

true, and I was about to be immolated in a lonely spot, at wizard hours, for a lifetime of infidelity. In this state, I sat down, exhausted, and "came to myself." In doing so, I solved the enigma, removed my doubts, and allayed my fears, by finding out that in sleeping under a pine tree, which was full of pitch, and surrounded by lumps of it, my hair became entangled in it, for the legs of my boots were my pillow, and, when I turned my head, it pulled my locks. Proof: there was an ounce of it sticking in my hair. I found the cold hand again in my lap, for I had rested my head on my arm, in my sleep, and thus stopped the circulation of the blood, and consequently sensation. In my furious exit from the pit, I had struck my breast against a sapling stump, about four feet high, and feeling beyond it, in my excitement, it barred my advance, and yet I encountered no tangible opposition, as I threw my arms in the air beyond the barricade. I need scarcely say that I patiently waited with open eyes for daylight, giving the Indians a wide berth, and chuckling intermittently over the night's adventures. Many a "spook" story, originates from such terrors unexplained, and such imaginary fears, never rationally accounted for, and thus a morbid nourishment is provided for young, tender and susceptible *brainhood*.

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ANTIPODEAN REMINISCENCES.

BY "GRAPH."

We prepare to start for the Diggings.

It was on a cold, drizzly morning, that we were discharged, as so much freight, upon the muddy banks of the Yarra Yarra, immediately in front of the city of Melbourne: each one to choose his own destination, when we all proceeded at once to hunt up such temporary accommodation as would be absolutely necessary until we could make the requisite arrangements to start for the "diggings," toward which our united mental vision was most anxiously directed.

Melbourne at that time was but a small

city, utterly incapable of accommodating the sudden and enormous influx of strangers, drawn thither by the almost incredible reports of the rich, golden deposits, daily found in the interior; consequently, it was with great difficulty, and at considerable expense, that we obtained even the limited accommodation, we all were prepared to put up with, during our short stay in the city. Many of our number had to be contented with just sufficient space upon the floor, on which to spread their blankets for a bed, at the rate of half-a-crown, or about sixty cents a night, paying the same price for every square meal they were foolish enough to indulge in. For myself, being supplied with several letters of introduction, I was more fortunate, and as a great personal favour, obtained the luxury of a sofa-bed, with very ordinary board, indeed, in the little cottage of a "Knight of the goose," at the unprecedentedly low figure of twelve dollars per week. As the majority had landed in the country with sadly depleted exchequers, it was, at this rate, obvious to us all that we must get out of the city as soon as possible. Indeed, I, myself, who was far from being the poorest of our number, could not by any possibility have paid my own board for a whole month, and therefore, the next day, we met together to decide which of us would go to the "diggings," and which would remain in Melbourne, at the risk of obtaining such employment as might possibly be got in the already overcrowded city.

At the time we arrived, all the line of travel leading to and from the mines, were literally blockaded by a class of men bearing the significant and world-renowned name of "Bush-rangers," Australian Ishmaelites, whose hands are emphatically against every man's purse, and who, in the earnest pursuit of their peculiar profession, displayed but scant courtesy. The very air we breathed seemed to bear, almost hourly, some fresh and more startling report of the fiendish outrages committed on unwary travellers by these fierce and unscrupulous outcasts. So bold and daring had they become, that parties of even five and six were not able to protect themselves, and so perfect was their system of conveying information to