, W. Pender, Smith, Murray, Evans, Quin, Holmes, Pemberton, Jnr., Pool, O'Brien, and Thomas Clancy.

"Bellows to mend" was the order of the day at the fifth hurdle; and at the sixth the two leading runners, Hamilton and Pool, tipped the hurdle and came down, Holmes rushed in before they could regain their feet and was declared the winner. But one accident occurred on the course. Mr. Robinson, of Cordell's brewery, in leaping his horse over the ropes, was thrown and received several severe contusions. No limbs, however, were broken, and he soon recovered.

SECOND DAY.—Tuesday, 13th August.

HOP STEP AND JUMP, £5. Entrance, 5s., for which four competed, viz., Messrs. John Ryan, William Pender, John Bell, and Joe Mason. Pender covered 33 feet, Ryan 35, Mason 36, and Bell 38 ft. 2 in., thus winning.

STANDING HIGH JUMP, £5. Entrance 5s. Only two entries, viz., Messrs. John Ryan and Alexander Lyons. The standard was a bar working in grooves, one inch apart. It was placed at 3 ft. 6 in., and cleared by both, and also at 3 ft. 9 in. At 4 ft. Ryan cleared, had some two inches to spare, and won, as the other tipped it.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP, £5. Entrance 5s. Only two entries, viz., Messrs. John Ryan and George Kerridge, when Ryan was again a winner. Both went over the bar at 4 ft. and 4 ft. 3 in.; at 4 ft. 6 in. both carried away the bar, but Ryan beat the other at 4 ft. 7 in.

RUNNING JUMP IN LENGTH, £5. Entrance 5s. Won also by Ryan beating Gilbert Meredith.

THE FIRST FOOTBALL MATCH.

This now favourite pastime was not much practised by the Victorian ancients, possibly because they were either too bent on money making—which was only too often recklessly spent in dissipation—or that there was no native element sufficiently adolescent to take part in such a rough and ready mode of enjoyment. Occasional private matches used to come off, but no regularly advertised trial of "footing" was known until the 26th August 1850, when there was a numerous convention of "kickers" at Emerald Hill. It was intended that a football match should be run as an item of the gymnastic sports, at the racecourse a fortnight before, but it was then treated to a kick over. Messrs. Francis Stephen and Dalmahoy Campbell were, however, resolved that a football match there should be, and it was through their exertions the present one was worked. Two elevens were scratched by the gentlemen mentioned from two hundred persons, the first pick, or "scratch," being decided by a toss up. The following are the names:—


Messrs. D. Campbell (Captain), C. Campbell, Barry, Dowling, W. Warman, Brodie, Pender, Wilson, Carew, Hinton, Cain.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

The entrance was 10s. each, the £11 to be pocketed by the winners. For two and a half hours the match was contested with much spirit. Great good humour prevailed, and the Stephenites, after a stiff struggle, were proclaimed the conquerors. The captains, at either side, were gentlemen of the numerous colonial tribe of Stephen, so well-known as "Frank," and the other a member of the clan-Campbell, never called anything but "Dal." "Frank" is still amongst us, as the City Solicitor, the projector of a life-boat of alleged marvellous properties, and the inventor of the once popular political slang term, "Old Hat." "Dal" has long ago gone under; but while overground was universally esteemed as a stock and station salesman, and a genuine good fellow. In his day he was a City Councillor, an expert in judging the qualities of fat cattle, and testing samples of whisky; and though last, not least, one of the best hand-bat players in Port Phillip.

THE SECOND GYMNASTIC GAMES.

First Day.—27th August, 1831.

This year's meeting was held at St. Kilda, immediately opposite the only hotel (the Union).

The first contest was the FOOT RACE—100 YARDS—for which fifteen entries were made, and the first prize was carried off by Mr. H. Manuel (the winner at last year's games), Mr. Davis being second, Mr. T. Pinkerton, third. Time 9½ sec. (Very fast.)

JUMPING IN LENGTH.—This feat was performed to perfection by Mr. Patrick Ryan, who took no less than 11 ft. 4½ in., standing.

THREE SUCCESSIVE JUMPS IN LENGTH.—Mr. Patrick Ryan again proved himself the victor by clearing 34 ft. 6 in. in three jumps, which was pronounced to be "tremendous."

PUTTING THE HEAVY STONE was accomplished by Mr. Dalmahoy Campbell, who placed it 26 ft. 10 in. Mr. Campbell generously awarded the prize to go to a foot race for next day.

THROWING THE HEAVY HAMMER.—Mr. Alexander Campbell, the Harbour Master, defeated Mr. Dalmahoy Campbell. The distance attained was 45 ft. 7½ in. At the second throw Mr. D. Campbell let the hammer slip through his fingers and fell flat on his back, when he was lifted from the ground by four strapping fellows and carried off amidst the loud cheers of the spectators.

HURDLE RACE.—Ten competitors entered the list for this burst, and it was declared in favour of Mr. T. Pinkerton—Patrick O'Brien second.

WRESTLING MATCH.—This was contented for by six individuals. Osborne and Healy first entered the lists, and the struggle was declared in favour of Healy. The next was between Ward and Hocking; the latter was the victor. The third pair were Keane and Murdoch, and the trial was won by the latter, who afterwards decided the contest by throwing Hocking.

Second Day.—28th August.

Although the weather was as unpropitious as could well be, the attendance was pretty fair.

The first contest was for the HOP, STEP AND JUMP STANDING, for which there were two entries—Mr. John Ryan and Mr. Charles M'Carthy, who after three endeavours could not attain more than 31 feet 6 inches. Ryan then made 31 feet 10 inches, and was declared victor.

HOP, STEP AND JUMP RUNNING, with four entries, for a prize of £3, viz. — C. M'Carthy, Callow, Ryan, Clancy. It was well contested, and it was difficult to distinguish between the merits of Callow and M'Carthy; the latter, however, in the third spring covered 39 feet 3 inches, distancing his antagonist by 7 inches.

HIGH STANDING JUMP.—Only two competitors appeared in the field, Patrick Ryan and John Miller; the latter endeavoured unavailingly to clear the rail at a height of 4 feet 2 inches, but Ryan easily cleared 4 feet 4 inches, and won.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP.—Only two competitors, Clancy and Miller, the former of whom won by clearing 4 feet 8 inches, which his antagonist was not able to perform.
LONG RUNNING JUMP.—For which the following entries were made:—John Ryan, Chas. M'Carthy, and M. Calloo. The latter was nowhere, and the contest lay between Ryan and M'Carthy, when M'Carthy cleared the astonishing distance of 18 feet 2 inches.

RACE OF 200 YARDS.—For which eight entries were made, viz.:—J. Pinkerton, P. Ryan, J. Gregory, W. Weston, J. M'Laren, W. Copeland, H. Hammond, and W. Baker. The whole made a fine start, but Pinkerton soon shot ahead and increased his distance from his rivals as he neared the flag; he was followed within two yards by Ryan, who could not overhaul him.

FOOTBALL MATCH.—This was unfortunately left to the last, and amidst heavy rain and a pelting gale of wind did the adventurous lovers of field sports persist in the amusement. Two teams were chosen. Mr. Dalmahy Campbell chose ten for his side, and Mr. Were an equal number. Sometimes the apple, or rather ball, of contention, was flogged into the middle of a pool of water, and the whole lot got a good ducking. The event was not concluded, owing to the bad weather, and the stakes were returned.

PRIZE-FIGHTING.

Fisticuffs, not the regular pugilism, which, when scientifically learned, constitutes as justifiable an acquisition as any of the other arts of self-defence, but the besotted and brutalizing inter-punching, known as prize-fighting, was an early coloniser of Port Phillip—though mostly indulged in by stealth, and apparently beyond the purview of the police—a protective corps disposed to wink at it oftener than not. Prize-fighting was, no doubt, introduced by the early expiree convicts and ticket-of-leave holders, for it was an accomplishment much cultivated by the prison portion of the population of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land. One feature of it, however, must be recorded in its favour, when compared with the early duelling, for there was no such sham about it as blank-loaded pistols, firing in the air, or shivering with fear when on the ground. The prize-fighters set to work in sober seriousness, with fists, and they had before them the bad example of their supposed superiors, for the first duel came off in Port Phillip on the 2nd January, 1840. There was also more “claret” tapped in a pugilistic engagement than in an “affair of honour,” for it is an amusingly remarkable fact, that in all the would-be pistolings of which anything is known, in no instance was blood drawn, except the first, when one of the principals shot a fragment off the top of one of his own toes. Public prize-fighting was a luxury not often indulged in—but, now and then a “mill” would be heard of after it was over, as having taken place at the Brighton Beach, the Saltwater River, beyond Williamstown, or at Keilor, when the newspapers would raise a hubbub, and inveigh against a demoralizing custom, and an inactive police. Sometimes the fighters, bottle-holders and backers would be bound in recognizances to answer any information that might be filed against them; but nothing was ever heard of any further prosecutions. I have no intention of scheduling the various engagements of this kind, and will present only two as samples:—

On the 16th August, 1847, there was a considerable turn-out of “The Fancy” at a place known as “The Springs,” some ten miles from town, on the Keilor Road, to witness a “set-to” between a Scotchman named Lovet, and Whelan, an Irishman. Five hundred persons formed the ring, within which the two combatants pummelled each other unmercifully for two mortal hours, doing no less than fifty-six rounds, or about one per every two minutes. The conflict was at last terminated by what is known in pugilistic slang, as a “nose-ender” from the Paddy, which led Sandy to momentarily believe that not only his nose, but everything attached to it, was ended as far as this world went. The sponge was immediately thrown up for him, for he was unable to throw it himself, and the principals and bottle-holders having shaken hands, the motley crew returned to town. Whelan was the favourite, and (as so stated) £250 was won on him. The police heard nothing of it until hours after all was over.

