

BITS OF TASMANIAN SCENERY.

by one, made their appearance on deck to catch the first sight of land which was in view. Out of a shipment of eighteen fat cattle on board five had died and three had to be killed from the effects of the voyage following upon bad handling in loading. Every one was happy to see the sunshine again, and especially once more to catch sight of land.

Tasman Peninsula and Tasman Island was the first part of Tasmania we sighted. The coast is all along bold and rocky, and, owing to its peculiar formation, in places very interesting. Entering and crossing Storm Bay we steamed up the estuary of the Derwent to Hobart, which boasts of one of the world's best harbors. The scenery is extremely pretty all the way up—particularly as the town comes into view. One could not conceive of a prettier and better site for a city than that of Hobart, so gracefully laid out on the lower slopes of Mount Wellington. Hobart and its harbor have been the subject of many an artist.

This attractive little city is bound to impress the visitor favorably with its neat streets and its fine public buildings, the latter being even too elegant and too large to suit the present requirements of the colony of which it is the capital.

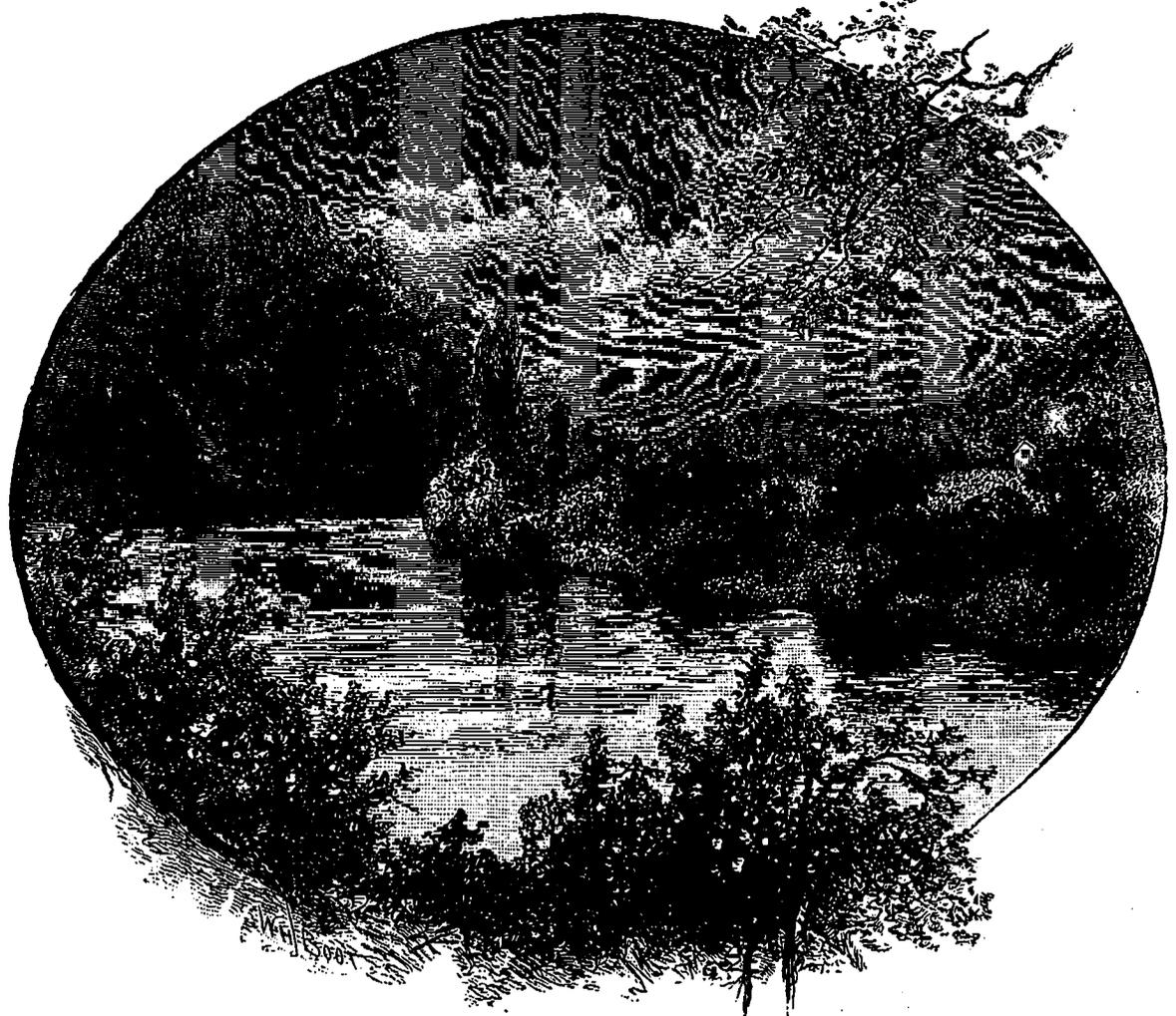
Tasmania has a most salubrious climate, avoiding the extremes of both heat and cold. Though warm and equable it is less enervating than the hot tropical climes, and better suited to the European. I liked it better than that of any country we had previously visited. Tasmania has become a great resort for Australians, who go there in summer time to avoid the extreme heat of the continent. But climate is not the only great attraction of this Colony, for it is generally styled "the land of fruits and flowers and handsome women"—the latter, of course, the result of the former. The fruit was, indeed, luscious, and as for the "handsome women," it is sufficient to say that Australian bachelors seldom

spend a vacation on the island who do not pay a double return fare. (My stay there was very short).

Hobart bears evidence of a "former glory," which has in a measure departed—indeed, Tasmania (known as Van Diemen's Land till 1881) has never wholly recovered from the effects of the great exodus to Victoria, Australia, at the time of the great gold discoveries. At that time nearly every able-bodied man left the Colony—this, of course, was a most effectual check in its progress which previously had been none too rapid as a penal colony.

Tasmania is now, however, in a shape to progress if new blood could be introduced into its veins. The old settlers seem to have little ambition to "get on in the world," and all considered, I should call it the Sleepy Colony. It is about as an old inhabitant said to me—expressing its characteristics perfectly—"Nobody makes a big fortune; we all have enough to make us comfortable; the climate is good and mild and we take it easy." It is a fact, that though there are large tracts of available agricultural land, they do not raise enough grain for their own use, but import large quantities from Australia. Even live stock is imported to quite an extent in spite of the splendid unutilized grazing districts of the Colony.

It is a beautiful country, though, of course, comparatively small, and has many valuable resources. The Island, which is a little smaller than Ireland, is the shape of a heart, the lower extremity of the heart pointing to the south. Bass' Straits, about 150 miles wide, separate it from the south-eastern portion of Australia, of which it was at one time supposed to have formed a part, so closely do its physical features resemble those of Australia. To its splendid geographical position is traceable its remarkable climate, which is much cooler than that of the continent, the "hot Australian winds" being tempered in their passage across the straits. There are also some fifty small islands belonging to the Colony along its coasts. The country has been well described as "a beautiful, well-watered island, rich in harbors and inlets, traversed by high mountain chains, full of crags, glens, and ravines of commanding appearance, the basaltic cliffs of some being several hundred feet in perpendicular height. Everywhere there are good anchorages and many excellent harbors. Altogether, the coast offers the most manifold changes, and generally charming scenery, being for the most part of a bold and rocky character. The interior especially is delightful,



THE DERWENT RIVER, TASMANIA.