

too, is warmer and more dry than the English climate; and the country in consequence not so well watered as Great Britain.

Port Phillip is separated by a tract of thinly occupied country, from the old colony of New South Wales; and as that colony may be said to face the Pacific, so Port Phillip may be said to face Bass's Straits and the Southern Ocean. Its capital is Melbourne, a thriving well-built town, with 11,000 inhabitants. Glenelg is another rising town at Port Phillip.

The population of New South Wales, including Port Phillip, is, at the present time, upwards of 200,000. There is, however, country large enough for many millions. The great want in the country is *human beings*; and, for generations to come, the demand for labour must make wages high; speaking on the average. It may happen that temporary causes, as the arrival at a particular moment of a large number of emigrants, may depress wages; and in such cases emigrants would do well not to stand out for high wages, but get themselves quickly employed. In the nature of things it can never be the case, for any length of time, that the industrious working man in these young countries can be without a very high rate of reward for his labour.

The classes of mechanics and labourers most required in New South Wales and Port Phillip just now, are the following: the current rates of wages, in December 1847, are placed opposite each class:—

*New South Wales.*—Agricultural labourers, £23 a year; bricklayers, £41 a year; blacksmiths, £40 a year; carpenters, £39 a year; masons, £40 a year; shepherds, £23 a year; wheelwrights, £39 a year. With the preceding rates of wages, *board and lodging is also given*. Bricklayers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and wheelwrights, get about 5s. 6d. a day, when hired by the day; but then they do not receive rations. Common labourers receive about 3s. 6d. a day, without rations.

*Port Phillip.*—The wages are about a fifth more than they are in New South Wales.

In each colony there is a great demand for female domestics.

The prices of the principal articles of consumption, in December last year, were as follows:—

*For New South Wales and Port Phillip.*—Bread, (seconds.) 1½d. per lb.; tea, 2s. 3d. per lb.; sugar, 4d. per lb.; coffee, 1s. 1d. per lb.; and meat, 2d. per lb.