On the 10th January, 1848, a morning’s brisk work was gone through within three miles of Melbourne, on a skirt of swamp over the Saltwater River, and opposite the Flemington Racecourse. The following notice of the field-day is copied from a Melbourne newspaper of the 11th:
regular 'scene' took place yesterday morning, there having been no less than three prize-fights on
the banks of the Saltwater River, about a mile and a half from Kellet's public-house. The six
combatants, accompanied by their seconds and particular friends, started for the 'battle-field' on
Sunday afternoon, and quitted the scene that night. At an early hour yesterday morning
nearly all the cabs in town were in requisition, proceeding with their cargoes to the scene of action,
and at a few minutes past five o'clock the first fight commenced, between two fellows known as
'Dear Dick' and Jem Edwards; stakes, £25 to £20 against the latter. Fifteen rounds were fought
in twenty-one minutes, and after a hard push Edwards was proclaimed the conqueror. The second
battle was between a bricklayer's labourer named Mahony, and a Pentonvillian named Roberts;
twenty-four rounds in thirty minutes. This is represented as being a 'good stand up fight and hard
hitting,' Mahony beating. The stakes were £10 aside; the betting was in Mahony's favour, and
as much as five to one was offered against 'the Penton,' but not taken. The third match was
between Paddy Sinclair and a person known as 'Black Steve,' for £10 aside, but after three or
four 'smashers' Steve gave up. There were no less than eight hundred persons present, and after
the 'sports' commenced, Lieutenant Mair, Chief-Constable Brodie, and the mounted police were
on the ground, when the former having called upon the persons present to disperse, was coolly
informed that his order would not be complied with. The police then advanced towards the ropes,
and the Commandant was proceeding to read the Riot Act, when some unequivocal symptoms
of resistance exhibiting themselves, and there being only three mounted men available, it was deemed
advisable to withdraw from the ground. Chief-Constable Brodie has, however, taken the names of
many who were present, and intends filing informations against them."

The hitting herein described must have been both hard and fast, but as I am no authority
in this particular branch of athletics, I must leave it to some expert to pronounce upon the
probability of the time being correctly given.

PISCATORIAL.

The angler could often enjoy a rare day's amusement before the Yarra and the Saltwater River
were poisoned by the foulness of local industries; and though the disciples of Izaak Walton were
not then numerous, the water-side sport was by no means disregarded.

The Upper and Lower Yarra, the Saltwater River, and the Deep Creek were the favourite
fishing stations. At the Studley Park Falls, at certain periods of the year, herring would come down
the river in shoals, and bream and perch abound in the Yarra and Saltwater rivers from Melbourne
to the Racecourse, whilst the Deep Creek at times was well-stocked with delicious blackfish.

The following are a few of the notable incidents of the primitive days of the rod and line
in Port Phillip:

In August, 1847, the Upper Yarra was swarmed with herring, and they were so easily caught
that at Prince's Bridge—they were hooked with pins.

The Good Friday of 1848 (21st April) was something extraordinary in the way of herring fishing
in the Yarra, and about 150 rod-men were out. A few blackfish were nabbed, one of them weighing
7 lb. Some Sandridge fishermen during the night of the 27th February, 1849, made a great haul of
fish, between Sandridge and St. Kilda. They fell in with a shoal of salmon trout, netted over
two hundred dozen, and experienced much difficulty in getting them ashore.

The 17th October witnessed an unusually large attendance of anglers at the Yarra, from the
New Bridge to Studley Park. There were some large takes, and amongst them a herring in weight
3 lb., "which surprised every one."

On the 12th April, 1850, Henry Williams, a stonemason, was fishing at Batesford, beyond
Geelong, when he captured the largest eel ever taken there up to that time. It measured 42 inches
in length and 14 in girth. The most dexterous handlers of the rod were Messrs. Isaac Hinds,
Thomas Halfpenny, John Stephen, William Kerr, and Michael McNamara.
The trading fishermen soon learned to resort to some of their unfair practices in which that fraternity has since become such adepts. The most reprehensible conduct was alleged against them, and they were known at night to lay down close nets from bank to bank of the two rivers, and sweep everything in the form of a fish, even to the spawn. Remonstrance against such foul play was so unavailing as to render it necessary to organize measures of co-operative resistance to such misdeeds, and accordingly

THE WALTONIAN CLUB

Was formed in 1850 for the preservation of the river fishery. A meeting was held on the 24th July at the Fitzroy Arms Hotel, corner of King and Little Lonsdale Streets. It was decided to start a Protection Society under the above designation, for the purpose of preventing poaching in the Yarra and the Saltwater River; and for promoting the healthful and invigorating old British sport of angling. The entrance fee for members was to be 2s. 6d., and 1s. per month as subscription. The officers chosen were — President: Mr. John Stephen; Vice-President: Mr. J. T. Smith; Hon. Secretary: Mr. William Stewart; Treasurer: Mr. John Coultate; Committee: Messrs. Lewis Pedruzzi, Isaac Hinds, Charles Morgan, Frank Stephen, Henry Rankin, George Willians, James Hay, and J. Manton, with power to add, etc., etc. An address was adopted for presentation to Mr. James Simpson, the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the County of Bourke, soliciting his co-operation towards the conservancy of the Yarra and Saltwater River fishing within legitimate bounds. The Commissioner assisted the Society in every way in his power, and much good was done so long as it continued in existence.

THE FIRST OYSTERS.

Those bi-valves were first known as an esculent in Port Phillip in 1835. They were found by the sailors and bark-strippers from Launceston, whose operations at Western Port are described elsewhere. The best place for obtaining the shell-fish was off Signal Point, at the mouth of Sandy Creek, a short distance from Cowes (Phillip Island). The locality now known as Cowes was first named "Elizabeth Cove," after the schooner employed in the transport of bark from the mainland to Launceston. In the beginning, the oysters could be picked up like paving-stones at low-water; but, when the surface crop was disposed of, dredging was resorted to. Delicious oysters were afterwards procured without difficulty at Corner Inlet (Port Albert), on grounds known as Shallow Inlet, and a small island at the east side of Port Albert, named Clonmel, after the steamer wrecked there in December, 1840, on her passage from Sydney to Melbourne. Oysters were also gathered at the bar, near what was designated "Stumpy Jack," a rock marking the entrance of the old channel from Williamstown to Melbourne. It was an occasional recreation of John Batman to indulge a spell of oyster fishing with two or three of his Sydney natives, when one of the blackfellows would roll overboard on a diving expedition after the other "natives." Thomas Halfpenny, the old Studley Park Ranger, before quoted, once took it into his head to turn oyster-fisherman, and had a peculiar instrument made for grappling with the capturing difficulty, which succeeded better than the Batman Aboriginal contrivance. The Halfpenny gear was a clumsy concern, which he called "the tongs." It was something in the shape of two poles, each 20 feet in length, having strong long-toothed iron rakes attached, and braced near the centre with iron, in such a manner that it worked like a scissors. This could be plied by two men in a boat, the oyster ground scraped, and the shell-fish hooked or scooped up. Oysters were also disinterred from reefs in Geelong Harbour, and though large and puffy, were never of much account. The Western Port oysters were for a time the regular market stock, but the famed Sydney Rock soon eclipsed them. As years rolled by, and the town with its population and trade increased, the oyster shop made its appearance. Amongst the oystermen themselves, especially the first two who opened shop in this way, a bitter enmity prevailed, and the manner in which the competition was pushed yielded no small amusement to the public. Their names were Peter Perkins
and Henry Clegg. One of them lived in Bourke Street, near the first wooden theatre, on the site of Hosie's popular Pie-shop, and the other in Little Bourke Street, rearward of the Post Office. Though the Aborigines of Port Phillip ate various kinds of the testacea and crustacea, such as fresh and salt water mussel, periwinkle, limpet, cockle, sea-cucumber, &c., &c., much doubt has been entertained as to oysters having formed any portion of their food, though the blacks in parts of Queensland were undoubtedly oyster eaters. Notwithstanding positive assertions to the contrary, I am disposed to think that the Port Phillipians fed on oysters—shells of which were found in abundance at the place now known as Greenwich, near Williamstown, on the shores of Corio Bay, and other coast localities. Heaps of them used to be dug out of the water-banks, and small vessels were employed to dredge for them, as material for lime. The lime employed in the original buildings was procured by piling a heap of such shells on large blazing logs, when they were speedily transfused into a lime as white and fine almost as flour. Captain Fermanier has assured me that he found oyster-shells in some native camps, and they were evidently not brought there as empty ornaments, but for a more necessary purpose. Some immense deposits of large coarse cockle-shells were also discovered, and it is difficult to believe that whilst the cockle-fish was swallowed, the other and more savoury edible was thrown away.
CHAPTER LV.

