

# LAND AND WILDERNESS

DEVOTED TO ORIGINAL HUNTING, FISHING AND DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES.

VOL. IV., No 12.

SHERBROOKE, Q., JULY, 1892.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

FOR THE LAND WE LIVE IN.

## Guarding the Treasure.

IT was the early part of March, 1857 and the setting sun, was shining into the open tent in which Albert Thorne sat on the edge of his stretcher bedstead, reading a late copy of the *Melbourne Argus*. Amongst the shipping intelligence, he has noticed that the ship "Kent" will leave Melbourne for London on the 16th March, instant. The "Kent", is one of the favorite vessels of the Blackwall Line and in her he had come to Australia some three years before.

He has been very successful on the diggings and has accumulated ample means to support him comfortably during the remainder of his life, and for some time has been thinking of returning to England, now he makes up his mind to take his passage in the "Kent," Capt. Brine, and some of the other officers of the ship, being those who were with her when he came to the colony, and that is an additional inducement, so he concludes to take the trip rather sooner than he had intended.

Some of his former chums and mates had gone to the McIntyre Creek Diggings, some forty miles further up the country, and their accounts of some of the big nuggets found there—amongst them one of over 160 pounds weight, had almost persuaded him to try his luck there, for he had a sort of presentiment that some day he would strike a big nugget, and for this reason he had always preferred to work in localities where large nuggets had been found, rather, than where the nuggets were the exception, although

the leads containing the finer gold were more easily traced and followed. Nuggets might exist in quantities of one or two to the acre with nothing to show the source from which they came, or the direction in which the nugget stream was drifting, while as a rule the smaller or finer gold could be traced as readily as the line of seed dropped from a turnip seeder.

At the Maryborough diggings he had been very lucky, and while during the dry season most of the other miners had been drawing their wash dirt to Carisbrook, the nearest water supply, he had occupied his time in knocking out the boundary, or defin-

He had a handsome sum deposited to his credit in the Bank at Maryborough, and had sent several pounds weight of gold by the Government Escort, to Melbourne.

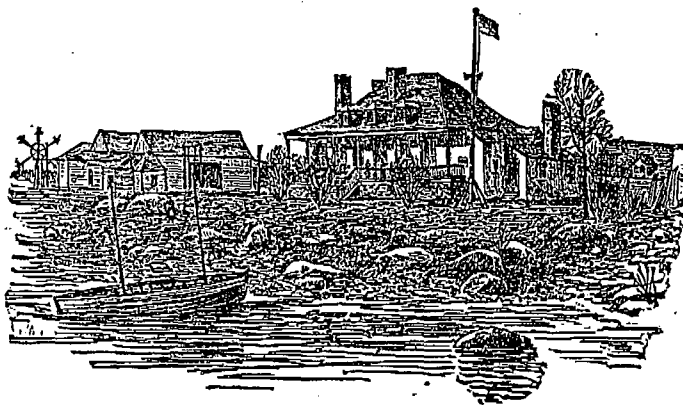
When the rush to Chinaman's Flat, a few miles distant, took place, Thorne went with the rest, and as the sinking in the main lead was some fifty feet, in depth, he joined in with three other miners whom he had known at Maryborough and they were fortunate enough to secure one of the best paying claims ever struck on these diggings.

Their wash dirt was hauled, to the Bet Bet Creek, a tributary of the Loddon River, and there washed, as there was insufficient water for that purpose to be had on the Flat. This cost them one pound or \$5, for every load of fifty buckets, but the dirt was rich and it paid them better than to pile it, and wait for the rainy season.

So rich was the gutter or principal auriferous vein running through this claim, that one of Thorne's partners bet £50, with one of the owners of a neighbouring claim that he could wash fifty pounds weight of gold out of one load of wash dirt, if he could have the privilege of selecting the wash dirt. He lost his bet as it only realized forty-eight pounds or rather more than \$11,000.

Thorne's party spent some time at Chinaman's Flat, but never got another claim that yielded anything like the first.

Then came the rush to Dunnolly, still further on, and Thorne's party followed the rush, and pitched their tent at the side of the road which afterwards constituted the street



DESCHAMBAULT MANOR.—RIVER ST. LAWRENCE.

ing walls, which had been left between claims, in shallow gullies, too shallow for tunneling or drifting, and where nuggets had been discovered during the time of their first working. He had taken several valuable nuggets out of these walls by simply using his pick, without the trouble and expense of hauling his wash dirt, and had at one time been so near the big nugget he had been expecting to find, that another fellow took it out of the next wall, only twelve feet distant, and it weighed eighty-four pounds, worth about \$20,000.

With Pflueger's Luminous Bait you catch fish with others. Try it.

A String of Fish and a good Time secured with Luminous Bait. Try it.