

most solid character—streets that are admirably paved and kept scrupulously clean, and which would put to shame our Toronto thoroughfares. As one walks about the city everywhere he will see the greatest life and activity, reminding him of the bustle and busy aspect of the large American cities—a resemblance which Melbourne people seem proud to own. Cable cars have entirely supplanted the use of the ordinary street cars and Melbourne has the most nearly perfect and most extensive cable-car system in existence—it is certainly admirable. They have profited by the experience of American cities where the system was designed and perfected. It is a pretty sight at night to look up and down Collins Street well illuminated with electric light, the sidewalks lined with people, the cable-cars gracefully gliding along at close intervals, propelled by an unseen power, their head lights and colored signals adding to the illumination, and the constant ringing of their alarm gongs increasing the life of the scene. The weather being mild the year round, there is, of course, no frost or snow to interfere with the cables at any time. Indeed snow has been known to fall but once in Melbourne “in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.”

We often hear of the intense heat of Australia, and I was frequently told before leaving home, “You will be burned up in Australia.” It is true the weather is sometimes very warm, but heat at 95° in the shade in Melbourne is less felt than 80° in Toronto. The explanation is this,—the heat in Australia comes from the hot, unwatered interior, and when the “hot winds” blow towards the coast, though they chase the mercury suddenly to the top notches, it is a dry heat, and bears with it a large proportion of ozone, and instead of being debilitating as our “moist heat” is, it is really exhilarating and healthful, when not excessive. Once

—and fortunately such instances are very rare—the thermometer reached 111° in the shade, and on the same day at an inland town touched 121° in the shade. Such days, of course, bring great calamity. The present summer has been exceptionally cool, fortunately for us, and the rainfall most abundant. We have experienced a few decidedly warm days, but on the whole could not possibly have seen the country under more favorable circumstances.

The mildness of the climate has admitted of the introduction into the architecture of the cities of some of the features of the more open oriental style, and the Melbourne architects especially have taken up this idea. Considering its youth, the elegance and solidity—and its growth altogether seems on a most solid basis—of the business blocks, bank buildings (which are especially fine), and public edifices of the capital of Victoria are a marvel. Amongst the attractions of the city are the Botanical and Zoological Gardens, both of which are excellent.

The immense Exhibition Building, surrounded by a park, which contains a large hall and organ,

and in a part of which is a very good aquarium, is much frequented by visitors.

Our stay in Melbourne included one Sunday, which, considering the size of the city, seemed fairly well observed. While there we had the pleasure of establishing and opening up the latest and most distant branch office of the Massey Manufacturing Co.,* it being nearly 12,500 miles from the head office and works, on the opposite side of the globe.

We proceeded by rail to Sydney, a trip of about twenty hours (576 miles). The line traverses vast tracts of sparsely-timbered and semi-cleared land—mostly grazing farms—a fine country all the way to Albury (on the New South Wales border), whence we proceeded in the night, arriving at Sydney next day at noon.

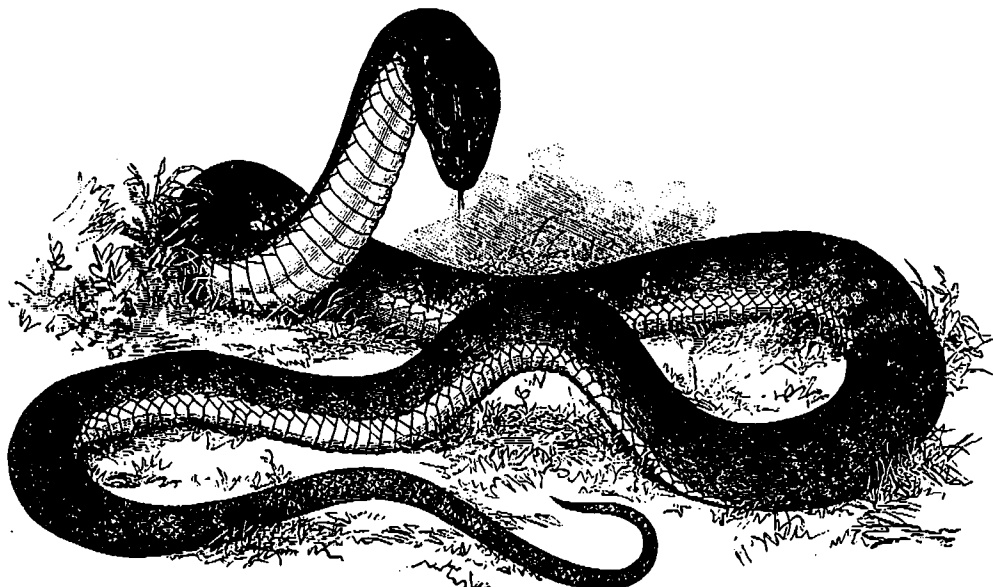
The landscape for the most part is of a rolling character, the scattered trees being almost entirely of the *eucalyptus* family—either the White or Red Gum—and the soil generally of a rich and fertile nature, well adapted for cultivation when a water supply is obtainable, and usually covered with a crop of wild grass, the quality and quantity of which depend upon the rainfall, and which is well