A BUNDLE OF OLD ADVERTISEMENTS.

IN the principle of noscitur a sociis there is no surer mode of ascertaining the feelings of a community at any particular period than a study of its newspaper advertisements; for they are, to all intents and purposes, its companions for the time, and the media through which are ventilated its wants and wishes, its frivolities and perplexities. This department of an extensively circulated journal may not be inaptly assimilated to a telephonic gallery, by whose agency, opportunities, and facilities of inter-communication are afforded, applicable to universal use. This species of literature reflects with more fidelity than any other the conditions of individual and general temperament, and as a social, economic, and even political weather-gauge, is as unerring as the reading of the barometer, or the pulsations in the human system.

If London, Paris, Berlin or Vienna, as they are now seen, could have access to a newspaper press issued during the first years of their existence, what curious untold relics of rare historical value, would not their advertisement columns reveal! In this respect Melbourne was peculiarly fortunate, for in less than a year after the fixing of its township it had its newspaper, such as it was, with its advertisement columns as indicators of the form and pressure of the hour. The site of Melbourne was determined on, on the 4th March, 1837; the first sale of Crown lands was held on the 1st June following, and the 1st January, 1838, witnessed the birth of Fawkner's puny journalistic manuscript bantling, the Melbourne Advertiser. Except a three months' hiatus, caused by the temporary cessation of the first newspaper, which was terminated by the establishment of the Port Phillip Gazette, the connection has never once been cut to the present moment, when the journalism of Melbourne may fairly compete with kindred institutions throughout the world. I have prepared a collation from a series of old advertisements, which cannot be read with other than a strange interest, because of the beginnings of businesses, professions, and other avocations to which they refer. It would be a matter of no concern now to hear of the arrival of a lawyer, a doctor, a monthly nurse, an undertaker, a barber, an apothecary, or a tailor, or the importation of a stallion, a piano, or a cask of whisky; but a notice of the individuals who were the first to engage in such and other enterprises in the colony, is a very different thing, and to the antiquarian, the general reader, and the investigator of the wonderful progression of Melbourne in a short half century, such facts, though apparently trivial in themselves, cannot be devoid of interest.

In the chapter on journalism, reference is made to the advertisements published in the Advertiser, and in the early numbers of the Gazette and Patriot. The town was very limited, the population small and sparse, and trade and commerce inconsiderable, until the close of 1838, when the settlement began to make head-way. At first the advertising notices were principally devoted to announcements from shopkeepers (as sellers wholesale and retail were then styled), Fawkner's Hotel, and shipping agents; but gradually the area was enlarged, and one by one new arrivals popped into print, and put forth their claims for public patronage. The first of the "barber" fraternity opened shop (24th October, '38), as "John Lamb, hairdresser, in Collins Lane, near the Royal Highlander." This Lamb, by no means as sheepish as his name might imply, in course of time cut his connexion with the painted pole, and took to billiards and grog selling. As "Jack Lamb" he was well known on the early turf, was once the landlord of the Albion Hotel, in Bourke Street, and as a billiard player his brand was A1.
Thomas Capel, the first brewer, signifies that he sells “Capel’s beer entire,” and that “beer equal to any brewed in Melbourne is to be had at the Britannia Brewery, near the Wharf, at 2s. 6d. per gallon.”

Mr. John Hodgson, once well-known in Legislative and Civic circles, appears to have been the first introducer of musical instruments, for in November he advertises for sale “two superior pianos, one an elegant cabinet, and the other a horizontal.” His stock was soon after increased by a supply of accordionas, flutes, clarionets, hunting and other horns, and some compass-fitted walking sticks. He must have found much of this a dead stock, for some of the articles were as unsuited to the public requirements as could be, and selected with about as much judgment as was shown three years after when Mr. T. C. Riddell, an ancient wine and spirit merchant, actually got out from England a consignment of skates.

Potatoes first opened their eyes at the corner of Flinders and Queen Streets, where Frederick Pitman “offered a few tons of the best at the moderate charge of 9s. 6d. per cwt. cash;” and P. W. Welsh was not behind in the provender line, as he was ready to sell oats at 6s. per bushel of 40 lbs., and at the same shop were also to be purchased a cigar-case with flint and steel, playing cards, lucifer matches and wax tapers. He also had on hand several numbers of the Pickwick Papers for one shilling each.

Three ladies were early in the field catering for their own branch of the public. The first was Mrs. Lilly who (26th October, 1838) “apprizes the ladies of Melbourne that she has opened a quantity of baby-linen and children’s dresses assorted, and for sale at the lowest prices.” A week after she is vastly improved upon by Mrs. Aberline, who “opened a Tuscan Straw Bonnet establishment in Queen Street, and had received a quantity of Tuscan, Dunstable, and coloured silk bonnets at lowest prices.” Mrs. Stewart strikes in the next week by “informing the ladies that she has commenced business as a dressmaker, and hopes by proper attention to orders to merit a share of public patronage. For cards of address apply at Gazette office.”

The first manufacturer of leather appears to have been Richard Tancred, in Tancred’s Lane, off Collins Street and Flinders Lane, and had “sole, kangaroo, and kip, sheep and basil, &c, both imported and manufactured by self; and to be sold on the lowest terms for good payments.”

It was a neck-and-neck race between the men costumers, but Mr. T. O’Reilly had the start in Collins Street as a “fashionable tailor.” Close on his heels rushed Henry Grayling, late from Jermyn Street, St. James’, London, tailor and habit-maker, in Little Collins Street.

In the course of a few weeks Mr. O’Reilly has evidently got into trouble of another kind, as he issued a published manifesto in these words—“Having seen my name posted up by a person named Finnigan, I beg to inform him that I have no wish for his wife to remain in my employ; but she having informed me that they had entered into a written agreement to separate, they taking each a child, I employed her as a housekeeper.”

The first saddle and harness maker made his appearance in December, 1838, in the person of Thomas Jackson, from London. Orders were receivable “at Mr. John Moss’s ale brewery, back of the Ship Inn, or at Mr. Smith’s Lamb Inn.” During the next month John Dinwoodie, saddler, collar and harness maker, from London, notifies his intention to commence business on the 19th, in Little Collins Street.

Constitution unhappiness publicly showed itself so early as 1838, for on the 25th October, Thomas Coombes, wheelwright, cries down the credit of his “better-half” by “cautioning the public against allowing his wife, Mary Anne, to go on tick,” as he will not be responsible.” And the second to proclaim his domestic troubles was a James Connell, whose wife, “Shine,” had unceremoniously given him the slip, and he consequently disavowed all further pecuniary liability on her account.

The first engraver, John Greene, started business in a wee brick cottage just westward of the Temple Court Hotel, in Little Collins Street. I have in my possession a silver crest and monogram done by him, the first of its kind in Melbourne, and an exhibit of handicraft which would not discredit one of the metallic operators of the present day.
The first confectioner’s shop was opened in Collins Street, and issued its programme in 1838, after this fashion:—“Overton and Hill, bakers, confectioners, rusk and fancy biscuit makers. Ready to receive orders for wedding, dinner, and supper cakes, dressed dishes, pasties, patties, supplies, &c.” Mr. Overton is (1888) residing near Melbourne, and an interesting reference to him appears in the Chapter on “Gas,” for he was the first to apply it to shop lighting in Melbourne.

The first Servants’ Registry Office was kept by Edward Cockayne, who advertised his head-quarters as “at the Ship Inn, near Custom House, Flinders Lane.”

The first imported stallions are notified towards the close of 1838, viz., “Romeo, a beautiful Entire horse,” belonging to John M’Nall; “Young Clydesdale, the best horse in the district,” owner, John Hodgson; and “Noble,” belonging to Alfred Langhorne.

The “night-hawks” were early abroad, judging by the rewards offered in connection with nocturnal depredations, for the Rev. James Clow promises to pay £10 “for information leading to the recovery of a quantity of silver plate stolen from his house on the night of 27th October, 38, i.e., table, dessert, tea, and egg spoons, dinner and dessert forks, soup ladle, gravy spoon with open division across, marrow spoon, and butter knife.”

George Smith, the proprietor of the Lamb Inn, was so plucked by fowl-stealers that he offers £10 reward for information whereon to convict the thief.

Crown Land trespassers were also making a commencement, for Captain Fyans, P.M., “cautions persons against gathering, without being duly authorized, shells on pretence of burning lime on the shores about Geelong; also, burning and collecting limestone, or removing anything on the Government ground.”

