

described by the Wilkes' exploring expedition could be seen. Sometimes a hundred and fifty monster icebergs were in sight at once, and the navigation in fog, and snow, and storm, and darkness was exceedingly perilous; indeed, on one occasion, the good ship ran into a berg and lost its jib-boom and head-gear.

Stretching away to the north-east, after a run of nearly 8,000 miles from Cape Town, the expedition reached Melbourne, Australia. It is only forty years since the first white man landed on its site, and to-day it numbers 240,000 inhabitants, and is in size the ninth city in the British Empire, exceeding in population such ancient cities as Bristol and Edinburgh. The colony of Victoria devotes nearly one-third of its entire revenue to aid public instruction; a fact said to be without parallel elsewhere. Public museums, fine art galleries, and free libraries, minister to the higher civilization of the people. By the discovery of gold in 1853, Ballarat has been changed from a collection of canvas tents to a large and beautiful city. The production of gold has greatly decreased. At a mine where 120 ounces a day was once procured, a few Chinamen were gleaning amid the refuse heaps. But more stable sources of prosperity have been discovered, and Anglo-Saxon energy and enterprise are creating a Greater Britain at the antipodes that shall perpetuate under southern skies the institutions and civilization of the Fatherland. Sydney is another noble city, situated on what our author calls "the most perfect harbour in the world." Stores, warehouses, banks, hotels, a hundred and twenty churches, docks, quays, and shipping, crowd the site where, within the memory of man, the naked savage hurled his boomerang. A part only of the city is shown in the engraving on the following page.

A run was made by rail to the "Australian Alps," the railway climbing by zigzags, in sixty miles, a height of nearly 4,000 feet. The scenery is indescribably grand. The road cost from £20,000 to £25,000 per mile. Men had to be lowered from the cliffs with ropes to begin the works. Thriving towns and villages, rejoicing in such names as Woolloomoolloo and Yarayara, on all sides are springing up. The members of the *Challenger* expedition were everywhere *feted* and honoured, and returned the hospitality by giving entertainments on board the vessel and