

sober he could have got four times that price; he said he could raise £1000 any day. He spoke pathetically on the subject of Irish whiskey; he had not forgotten the name of Guinness, and tears started in his eyes when thoughts of the far-famed malt came over his soul. I heard to-day that H. and C. having failed in their projects of escort driving, &c., had set up a lemonade establishment, but had drawn only two shillings during the last two days. March 23. Went to the escort office to-day for a letter for Chalmers; the office was a small and shabby tent, at the door of which stood a sentry with a carbine; passing by his permission, I found myself in the presence of a stout gentleman sitting at a table covered with gold, weights, scales, and parcels. Beside him was a strong box in which he deposited the diggers' treasures to be sent under escort to Melbourne. April 7. Bade farewell to Chalmers, as the "*auri sacra fames*" has been growing strong upon me lately, and I have had quite enough of it store keeping. He offered me good terms if I would remain, but I declined. We parted good friends, and he begged me to make myself at home in his store if at any time I returned to those diggings."

Having joined a mate called Moon, I find, "April 16th, got into a hole in German gully, drove it, and sent up washing stuff; we got out a load which we carted to the water, but it yielded only four pennyweights. With various mates, but with very little success, I visited, during the two months following, the newly discovered Jim Crow Ranges and the MacIvor diggings, distant, respectively, about thirty and fifty miles from our first encampment. From week to week I got about as much gold as paid my expenses, and no more. The idea of making a fortune at digging, at last left my head completely, and in its place came a very fixed determination to get a *pound of gold* at all events, if possible, and then to leave the colony for ever; the first step being a very necessary preliminary to the second. I cannot tell of any adventure, so to speak; my life was, on the whole, uneventful, and even monotonous. And yet there was just enough of excitement and fascination in the work to make it pleasant in spite of the hardship and the rough companionship, and the occasional privations I endured.

Here is a page from my journal: "May 12—MacIvor bought thirty yards of calico at one and sixpence a yard, and Darby spent the evening and most of the following day making a tent. Darby and I sunk a hole which we bottomed on Friday, and found some gold; but we are doubtful if there is enough to pay. Never saw so many people together before, crowds flocking in, and provisions scarce and dear; bread, three shillings for the two pound loaf; gold selling at £3 12s. per oz.