In the Gazette (28th August, 1839), there is an advertisement from two or three bachelors who wished to become respectable members of society, i.e., entering into the matrimonial state, and they expressed a hope “that no prudish fears will withhold the ladies from answering this appeal to Cupid, but will joyously come forth in all their pristine purity, to meet half-way those who will be too happy to link their fates together in the happy bonds of holy matrimony. Letters addressed A. B., care Gazette Office, will meet with the greatest secrecy and attention.” The gentlemen, notwithstanding the scarcity of eligible spinsters, soon grew more exacting as to personal and pecuniary attractions, for in July, 1841, a young gentleman of good expectations advertises for a wife with £3000. “She must be tall, and well-proportioned in every respect; but above all must have small feet and well-turned ankles, an expressive black or languishing blue eye, good teeth, and pouting lips.” It is not at all likely that he was suited.

A curious glimpse or two are obtained of the early business vocations of Mr. J. T. Smith, the seven times Mayor of Melbourne, for cropping up in the trade notices is one dated 26th March, 1839, in which he opens the Australian Store in Collins Street (the heart of “the Block”) where he vends groceries, ironmongery, tobacco, and slop clothes; and notifies “that coffee will be roasted and ground early every morning of a superior quality; also a small supply of fresh butter.”

In April, 1840, “he retires from the grocery and store business, and is going into the timber trade.”

In 1838 John Briars announces that he has opened a stone quarry within two miles of Melbourne, where he had a supply of nine-inch couriers, and foot base stones on hand, and for sale by the load or otherwise. John Bennell, senior, of Little Bourke Street, advertises superior shell and stone lime, deliverable over Melbourne at 1s. 9d. per bushel; and so that purchasers may be sure of correct measure, he sent a bushel that they might measure for themselves. He was soon followed by Adam Murray, who in 1840, pompously announces “that he manufactures shell lime after the directions of Signor Ancello Cornaro, modeller and plasterer to the King of Naples, at 2s. 6d. per bushel. Stone lime free from sand or other impurities, prepared specially for the erection of churches, bridges, goths, and other edifices of a permanent character, 2s. to 2s. 6d.”

T. S. Kay, from London, commenced business in Bourke Lane, “in the manufacture of nautical and optical instruments, where he bad for sale spectacles and reading glasses, and informed the public that experience has proved beyond the shadow of doubt that the dust so often flying through the metropolis has a most beneful effect upon the vision.”
The first publicly proclaimed dancing master appeared in September, 1840, in the person of C. Clarke, who was "prepared to give tuition in dancing in the house in Bourke Street, recently occupied by Dr. Cotter." In 1843, Monsieur E. C. Greene (a gentleman of colour, though not so stated in advertisement), member of L'Ecole Polytechnique, Paris, opened a "Fencing and Dancing Academy," at the corner of Lonsdale and Queen Streets.

The first restaurant was opened in Melbourne in March, 1840. It is advertised as a tea, coffee, and dining-room, at the corner of Flinders Lane and Elizabeth Street, by Richard Graham, who emphatically declares that no trouble will be spared in promoting the comfort of his customers. "Up-country settlers leading their teams to Melbourne will find good accommodation on the premises," where there were single and double beds, and the newspapers were taken in.

The first regular tobacconist was Jno. Macheeknie, who commenced 28th September, 1839, in "a fancy snuff and cigar shop," in the Market Square, next to the "Sporting Emporium." The "blowing up" of this individual has been narrated in a previous chapter.

About the same time D. Dole advertised himself as an operative chemist and druggist in Collins Street. He performed operations of bleeding, capping, and tooth-drawing, and for the convenience of his customers was supplied with a varied assortment of groceries of the best description; but intermingled with the black and green teas were such trifles as quills, ink, and sealing wax, fancy snuffs, turpentine, and French polish.

In October appeared in town a personage who afterwards made a noise in more capacities than one, and whose name appears in the "Corporation" and other chapters. He was a Mr. Michael M'Namara, a Sydney tailor, who opened "the Emporium of Fashion in Little Collins Street, and was ready to make naval and military uniforms to order, equal to any imported from London or Paris."

In November, 1839, George Arden, a co-proprietor of the Gazette, offered for sale "an English-built bush or travelling carriage and dog-cart, brought overland from Sydney, capable of holding four persons, and worthy the attention of squatters who have the happiness in this land of toil of possessing wives whose kindly and womanly offices can make the rude hut of the lonely squatter enviable to the inmates of a palace."

The first coachbuilder was Ebenezer Brown, who at same time started the business of "making in all its branches," in Little Bourke Street; and Lewis Robertson, a duly qualified veterinary surgeon, was not only willing to doctor, but also to train horses, and, furthermore, "to give security in any amount."

The first published place of accommodation for horses was kept by James Graburn, who called attention to the superior character of his livery and bait stables, where none but steady grooms were employed."

Quite a flutter was occasioned among the small beau monde in January, 1840, when "Mrs. Brown, dressmaker to the Countess of Llandaff and the ladies of the Court of Dublin, begged respectfully to inform the ladies of Melbourne and its vicinity, that she had commenced business at No. 4 Little Flinders Street East, and wanted two out-door apprentices." But she was soon cut out by Mrs. Margaret C. Dick setting up in Collins Street. Her credentials set forth "that she had served under Mrs. Williams, dressmaker and milliner to Queen Victoria."

Rowe and Co. (1840) initiated a somewhat pretentious medical establishment in Collins Street, next the Club House (now Union Club Hotel), not only as manufacturing chemists, but as having "received a select assortment of the newest and most fashionable remedies, on the purity of which the profession and public may depend." For domestic use they supplied "pearl sago, sal volatile, salts, Robinson's patent groats and barley, pickles, capers, Lucca oil, and superior snuffs and lemon syrup."

A new pastry-cook had also commenced under the name of J. Davies, who informed "the gentry and public that he had a constant supply of soups, jellies, and brawn, and that dishes of all kinds are made to order." He was soon outdone by Philip Burgin, from London, as a "pastry-cook and confectioner in all its branches. Jellies and blanc manges, mock-turtle, ox-tail and meligethaway,
with wine biscuits equal to Lemaun, of Threadneedle Street, London." This "Phil" distinguished himself in other more questionable ways, for he turned into a professional billiard player and marker, took occasionally to the stage, and was the first to sing to a public audience, the Cockney doggerel, misnamed an Irish comic song, "Paddy's Wedding."

The first issue of Kerr's Melbourne Almanac and Port Phillip Directory, in January, 1841, contains a cloud of advertisements, indicative of a marked improvement in the trading habits of the community. In it are to be found the commercial notices of most of the early merchants such as Ashurt and Co., W. and H. Barnes, O. Williams, W. Westgarth, Cropper and Co., J. Bullen, Weasley and Forest, Campbell and Woolley, Heap and Groce, Hunter, somervail and Co., J. E. Were, Thomas, Encoe, and James, F. Pittman, P. W. Welsh and Co., Langhorne Bros., &c, &c.

D. H. Ley appears as the first advertised gold and silversmith, working jeweller, and watch and clockmaker. He professed to be stocked with a splendid variety of London-made jewellery, chains, seals, and watches, by the most celebrated manufacturers. He was ready to repair and rate chronometers, and make Masonic jewels to order. H. G. Harrington had succeeded Rowe and Co. in the apothecary's shop next the Club House. His stock in-trade went far outside the pharmacopoeia, for he vended with his medicines innumerable trifles such as English honey and West India tamarinda, Tomlin snuffs and boxes, lucifers, Promethean and magic lights, pickles, jams, and marmalades, preserved meats and high dried sprats, lemon syrup and raspberry vinegar, table and judding raisins, Indian curry powder, and wine-glasses and tumblers.

R. Wilson and Co., chemists and druggists, are advertised at the corner of Collins and Queen Streets, where they had, at very great expense, fitted up a sodawater machine and fountain, from which the public could be supplied with most delicious beverages, viz., sodawater, effervescing lemonade, and raspberryade, either in draught or in bottle.

A wholesale and retail draper, silk mercer, and haberdasher (W. Empson), appeared in Collins Street, with every description of drapery and fancy goods of the newest style, sprinkled with such useful commodities as Tuscan and Dunstable bonnets, Wellington boots, sheets, pillow-cases, and table-cloths, and only stopping at stretchers and mattresses of every kind.

The tobacco, snuff, and cigar business soon spread, and, amongst others of lesser note, James Dick, junior, Collins Street, offered weeds of various brands, with Taddy's plain and fancy snuffs, real Planchadoes, superior Young Queen, Havannah, and Chinsurah cigars, plain and fancy pipes, &c. But in August, 1842, Miss Jane Browne made a further advance by opening a cigar divan, coffee and reading-room, in Elizabeth Street. Intending patronisers were assured that it was a place "combining every convenience for the enjoyment of smokers, as well as of those who love to call the flower of literature while sipping 'the cup which cheers but not inebriates.'"

