

By the torrent's brim, on the rainbow's rim
 I cling to your magic hall ;
 To hear you join in the song divine,
 Of the thund'ring waterfall.
 While through the screen of your golden green
 A mystic spirit shines,
 Hail one and all ! in your magic hall,
 Great Brotherhood of pines.

ANTIPODEAN REMINISCENCES.

BY "GRAPH."

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MELBOURNE TO MOUNT ALEXANDER.

It was about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon the 10th of September, that we arrived, thoroughly worn out with our tramp, at the foot of Mount Macedon. As the weather which had hitherto been persistently raining, began to show signs of clearing up, and as we had abundance of wood and water about us for camp purposes, we came to the conclusion to rest over until Monday morning, thus showing in some small measure our reverence for the Sabbath day, while our physical powers, which had been sorely tried, would have the advantage of a long rest. Having thus decided, we pitched our tents with more regard to comfort than we had previously done, such as, trenching them on the outside, and laying down beds inside composed of leaves and branches of the gum trees around, which in our then exhausted state were a positive luxury. More attention was also devoted to the dietetic arrangements of the next two days, and as we had thus far subsisted on the food brought with us from Melbourne, supplemented by an occasional loaf purchased at the very fine places on the road where bread could be obtained, it was with considerable pleasure that we looked forward to the enjoyment of something like properly cooked meals.

While some were pitching the tents, and others cutting wood and making fires, several of our number were sent to the nearest "Station" or squatters homestead, about a mile and a half off, for the purpose of purchasing sufficient meat for

the use of the whole party, and as at that time the only meat to be obtained at those places and under those circumstances was mutton, of which any amount could be bought at two shillings the fore-quarter, and half a crown the hind quarter, we had not much choice in the matter, but as we used to say at the time, varied our diet by having "damper" and mutton for one meal, and mutton and "damper" the next. What a busy scene our camp presented that afternoon and evening, for though all were much exhausted with the journey so far and the heavy burden each was obliged to carry, yet we unanimously determined to make a great effort to have as good and as well cooked meals as it was possible to obtain and prepare, while enjoying the grateful and much needed rest of the ensuing sabbath-day. It was now that we began to reap some benefit from the experience of our guide whose services we had the forethought of securing for the trip, before leaving Melbourne, as previously mentioned. We were in want of something or other to serve the purpose of tables on which to lay out our meals, and George, to our astonishment, soon supplied the deficiency by stripping from the trees around large sheets of bark, which, after cutting the required size, he placed on four stakes driven into the ground, and thus very expeditiously furnished us with the much needed dining-table.

Again, while cooking our supper, a shower came on, threatening the comparative destruction of the edibles while in process of preparation, the consumption of which we were anticipating with eager pleasure. This would have been a grand misfortune, but George came to the rescue and literally "barked" away the chance of its occurring by erecting a *gunyah* or bark shed over, or rather on the weather side of each fire, giving ample protection to the unfortunate cook and the various combinations he was preparing.

This facility of stripping the bark from the trees is peculiar to Australia and the neighboring islands, and is of inestimable service to the aboriginal natives who being mentally as well as morally in the very lowest scale of humanity, are to speak in a comparative sense, utterly de-