

the evening preached in Mr. Law's Church. Launceston is some 80 miles inland, and is the most important town in Tasmania, except Hobartown. The sail up the river is rather pleasing. The scenery on each side the river is picturesque and beautiful. I have not seen anything like it in Victoria, but I am told that the scenery is beautiful in the interior. Dr. Geddie, who remained over Sabbath with Dr. Turnbull, followed on Monday morning. We were sorry that we had not a week or two more to spend in Tasmania, in order to visit all the brethren. The climate is cool and bracing. The people are kind, so much so that our thoughts would unconsciously return homeward. There are, however, many traces of the convict element here still, and their labor performed by the Government is abundant. I should state that there is no union of the churches here yet. The Presbyterians rank under the term "Kirk" and "Free,"—the former being more numerous, but neither in a very active state. The tendency is to die out, unless some new life is infused into them.

On Tuesday, we took the boat for Melbourne, after taking leave of our kind friends. Our thoughts will frequently return with pleasant recollections, especially of the Gardners. May God abundantly reward them in this life, and in the world to come may they enjoy the blessings of Heaven. As we had now but a few days, we made all possible speed in order to be ready and have all our supplies on board before the 25th, the day on which the *Dayspring* is supposed to sail. I had a great deal of trouble and annoyance with the Custom-House in passing entries and orders of transshipment. It is a most complicated affair. What I got done in Boston for twenty cents, cost me here a pound stg. This is an expensive country to live in, and still a land of plenty. There are all kinds of fruits here,—figs, pine-apples, grapes, &c.,—and Colonial wine in abundance. The majority of the people show the appearance of tippling, and the immorality of the people is most shocking. In Melbourne, where there is a mixed population of 120,000 from all places, crimes of all descriptions are common. The city is quite a large one, so much so that you would be taken by surprise, considering its recent date. The Public Library, the Post-Office, and other Government buildings, would do credit to any city. The Australians are an enterprising people, following in the steps of the Americans. This will, no doubt, be a great country in time; it is as yet little known, and time will not permit me to speak of its many excellencies. On Sabbath, the 20th, I preached at 11 A. M. in St. Enoch's, or, in other words, in the church of the late Mr. Ramsay of the U. P. body. At 4 P. M. I addressed Mr. McDonald's Sabbath School of Emerald Hill, and in the evening preached for him. Mr. McDonald has one of the largest congregations in Victoria. There are 400 children attending the Sabbath School. The Presbyterians are prospering in Victoria. There are upwards of 100 settled ministers, and the minimum stipend is £350 stg. Some have as high as £1,000 stg. On Monday evening we attended a meeting of the Bible Society. There were a considerable number of clergymen of different denominations present, and some very good addresses given, but the audience was small. On Wednesday evening, a native by the name of Luie, from the Island of Mare, and I, addressed a missionary meeting in Mr. Hamilton's Church. The audience was pretty good. On Thursday evening, the 24th, or, in other words, to-night, a tea-meeting is held.

Some may think that I have been guilty of dereliction of duty because I have not written before now, but were they to know how busy I have been kept, they would think otherwise; and, sir, even to-night I am detained from attending this great farewell tea-meeting, made in honor of the missionaries and the captain of the *Dayspring*, in order to write this letter and finish my correspondence, as to-morrow is the day fixed for the *Dayspring* to sail for the New Hebrides. But I do not think that she can get away for a day or two yet.

I must now conclude this long letter by stating that Australia is a great Colony, and will yet be a great country; but I have observed that the squatters,