The florists appeared in 1841, when Daniel Bunce was prepared to sell packages of seeds and specimens of indigenous plants, made up for exportation, at one guinea each. He was also open to "lay out and stock gardens and pleasure-grounds, and had fruit and forest trees and seeds of all kinds." He was outbid in public favour by Francis S. Dutton, of Collins Street, announcing "receipt of, direct from the celebrated florists, Avan, Eaden and Son, Harlem, and Cornelius Stegenhock, of Nordyk, a large assortment of the choicest roots of tulips, hyacinths, jonquils, anemones, ranunculus and narcissus, ever imported." But Bunce for many years continued to be regarded as the professional horticulturist of the district. He accompanied the explorer Leichardt on one of his North Australian expeditions, and he finally obtained the Curatorship of the Geelong Botanical Gardens, where he died some years ago.

There was not much newspaper puffing amongst the Melbourne butchers, who probably spent all their "blowing" energies in preparing their meat for the market; but one queer old fellow of them all believed in the magic of type, that he occasionally issued notices of a somewhat original make-up. He was the Adam Murphy already named, and he changed from lime-selling to the block and cleaver, at which he did not prosper, and subsequently resorted to half-a-dozen other means of obtaining a crust.

In 1841 his butchery was in Bourke Street, near Swanston Street, where he professed to "retail roasts, steaks and chops, at 20 per cent. below rate." As a sample of his mode of advertising, I transcribe
a declaration "that the bullocks he now possesses for smallness of bone and deliciousness of flesh, are
in no respect inferior to those which grace Nature's silken carpet beside the beautiful Lakes of Killarney."

The primitive barbers, who attended customers at their houses, never got on well together;
indeed they lived in such a state of mutual hatred that, if they could only do it without fear of Judge
or Jury, they would have a pleasure in shaving one another. A pompous and combative member of
the tribe flourished in 1841, and for several years after. His chequered pole was displayed from a shop
in Elizabeth Street, between Collins and Little Collins Streets. His name was Alfred Cooper, and
in his first advertisement "he hoped to gain a share of patronage from an enlightened public, and put
an end to the system of extortion hitherto practised by the Knights of the Razor. Easy shaving, 3d.;
fashionable haircutting, 6d.; and he undertook to carefully 'ground' and set, not only razors, but surgical
instruments." Two months after he "warns ladies and gentlemen about trusting their lives in the
hands of certain parties who profess to be tradesmen, situated in the precincts of Flinders Lane,
taking care to add "that his Macassar pomade being in the original jars, ladies and gentlemen are
requested to send their empty pots." Cooper's Bête noire was H. S. Milbourne, who kept a little shop
in Little Flinders Street, and rather prominently advertised his capabilities and his wares. He not
only shaved, but hair-dressed and perfumed, set razors and made ordered wigs, fronts, and ringlets.
He had not only "an extensive stock of every description of perfumery, including combs and brushes",
but he outdid his competitors by keeping a private room for hair-cutting. This Milbourne appears to have
insured the ire of others of the craft besides Cooper, for in 1842 one Walsh, who introduced himself
as a newly-arrived hairdresser from New Bond Street, London, through the public press wished
"Milbourne, the barber, to recollect that he who lives in a glass house should not throw stones," a
time-worn truism, which embodies a bit of advice applicable to other handcrafts than the tonsorial.

In 1844 two somewhat special advertisements appeared, viz.:—It was announced as something
novel on behalf of J. A. Marsden, that he had in his shop (Collins Street) "the most splendid
exhibition of Berlin patterns ever imported to the colony, consisting of designs for chair-covers,
piano-stools, ottomans, &c, in every variety of size and figure." This Berliner is the "Big Marsden"
referred to in other chapters, and who may be still seen (1888) airing himself about the streets of Fitzroy,
and administering justice, untempered with mercy, as a local Magistrate. He is nearly as bulky, but
not quite as smart, lively and long-winded, as in days of yore.

J. S. Lambert, established in Queen Street, vouches for his ability "to repair and clean guns
and pistols in a Mantonian and Purdeyan style that cannot be equalled by any other shop.
. . . . . No imported or cobblers' rubbish applied—nothing but colonial workmanship,
even to the nipple."

Little Bourke Street was the head-quarters of the pristine oyster vendors, and one of them
named Clegg, startled the community with an announcement of turtle soup; but when it came
to be spooned it was found to be a heterogeneous home-brewed compound, which was "mock" turtle
in the most unrestricted sense of the epithet. I believe the first real turtle soup was advertised in
August, 1845, by J. W. Cowell, the then proprietor of the Royal Hotel, in Collins Street. He not only
promised it to be such, but assured his customers "that there was a constant supply always on hand,
and that he had engaged the only professed cook in Melbourne."

In every annual balance-sheet issued by the Management of the Melbourne Hospital appears
a quiet, unassuming little bequest of £5 from the executors of Margaret Carroll; and how few know
anything of the kindly donor, who went her way to the Old Cemetery many a year ago! She was
one of the old confectioners, who kept an establishment in Elizabeth Street, and in 1845 she advertised
"her thanks for the success of "The Melbourne Restaurant," and solicits attention to her extensive stock
of pastry, jellies, sodawater, lemonade, &c., with innumerable articles for morning refreshment."
Mrs. Carroll was a widow lady with three daughters, one of whom was the handsomest girl of her time.
The old lady had a "refrigerator" established on the counter, upon the cooling virtues of which she
never tired expatiating. All the girls died young, and she followed them; but her name remains
perpetually associated with the existence of Melbourne's oldest and principal Charity, through the
periodically recurring gratuity denied by her benevolent thoughtfulness.
On the 26th May, 1845, the following trade circular appeared in the newspapers:—

New Drapery Establishment, Commercial House, (Late R. Spence's), Elizabeth Street.

JOHN O'SHALassy and CO., beg to announce to their friends and the public in general that they have commenced the Drapery Business in the above house.

No need to indicate the identity of the principal partner in the above firm, for few guessers will mistake the individual. The premises consisted of a small one-storey tenement on the eastern side of Elizabeth Street South, a few yards distant from what was known for many years as the Clarence corner, where the City of Melbourne Bank now stands.

In August, 1845, the following announcement appeared in the newspapers:—

Daguerreotype.—Little Flinders Street, at the stores lately occupied by Messrs. E. Westby and Co.

MR. G. B. GOODMAN begs to inform the inhabitants of Melbourne and its vicinity, that he has taken those extensive premises lately in the occupation of Messrs. Westby and Co., Little Flinders Street, and nearly opposite the residence of William Hall, Esq., J.P., where he will commence practising the above art on Monday next, the 11th August, where he hopes by attention and care on his part to receive here as great a share of patronage and support as has hitherto been kindly extended to him in all the adjacent colonies that he has had the honour of visiting.

For the information of those who may not have studied this most interesting and marvellous art, Mr. Goodman begs to state that sitting does not exceed five seconds, and the whole picture is finished and delivered in four minutes, thus avoiding the delay and tedium attending frequent and protracted sittings, and ensuring by the nature of the operation (which is the reflection of the figure itself fixed in a mirror) a true and faithful likeness both of face, figure, dress, expression, &c., &c., i.e., in fact the portrait is a stamp of the original, and produces in effect a SECOND-SELF.

As Mr. Goodman's stay must be very limited, he would particularly impress on those who may wish to patronise him the necessity of making an early application.

Price of each Portrait—one guinea, including a handsome gilt and Morocco case.

Specimens to be seen at the Stores, Little Flinders Street, at Mr. Cashmore's, corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets, or at the Office of this Paper.

Mr. Goodman does not seem to have made a bad thing of it, for after being in business for four months, and taking £870 in cash, he rather unexpectedly packed up one summer morning and packed himself away, bag and baggage, to Adelaide.

In 1846 the notion of versified advertising was realized by some of the more energetic of the retailers. There were two or three semi-professional rhymesters in Melbourne, and though no doubt ample value was given for the fees paid, some queer outbursts of rigmarole occasionally appeared in the newspapers. From a small pile I cull three specimens:—

Henry Baker opened a tavern known as the Imperial Inn, a tidy two-storey house, erected on portion of the site of the Exchange in West Collins Street. He was a pragmatical, dumpish sort of fellow, who always appeared with a very clean-shaven face, and was white aproned from chin to ankles. He was a precise and painstaking man of business, and established a table d'hôte from which he hoped to realize a large fortune, though eventually his estimate of the probabilities was considerably in excess of the net results. In an ode headed "Comfort and Economy," the merits of the Bakerian establishment are indicated in a style more above than below mediocrity, as evidenced by the following stanzas which I extract:—

"There 'cleanliness' and 'order,' hand in hand
O'er the arrangements of his house preside,
Where wholesome viands on the table stand,
And genuine liquors pour their generous tide;
Combined with which his reasonable charges,
Each guest's advantage very much enhances.

