

“well-to-do” air with the inhabitants. Rags and beggars are almost unknown. No tattered urchin tips his hat at the crossing, and with a scraggy besom in hand, besieges you for half-pence. All but rakes and profligates are well dressed; for all who *will* work *may* work, and that wages which would feed and clothe them. The most helpless are perhaps “fast” young men who go there as clerks, accountants, and “editors” and not to work out of doors. These, really glut the market. But who are willing to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow may do so in Melbourne. Money is not now so plentiful as it was; and wages are not so high; but a common labourer in the field, or breaking stones upon the road, has from seven to ten shillings per day; while a mechanic, or artisan, will have from fifteen to twenty shillings. Rents are not so costly as they were, having fallen, on the average, one-half within the last six years. My host paid at one time as much as £4,000 a year for his house and store; and these were not at all of more than ordinary pretensions. Servants’ wages are still high: a good female servant has as much as from thirty to forty, and even fifty pounds a year. The circumstances give the inhabitants a free, independent bearing; and it is impossible to go through the streets of Melbourne without perceiving that it is an energetic and flourishing city. It has, lengthwise, nine spacious thoroughfares, or principal streets, which are crossed by streets equally broad and imposing; and these are intersected at right angles by numerous narrower streets, running parallel to the larger streets, and branching out into the outskirts of the city in all directions. The city is disinfected and kept clean by an abundant flow of water brought from a distance, and of such fall and force that in case of fire the part in danger may be immediately deluged. The public buildings are scattered about in various parts, but are chiefly on elevated sites; and to stand in the heart of this young metropolis, and reflect that on this spot, a few years ago where now more than 100,000 persons have their homes, where merchants and tradesmen exchange millions sterling, where learning has its university and appended colleges, where the press issues its daily and weekly newspapers by thousands and tens of thousands, and where there are orphan homes, hospitals for sick, and asylums for the insane,—to stand here and reflect, that but a very few years ago all this was an uncultivated wilderness where untutored savages and poisonous reptiles had their dwelling,—is creative of no common emotion.

In this crowded metropolis religion is not overlooked or forgotten. As in the “United States,” and as in Canada, there is a general reverence shown to it and to its ministers. The Sabbath, too, is outwardly observed. Nearly all christian communities have their young and flourishing churches here. The first gospel sermon preached in this section of the island-continent was by Joseph Orton, a Wesleyan Missionary; who had accompanied the enterprising Batman from Tasmania across Bass Strait to Port-Philip. It was preached in April, 1836, beneath the shadow of the forest-trees on the crest of Batman’s Hill. The service was attended by the colonist and his household, and by a goodly number of the aborigines; who, attracted by the novel scenes and sounds, crowded near to learn what was meant. The text was, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God;” and the sermon has been described, by one who heard it, as being most powerful and impressive;