

to learn, from Thomas's letter, that you were, when it left, in the enjoyment of your usual health. I trust you are so still. I do not know whether William is still in Scotland, or whether he may have left for this country. If I were sure that he has not left, I would write him. If he has not left, and still has an idea of coming, he must be prepared to push his own way, with prudence and energy. I should like very much to see him on his landing, as I have no doubt he would be the better of advice which I can give him; but, in all likelihood, he will be sometime in the colony before he hears anything of me. A gold-digging life is one of frequent shifting,—sometimes for one reason, sometimes for another, sometimes for want of water, sometimes from an inferior to a better gold field. Almost as soon as he lands he should proceed to the diggings. I advise this seriously, as really the best thing he can do. He will not need to take anything with him from Melbourne besides his clothes, and of these scarcely any besides what he has on, which should be nothing more than a pair of trowsers, a striped shirt, a blue woollen shirt, a cap, and a pair of boots. There is no pride at the diggings. Fine gentlemen, who used to go at home spicely dressed, and all scented over, are here seen with nothing on but a pair of ragged unmentionables and a striped shirt. Besides his clothes, he will need a pair of blankets and a rug. And let him not forget to take his Bible, and make it his constant companion and friend. If he can find a dray going to the same place, the driver will carry his swag (which the bundle that travellers here generally carry is called) for a "consideration," and he will be allowed to sleep under the tarpauling; or, perhaps, he may get acquainted with some respectable individual or party on the voyage out, and they may proceed to the diggings together. But if he should neither join a party nor get a dray, he must not hesitate to shoulder his swag

and set off by himself. If he is not prepared to carry his swag twenty-five or thirty miles in a day, and sleep at night on the bare ground, with nothing but his blanket and rug for covering, and an old gum tree for shelter, he is not fit for Australia. I did this, and I never enjoyed sounder sleep, and I felt no bad effects from it. Digging tools, tent, &c., he will generally purchase cheaper at the diggings than in Melbourne, and save the carriage up.—When he arrives on the diggings he should not be in a hurry to commence work (unless he is connected with a party in which there is some one who understands digging), but should spend two or three days in going about watching operations, with the view of becoming acquainted with the system of working. After he does commence, there is nothing for it but hard work, and a perseverance that will not be disheartened. I wish he was even as I am now, as comfortable, as well acquainted with digging, and as fortunate.

You see I am still at the same place, but I expect to have to shift this week for want of water. I have often, when writing to you and others, spoken of coming home, and nothing would afford me greater happiness than to go home with capital enough to secure me a comfortable subsistence; yet I do not know but a sense of duty may induce me to sacrifice my own feelings and wishes, and remain where I am. You know I profess to be a servant of Jesus Christ, and, like other servants, I am not at liberty to go about just where my inclinations lead, but must consult his service, in the first place, in all my movements.—Now, I do not know but the conclusion may force itself upon my judgment, that I may be of more use in his service here than I could be at home, and if so, it will be my duty to remain here. You know, He says, "He that loveth father or mother, or sister or brother, more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that taketh not up his