"Tis there that 'new-come' emigrants may find
A home at once—cheap, tranquil, and select,
Fit for the wanderer—whose peace of mind
Has been by adverse circumstances wreck'd;
And who escaped from ship-board and its riot,
Would fain think o'er his future plans in quiet.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

"Not is it less adapted for the sons
Of lusty toil, who, hastening from the bush,
(Leaving their flocks and herds on distant runs)
Then into the town impatient push;
Intent, for once at least, to have a fling,
And in 'true bushman style' to drink and sing

"There may they quaff their draughts secure from harm,
No noxious drugs within the goblet lurk,
For 'Baker's' spirits, howe'er strong their charm,
Deal not in any hocus pocus work;
And he disdains to carry on a trade,
Which is not on an honest basis laid."

Like the P.S. of a lady's letter, there is an *addendum* far outweighing in importance the body of the communication. Towards the end, the Parnassian stilts are kicked off, the writer regains the *terra firma* of plain unadulterated prose, and winds up with this alluring and matter-of-fact intimation:—

**SCALE OF ACCOMMODATION.**

- A hearty breakfast at 9 o'clock, charge... £1 0
- A substantial dinner, at 2... £1 0
- A comfortable tea or supper, at 7... £1 0
- A good bed in a cleanly room... £1 0
- A good tea, bed, and breakfast... £2 6

For Board and lodging, 12s. per week, payable in advance.

Henry Baker subsequently transferred the *Imperial* to other hands, and in 1848 became the founder of the hotel at Heidelberg to this day favourably known as the *Old England*.

William Howe commenced the dyeing business "next to Mr. Gregory's iron store in Collins Street, where ladies' cloaks and riding habits, doe and buckskin breeches, &c., were cleaned and finished up in true fashion. Gentlemen coming from the bush could also have their clothes cleaned, repaired, dressed, and pressed in a few hours." His success was tolerable, but when the following *farrago* appeared over his name in the newspaper in November, 1846, his business so increased that opposition shops were started in such numbers as to terminate disastrously to the whole lot:—

"Respectfully the undersigned
Solicits all to bear in mind,
That he crape shawls, veils, and silk dresses,
Most beautifully dyes and presses;
And renders clothes whate'er their hue,
Grey, drab, or brown, or dusky blue,
A matchless black or perfect sable,
By process quite inimitable.
And 'ere the sun has twice gone down,
His 'first-rate finish' can be found,
His 'unique' flag is now unfurl'd—
'Without a fraud I cheat the world'.

For
I am a dyer—a dyer of blue;
I can dye an old coat, and make it look new;—
And when it is done, I'll wager a crown
It surpasses the finest new cloth in town.
My liquor is pure, as my customers know;
And to strangers I sing out—Attention! Ho! Ho! Ho!"

Howe next shifted his quarters to Queen Street, where ladies' cloaks, riding habits, shawls, and gentlemen's raiment of all qualities, were cleaned, dressed, and pressed on a principle unrivalled in the colonies.
To his Dyery he annexed an “Imperial Leather Legging Warehouse and Shepherd’s Life Protector, and Renovating Mart.” To puff the new branch the services of the poetaster were secured, and the issue was half a column of bombastic epic doggerel in this strain:—

"Half, gallants, half! and let reason persuade you
That comfort and beauty are excellent things—
First—Howe’s IMPERIALS claim your attention—
Their beauty and comfort are now so well known,
Napoleon Le Grand—it is proper to mention—
Invented them on an Imperial throne.
In peace or in war, or whenever he mounted,
His equipments were suited for comfort and ease—
He wore his Imperials happily appointed—
Complete Leather Leggings right over his knees.
Their texture and colour and polish surpasses
Though you rode fifty leagues over rivers and marshes,
Take them off, you’re as clean as a drawing-room beau.
For sportsmen who dash through scrub and through water,
And recklessly ride over creeks and ravines,
When the game is a-foot—and no object a matter,
Imperials—Imperials, just suit for such scenes."

Brighton, originally known as Waterville, a more appropriate appellation than its successor, must have been in 1846 a somewhat different locality from what it is in 1888, as judged by the following notification of its then first and only innkeeper:—

BRIGHTON HOTEL.

T. M. CROSBIE, in returning his grateful thanks to the gentry of Port Phillip for the liberal patronage which he has received since he has opened the above Hotel, takes this opportunity to inform those families that have hitherto patronised him, that he has made extensive improvements in his establishment by an additional number of bedrooms, and other alterations, which will ensure the comfort of those parties who may honour him with a visit.

T. M. C. also begs to inform his visitors that his cellar is always stocked with wines and spirits of the very best description, which he will dispose of at the Melbourne prices. The use of the bathing-house will be given gratis to parties staying at the Hotel.

N.B.—The Omnibus will commence running three times a week, viz., Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, till further notice, leaving the Brighton Hotel at half-past 8 am, and the Prince of Wales Hotel at half-past 4 p.m.

The locomotive requirements of the early Brightonians must have been of a rather limited character, when a tri-weekly bus, making an up and down trip every second day, Sunday excluded, sufficed.

About the same time a fact deemed of much interest to agriculturists was publicly notified by Mr. John Harlin, Glenvale Farm, Upper Plenty, who proclaims the purchase of the well-known Threshing Machine called the “Challenger,” of 5-horse power, and his readiness to execute any orders for threshing grain in his neighbourhood, on very reasonable terms. He engages that his machine will not break or injure the grain or straw, also thresh clean.

To any member of the bachelor tribe in quest of a wife, the following advertisement, extracted from a newspaper of August, 1849, is recommended as a model upon which to frame any public appeal he may wish to make to the fair sex. Though its insertion will cost more than the specified shilling, its probable success will far outweigh the extra outlay:—

MATRIMONY.

WANTED A YOUNG LADY WILLING TO STATE PARTICULARS.

"A gentleman in comfortable circumstances, of respectable connections, but of reserved manners, is desirous of engaging with a young lady possessing some personal charms, and belonging to a family of real worth—as a
partner for life. Delicacy naturally revolts from making public such peculiar intentions, but not wishing to employ the agency of relations or friends in such a matter—the advertiser trusts that this may meet the eye of some lady willing to communicate on the subject—who will not hesitate to confide in the honour of a gentleman, and address him through the post only, directed to X.Y.Z., *Argus* Office, stating age, complexion, religious denomination, profession or business of her parent, number of brothers and sisters, her own preference for a tall or a short man, and for a life in the town or country, and the objects of her greatest interest both as regards sentiment and occupation."

There is one omission in the foregoing which intending applicants are recommended to supply *i.e.*, to require, in addition to the "profession or business of the parent" (evidently referring to the father), some particulars as to the accomplishments, temper, and idiosyncrasy of the possible mother-in-law. Whether the gentleman of "respectable connexions and reserved manners" succeeded in securing the "personal charms" for which he yearned so ardently was never communicated to the public, but it is to be hoped he did.

In the last chapter a *resumé* was given of the regularly established sports and pastimes; but independent of these, special amusements were occasionally got up, mainly through the exertions of some enterprising publican wishful to do an extra profitable stroke of business. The following advertisement thus intimates some "great expectations" in this line, to come off on the Boxing Day of 1850:—

**CHRISTMAS SPORTS.**

"Christmas comes but once a year,
And when it comes it brings good cheer."

HENRY CONWAY,
Travellers' Rest, Collingwood,
RESPECTFULLY invites all lovers of fun and frolic to the
UNRIVALLED SPORTS
With which Boxing Day will be celebrated at his establishment.

The commencement will be a
**GOAT RACE,**
in which eight thoroughbred Billy-goats will run for half a mile; each regularly caparisoned with saddle, bridle, etc., and ridden by a boy all booted and spurred. Several hurdle leaps to be taken in sure Newmarket style.

The feat of
**CLIMBING THE GREASY POLE,**
Prize, a Silver Watch, is the next part of the performance; after which
**TWO HUNDRED PIGEONS**
Will be shot at; the best marksman to receive a suitable reward.

**THE RAT HUNT**
Follows, in which three hundred trained rats will figure, and from which the greatest amusement may be anticipated.

**THE PIG WITH THE GREASY TAIL**
And many other
**OLD ENGLISH GAMES**
Will wind up the day, which will be one of the pleasantest Boxing Days ever spent in Port Phillip.

A considerable number of persons collected to witness the performance, but though the people were there, the goats and the rats, the pigeons and the booted and spurred boy jockeys, forgot to put in an appearance, and the consequence was a general "sell." The place selected would be an inconvenient sporting arena, though it was then much of an open common. The *Travellers' Rest* was a quaintly-constructed tavern, years since demolished to give way for the structure now known as King's College, in Nicholson Street, Fitzroy, opposite Faraday Street. The now so well-known *White Hart Hotel*, at the top of Bourke Street, is prone on gala days to sport a great variety of buntings in honour of whatever may be on, and as an invitation to the public to step in and test the quality of its tap; but its proprietor would never dream of getting up such a bill of fare as the following—projected and issued by a Mr. Henry Lineham, who "bonfide" the same establishment, though under a rather a different face more than thirty years ago—
NEW YEAR’S DAY!!!