—this lends a pleasing variety to the scene. And strange to say, too, this great country, though it possesses native birds of beautiful plumage, was so wanting in songsters that many of our northern birds of song were introduced and now abound. In native animals, too, the country seemed strangely destitute; excepting the kangaroo family there being but few other varieties, and these comparatively insignificant. This led some of the earlier settlers to bring in some of our northern pets—amongst others, and most unfortunately, the rabbit, which has spread so rapidly that it is now a national pest, there being no end to the means in use to exterminate it. The kangaroo and the emu—the largest bird—are the national emblems of Australia. But I am drifting.

The territory through which the line is laid in New South Wales is more hilly—the latter part being mountainous. Now and then we passed a bush, and could see here and there a strange Australian White Ant hill—some of them being at least five to seven feet high. The term “bush” in Australia, by the way, does not mean a very thickly wooded land with underbrush, the term usually applied to that being “scrub” land. Upon entering

Sydney the railway passes several manufacturing institutions, of which there are many of various kinds, and are being most successfully conducted. I may here remark that iron and coal of an excellent quality are found in New South Wales in great abundance. In fact nearly all minerals are found in Australia and most of them in large quantities.

(To be continued.)



THE TIGER SNAKE OF AUSTRALIA.

In parts of Australia snakes are quite numerous, and some of them very venomous. Strange to say, though, some of the smaller snakes are the most poisonous. I inquired of a farmer in one district where they were common, if he did not fear these snakes. “Oh, not much,” he said; “one might work a whole week without seeing one.” I thought to myself, once a week was just once in seven days oftener than I cared to see one.—W. E. H. M.

suited for grazing purposes. The *eucalyptus* trees, which are of a tropical nature, are exceedingly “green,” and cannot be cleared by burning. The usual process is to “ring” the tree, or to cut a ring about the trunk a few feet from the ground, thus destroying it, and then allowing it to dry up, when it may be burned. These trees remain green the year through, shedding their bark instead of their leaves.

So closely do the general physical features of one part of Australia resemble those of another part, that this one description will suffice for the greater part of the country we saw in our sweeping tour over the continent. To the tourist the general landscape, which is at first attractive, becomes exceedingly monotonous, the ever present gum trees ceasing to be beautiful in his eye.

In the city parks and around the country houses, however, the best shade and fruit trees of the north temperate zone have been most successfully introduced, and flourish in their greatest perfection

To construct these huts, the bark had been stripped from several trees in the vicinity. Fires were burning in front of most of the huts.

There was an odor of singed wool and burning meat, but no food was in sight. The blacks are supposed to live upon kangaroo meat as their principal viand, but a good many cattle and sheep disappear whenever a tribe of natives is in the neighborhood of the flocks and herds. In addition to the kangaroo, they eat the meat of the wallaby, opossum, wombat, native bear and other animals, and are fond of eels and any kind of fish that come to their hands, or rather to their nets and spears. Emus, ducks, turkeys—in fact, pretty nearly everything that lives and moves, including ants and their eggs, grubs, earth-worms, moths, beetles, and other insects—are welcome additions to the aboriginal larder. All the fruits of trees and bushes, together with many roots and edible grasses and other plants, are included in their bill of fare.

There were twenty or more dirty and repulsive men and women in the village, some squatted or seated around the fires, and others standing carelessly in the immediate vicinity.—THOS. W. KNOX, in the *Boy Travellers in Australasia*.

* The Massey Manufacturing Co., Chas. McLeod, Manager, 622 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

A Native Encampment.

The village was merely a collection of huts of bark open at one side, and forming a shelter against the wind, though they would have been hardly equal to keeping out a severe storm.