OLD WHITE HART INN,
GREAT BOURKE STREET.

The lovers of the good old English merriment are invited to witness the different sports opposite the above Inn on TUESDAY NEXT, consisting of:

- **GOAT RACING**—PRIZE, A SUIT OF CLOTHES.
- **CLIMBING THE GREASY POLE**—PRIZE, HAT AND GUN.
- **A PIG RACE WITH GREASY TAILS.**
- **QUOITING AND SKITTLES.**

The whole to conclude with a GRAND MATCH at the old English Game of FOOTBALL.

Luncheon will be provided.

The great demonstration came off accordingly, though the programme was very considerably curtailed. At the time there was a splendid sweep of lightly timbered grassy land away northward—the Churches of St. Peter and St. Patrick (then in course of erection) being the only breaks, and here on the site of the Parliament Houses used to occur every sort of human amusement, from holiday jollification to a nocturnal sticking-up. By night it was the most villainous, and by day the most innocent of the public thoroughfares. To-day it may be said not to abound in either quality. If the villainy of the locale has vanished into the unsubstantial region of tradition, it may safely be averred that it has taken the innocence along with it.

Many years ago a small chemist’s shop was started near the Colonial Bank in Elizabeth Street, on the site of the pile of buildings now designated O’Connor’s Chambers. The projector of the druggery was Dr. W. H. Campbell, who annually made a great Christmas spurt in the newspapers to provide a tobacco treat for the inmates of the Benevolent Asylum and Immigrants’ Home—a laudable effort, which to the medic’s credit be it said, invariably eventuated in the letting off of a considerable quantity of smoke. The pill factory passed in an early stage to Mr. Nicholas O’Connor, an obliging and skilful prescriptionist, who stuck to it until he made a fortune, and then retired to enjoy a well-deserved otium cum dig. in a suburban seclusion.

**AUCTION RHODOMONTADE.**

The old Melbourne “Knights of the Hammer” were a long-winded fraternity, and it would be impossible for tongue or pen to puff in a more bombastically inflated style than they did, especially in the advertising columns of the newspapers. Since the initiation of auctioneering as a mode of pushing on in the world, “buncombe” in some form or other was an inseparable accompaniment to the operations of the hammer, and in its use it is no exaggeration to declare that the old Auctioneer here “beat Banagher.” This style of blowing wares intended as a “tremendous sacrifice” upon the altar of Mammon, has been always more or less in vogue, and recent events tend to establish an increasing belief in its efficacy; but no comparison can be instituted between the modern crowing and the sonorous cock-a-hooping with which auction sales used to be heralded in the olden time.

The first two auctioneers who made themselves heard in Melbourne (A.D. 1838) were George Lilly and Charles Williams. In January, 1839, they were re-inforced by James Purves, who commenced business as an architect, building surveyor, and house and land agent. In March he was followed by Thomas H. Power, as an auctioneer and commission agent; and before another year had completed its cycle the number ran up to a dozen. Auction rooms of sufficient capacity were difficult
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

to be obtained, but Williams secured the largest two-storey house in Melbourne—one built for Batman, at the south-west corner of Collins and Williams Streets—where he remained until the formation of an Auction Company, to which the premises were transferred. As the most lucrative business was land selling, the sales took place in tents pitched on the ground, enlivened by the music of either a bellman or bugler, and fortified by such an overwhelming supply of "refreshments," of which everyone might partake, as to be responsible for the ruin of many otherwise well-conducted individuals, who began as auction loungers, and ended as disreputable cadgers and confirmed drunkards. It would be no easy task to find in the whole world of English typography more amusing reading than a selection of "elegant extracts" from the auction advertisements of the period of which I am treating, and the grandiloquent nonsense, which would be mere frothy rubbish in the case of a town of ordinary progression, is spiced with a genuine interest by the marvellous leap into greatness made by Melbourne in some years less than half a century. The most unblushing gasconade has been turned by it into prophetic veracity, the most conscious romancing into stern reality.

With these introductory remarks I present a few specimens, without any further addition than may be needed to render them intelligible, and establish as far as possible the particular locality. In announcing a sale on the 20th April, 1839, Williams thus spouts over some land in West Collins Street, declared to be the most valuable allotment in the Township of Melbourne:—"Its advantages are peculiarly attractive; it faces the superb basin of the lovely Yarra, the favourite spot for mooring vessels upon their arrival at the capital of Australia Felix; between the river and it is the ground to be converted into the Grand Foreign Import and Export Wharf, the erection of which will very shortly be undertaken, by orders from Her Majesty's Government. In the immediate vicinity of the admirable allotment are the Queen's Custom House, the Cathedral about being erected, the Union Bank, the Market, the Melbourne Club House, the beautifully situated and elegantly arranged residences of the Postmaster-General and James Smith, Esq. Within a few chains are the extensive warehouses of Strachan and Co., Mason and Co., R. Reeves, Esq., and Mr. Charles Williams. Lady Franklin has described this province as a 'Paradise.' General Bourke has declared it to be 'the Region of Fertility.' Surveyor-General Mitchell pronounced it 'a country prepared by the bountiful Creator of the Universe for the replenishing of the earth.' Sir George Gipps has at length determined that justice shall be done to us; Courts of Sessions and Requests are already instituted; a Supreme Court of Judicature will be immediately established, and branches of all the Sydney offices; an entire Regiment will shortly be quartered here; the power of steam will lend its aid to the magic progress of this favoured region, and the effects of so extraordinary a combination of favourable circumstances to this attractive spot, will first be discoverable in the enhanced value of this peculiar locality, immediately opposite to which will land thousands of immigrants weekly, and the produce of every nation, and then an acre of this spot may not be attainable for £10,000."*

In June, 1839, the same individual thus jubilates upon an area in Elizabeth Street, between Bourke and Little Collins Streets:—

"Could the newly-arrived immigrant be conducted blindfold to the spot, his mind being unprepared by an anticipatory description, upon the darkening hand being removed, he would conceive himself translated to an enchanted scene, and when he would be then informed by authority, in which he could place confidence, that that spot was one of the best mercantile sites in the capital of Australia Felix, the annals of whose rising people stand unrivalled in the history of the world, he would surely endeavour to become a competitor to obtain a portion of this favoured spot."

Three months later, Mr. Williams started an enterprise, which may be termed our First Land Lottery, and though the patriotic project did not take, the bonhast with which it was launched is worthy of preservation as an unique specimen of its kind. It thus reads, as extracted from the Port Phillip Gazette, 18th September, 1839:—

"Enterprising Public of Australia Felix read—think for yourselves, for your children, for your friends, an opening is now within your grasp by one step to become, and to make them, independent—

* The events of still apply show that was a kind of prophetic provision in Mr. Williams' remarks notwithstanding.—ED.
an independence which we all are so earnestly seeking to obtain, and which the celebrated Bard of Scotland so beautifully portrays the advantage of:—

"My youthful friend do gather gear
By every will that's justified by honour;
Not to hide it in a hedge,
Not for train attendant,
But for the glorious privilege
Of being independent."

"An agent to a gentleman of capital, who is absent from the colony, thought it wise to invest the money left at his disposal in the purchase of some of the frontages in Collins Street, which contained such competition at the last sale. Since then the number of applicants for these portions has been so numerous, and a feeling of regret being expressed that they should have fallen into the hands of a capitalist, the agent has thought that he would be acting in accordance with the desire of the philanthropy of his principal, to give every individual in this happy land the power of becoming possessed of its most important spot, and in order to accomplish this desired object, proposes thus:—

To make the four Grand Frontages to Collins Street four prizes, and four hundred of prime cattle of all ages, in ten prizes, forming a Grand Lottery, consisting of four hundred tickets at £25 for a whole ticket, £12 for a half, £7 for a fourth, and £5 for an eighth. A prospectus of the plan can be seen at the office of Mr. Williams, who will issue tickets, and further information will be given in the public papers as to the day upon which the drawing will take place, when it is to be hoped that all the beauty, rank, and respectability of Melbourne will meet together, to enjoy all the delicacies of the season, and to taste the sparkling wines of Germany, France, and Spain." But the public failed to see the valuable considerations, so thrust into its face, the tickets were not taken up as confidently anticipated, and the philanthropic intentions of owner, agent, and auctioneer were suffered to run waste as if so much Yarra water.

In the beginning of 1840 there were only two hotels, with scarcely a score of houses, in Bourke Street, about half-a-dozen habitations, and only a single "groggy" in Swanston Street, with Melbourne a straggling township, little more than three years old, yet Mr. Williams in offering some land in the vicinity does the prophetic in this strain:—"The olden inhabitants of Melbourne imagine that Bourke Street will be the leading street of this far-famed city; Swanston Street leading direct from the grand crossing-place of the Yarra (an old punt with almost impassable approaches) has been lately established as the grand thoroughfare to the Sydney Road." Salmon, a rival land and house agent, appears to despise Williams's high falutin, and boldly stigmatizes such diction as "silly remarks, trashy quotations, and miserably abortive efforts to write English." Williams, so far from being daunted by such "sarkasm," seemed to have drank in increased inspiration from the rebuff for two or three weeks after, in advertising a corner of Collins and Stephen Streets, he thus rhapsodizes: "Would a ray of light but be thrown into the abyss of futurity, there is no doubt that the multitude of competitors who would assemble at the spot on Saturday would be the most extraordinary event of this extraordinary city, for every mansion, every home, every skillion would pour out its inmates for the purpose, though experience of the past should be considered as that ray, still in listless doubt will they sit down and cogitate, wondering how this will turn out."

A corner of Collins and Stephen Streets, then in the bush, evokes this gush; "Surely, if ever 'coming events cast their brightness before,' they do so now; the rapid rise that must take place in town allotments will be truly astounding, and if ever money is to be made by purchases in Melbourne, it is to be done now."

George S. Brodie, a phlegmatic Scotchman, must have been considerably warmed up by the way in which Williams "worked the oracle," for he thus follows suit in selling some land in Collins Street:—"On the opposite side of Swanston Street, a little nearer the Yarra, and the spot intended for the erection of the bridge, stands the reserve for the Courts of Law* and the various appendages connected

* Now St. Paul's Cathedral site.—Ed.
THE CHRONICLES OF EARLY MELBOURNE.

have immensely gratified the residents of that quarter, who always had a weakness for "pye" of any
therewith, which we must soon see commenced and completed." Further on he unwittingly affords a
marvellously true glimpse into futurity, for in the language of the scribe, "Collins Street, extending
from the Market Place to Swanston Street will be the grand promenade of Melbourne. It will be the
situation for our retail merchants to exhibit their wares to the beauty, the fashion, and the multitude
which will constantly frequent it." The presence and surroundings of "the Block," in 1888, attest
with wonderful accuracy the fulfilment of this haphazard prognostication in 1840.

Mr. Williams in puffing an allotment at South Yarra thus glowingly eclipses his previous
achievements. "The harmony existing among all denominations of religious sects, leaves no doubt
that this will be the chosen land for the working out of the Millennium, and that in those sunny
days the price of land cannot be computed." In selling land (February, 1840) in the neighbourhood
of the Yarra, Power declares "that the pure water of the river cannot be equalled anywhere;
and of the salubrity of the air and the beauty of situation, it would be plagiarism to speak. The
advancement of Melbourne surpasses wonder, and leaves all past calculations of the stranger but idle
when he beholds reality itself—a petty little settlement of two years' growth already matured into
a large and important city."* Williams is soon grinding away again over some land easterly of the
Argus office, and extending to Russell Street, then known as the Eastern Hill. As an inducement
for the purchase of the property it is stated that on the allotments "is a quarry of the most superior stone, and there is not a shade
do doubt this land will turn out the most profitable speculation ever entered into. The purchasers
upon this occasion must realize a sum in twelve months more than a Rothschild could ever have
contemplated." Power again tackles South Yarra, within one hundred yards of the river. In his
opinion "it is ever charming and ever verdant, except where the chaste native flower throws in variety
of colours to dazzle and arouse our admiring senses. How can it be otherwise when Winter's chill is
never felt, and the ardent rays of the summer sun are gently cooled by the placid zephyrs rising from
the benumbing banks of the lovely Yarra, and gracefully moving the heads of the slumbering shrubs
when they collect the essence of flowers which in sportive playfulness they scatter around, hallowing
the air with a choice frankincense that would make you think for the moment all was ideal, and that
you had suddenly passed into a Celestial garden from Melbourne, and all done in the short space of
five minutes, and in less than a mile?" Power and Williams were Irishmen, but as a painter or
dauber of words, the former "licked the other into fits."

A corner of William and Little Collins Streets was given over to the hammer of Salmon, who
thus sketches this perspective of its surroundings:—"In other directions see the beautiful rise of
hill and dale, with its thick clothing of beautiful verdure; also the many craft trading and discharging
at the Queen's Wharf; as the view extends, the calm, clear, and beautiful water of the Yarra Yarra
may be seen wending its sinuous course almost to the heart of this happy and well-nigh enchanted place."

Williams soon collared his competitors in the "pumping-up" process as witness the following
specimens taken at random from his land-selling promulgations. Getting out to Heidelberg he
mounts his hobby and thus blows: "The Rosanna Estate may well apply to it the expression of
the most renowned of the ancient poets,—Hic est ut non nusquam, quod quadrat—here or nowhere
may we hope to find what we desire. It overhangs and runs into the village of Heidelberg, the
loveliest village of the plain, the situation of which is naturally beautiful. At the foot of it runs the
meandering, limpid waters of the Yarra, upon the banks of which even at the present are scattered
in a most picturesque manner a number of rural cottages." Offering land in West Collins Street,
facing a Church reserve, he exclaims, "The building of St. James' Church proceeds rapidly. When
this magnificent edifice shall be completed, and the Church reserve tastefully laid out, and surrounded
by a handsome cast-iron railing, this, the only square in Melbourne, at the West end of the town,
and decidedly the healthiest, cannot fail to become the select spot for fashionable residences and gay
promenades." Popping up at Geelong some time after he indulges in a grandiloquence which must

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* Melbourne was not so created until 1848.—Ed.
kind, whether manufactured out of flour or type:—"Underneath lies the Bay of Corio, in comparison with which the Bays of Dublin and Naples fall into insignificance, for here there is not a charm wanting that the imagination of the poet in his brightest pictures of Elysium ever dreamed of, or attempted to depict." Having an estate known as "Gartur" to knock down at the Merrick Creek, he thus premonitorily flourishes over the intended sacrifice:—"Casting our eyes around we see a city springing up with a rapidity unparalleled in the history of nations, equaling the enterprise and perseverance of the greatest republic of this century. A country, whose numerous inhabitants with their docks and herds, can only be compared to the Patriarchs of the East, and by their wealth even outlive the nobility of England. A seaport where at all times may be seen forests of masts, and from its excellent situation and safe anchorage, will, without doubt, be the 'Venice of the Southern Clime.'" Towards the end of 1840, some land near the Richmond boundary of Jolimont, was for sale, and the omniscient auctioneer, in gauging the public taste, finds it necessary to modify his former opinions on the Yarra in general thus:—"Melbourne will shortly go out of town owing to the waters of the Yarra being salt below the 'Falls,' and to the superior beauty of this locality. Fashion now seems to fix her abode in that quarter (Richmond), and the talent of a conjuror is not required to forecast that ere six months the locality around Melbourne will be studded with the dwellings of the wealthy and respectable."

Brodie, however, clings with unshaken loyalty to the river, for in disposing of a property in the vicinity of the Vice-regal mansion he remarks:—"The Yarra Yarra almost sweeps past it; it overhangs the wide and extensive reserved domain of Government, which, though now clad in Nature's simplest garb, must speedily assume a very different appearance, and come forth adorned and decorated with architectural splendour, exhibiting what the art and taste of genius can display." Foster and Davis, for several years a leading auctioneer firm in a general way, in September, 1841, had for sale under a writ of scire facias a cottage site in Brunswick Street, at the corner of William (now Moor) Street, Fitzroy. The neighbourhood was then known as Newtown, and the only track through it, that could at all approach even an approximation to a main thoroughfare, was Brunswick Street. This highway the auctioneers designate as "the Darlinghurst of Melbourne," and "as a place of residence the superiority of Newtown over any other spot in the vicinity of Melbourne, is evidenced by the fact that the majority of the leading men in Melbourne have established their residences in this delightful and salubrious village. To walk through Brunswick Street and view the chaste and costly edifices on either side, surrounded respectively by beautiful and tastefully-laid-out gardens, together with every other luxury usually adorning the abodes of the wealthy, &c., &c." I walked through this "Darlinghurst" at the time referred to, and failed to be impressed by the visual and salubrious delights so specifically dilated upon. The "street" was a rough un-made bush way, without a sign of channelling, metalling, gravelling, or even levelling. From the Parade to Palmer Street there were half-a-dozen tidyish cottages at each side, but none of them containing more than four or five rooms. From Palmer Street, northward, a mud or wattle-and-daub hovel was thrown up here and there, and about the intersection of Moor Street, then blocked up by a queer two-storey, brick-nogged rookery planted at the end of the track, was a group of seven or eight cabins, in which pigs, had they the right of free selection, would hardly condescend to wallow. As for the tastefully laid-out gardens and other luxuries, they only existed in imagination.

Of the Old Melbourne auctioneers some of them acquired rapid fortunes, and rapidly burst up. Others attained assured positions in society; but few of them made any name in public life. Mr. Peter Davis filled the office of Mayor of Melbourne, Mr. Dal. Campbell sat for a short time in the City Council, but Messrs. T. H. Power and J. P. Bear stepped higher, for they were members of the Legislative Council for several years. The sole survivor in 1884 was Mr. Bear, then in England. He was a partner of the firm of Bear and Son, and with Power and Campbell constituted three of the principal station and stock-selling houses of a by-gone generation.