

again at Adelaide, whither we went overland by rail (a distance of 509 miles) for the double purpose of viewing the country *en route* and gaining time. Our train left Melbourne about five p.m. and as the road follows the shore of Port Phillip Bay for several miles, we had a fine farewell view of Melbourne. At Geelong the line turns inland, and as we sped along that evening we witnessed an unusually beautiful sunset. Brilliant sunsets are the exception and not the rule in Australia, the twilight being very short owing to the proximity of the continent to the equator.

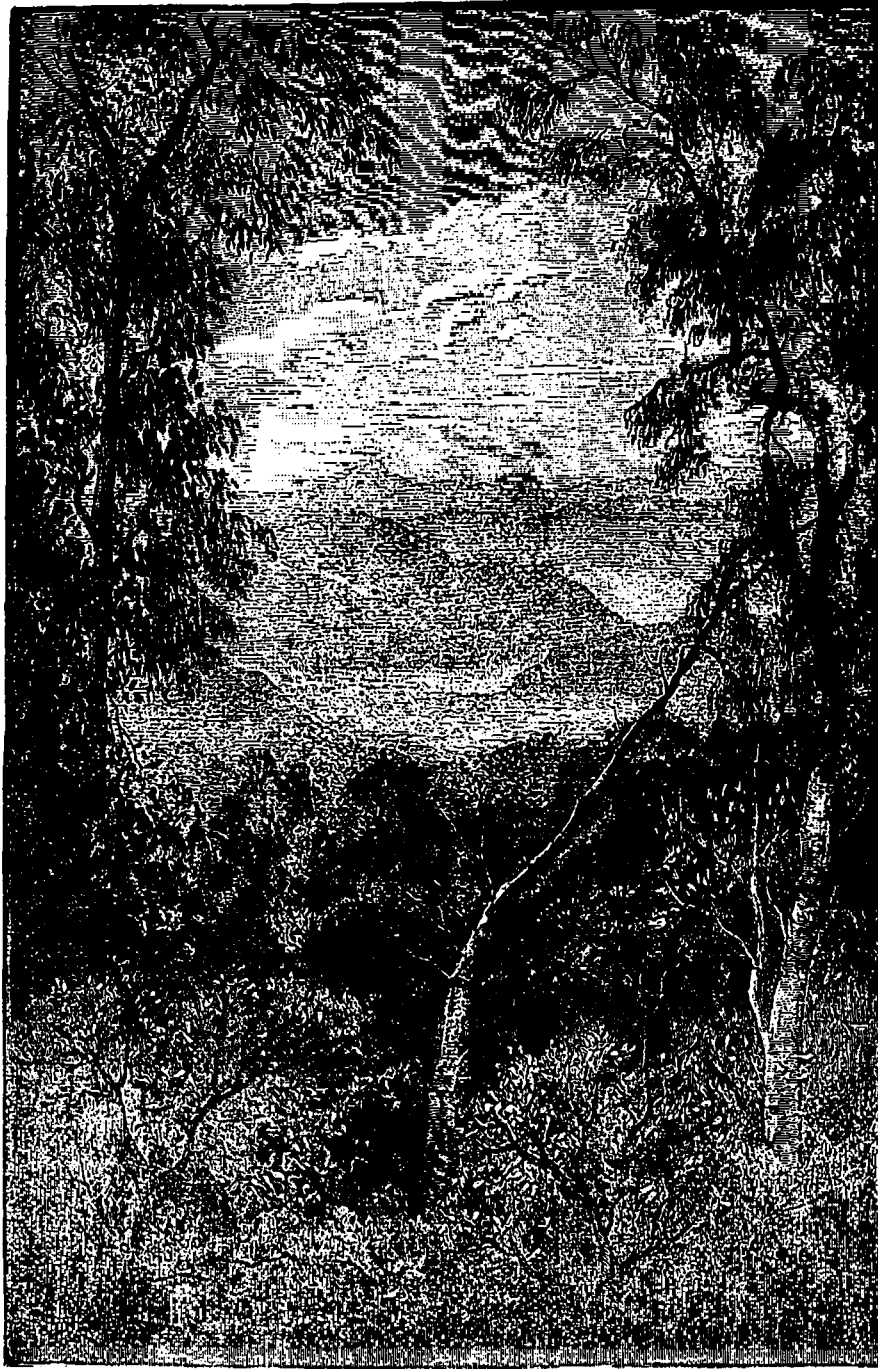
The train pulled into Ballarat at dark. Though an inland town it is a large flourishing place, the fifth city in size in Australia. In its neighborhood are the celebrated gold diggings, which have made Victoria famous. Victoria seems to be especially rich in valuable minerals. Up to January 1st, 1886, 53,759,203 ounces of gold had been raised, of the value of £215,036,812 sterling—a most astonishing yield for a country of its size and without parallel in the world's history.

Ten o'clock the next morning found us in Adelaide—the pretty capital of South Australia. Considering that the first settlement in South Australia was made in 1836, Adelaide, now a city of some sixty thousand people (not including its populous suburbs), has made no mean progress. It is situated a little inland on the Gulf of St Vincent, an indentation of the Australian Bight. From its rather flat location with the river-like Lake Torrens, lined with willows, crossing it, in some respects it seemed to me to resemble Christchurch, New Zealand, the Torrens corresponding to the Avon. Adelaide, however, is much more of a city. The elegance of some of its buildings was even astonishing. The thoroughfares are wide and neatly kept, and the cleanliness of the city is a noticeable feature. I had not looked for so fine a city, and was agreeably disappointed.

Adelaide, too, has her parks and botanical gardens, and prides herself in the best Zoological Gardens in the southern hemisphere, which I see by my note book is said to contain over 1,000 specimens of birds and animals from all parts of the world, and covers an area of some twenty acres. There was considerable excitement in the city at the time of our visit over the discovery of rich silver deposits in the colony. But a very small corner of the vast tract of country belonging to South Australia is in actual use. The character of much of the interior is still unknown, but recent explorations have revealed the fact that more of it is available for settlement than was supposed. There are, nevertheless, large tracts of sterile, rocky, and sandy wastes. A railway is contemplated across the continent to the north coast to open up the north country and give close communication with India. Another is also proposed across the country to Western Australia, thus to

connect Western Australia with the Eastern Colonies.

In general the habits and customs of the Colonials may be said to closely resemble those of the people of the mother country, as is natural. The communion of man with man is, though, "kindlier and heartier," and the reception of the stranger more cordial. There is a more even distribution of wealth than in England. The people as a whole are busier, have more push, and move more briskly. For all they are so busy they are fond of sports, and even too much time is spent in this direction. The crying evil of the Colonies is the drinking habit, which is carried to an alarming excess. In all my travels I



VALLEY OF THE OVENS, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

have never visited a country where it was so generally practised, and the worst of it is, the strongest liquors are those most taken, owing to the heat of the climate. Of the dire effects of this upon the morality of the country I need not dwell. The numerous reeling men with whom one meets in the streets of the cities and towns is too plain evidence of the calamitous results of this vicious habit.

During a period of twenty-seven days we travelled some 3,500 miles in and about Australia, after which, being thoroughly tired, we were quite glad again to embark on a long ocean voyage and to take up our comfortable quarters on the *Lusitania* at Adelaide.

Australia.

BY THOMAS BRACKEN.

Land of the speckless sky and broad red sun,
Thou gavest me the largest part of life,
And I shall love thee till that life has run
Into the mystic vale of rest, where strife
And sorrow cease.

Prize of the stalwart Islemen of the north,
Picked out of Freedom's body-guard for thee,
To summon thy prolific treasures forth,
They brought with them the charter of the free,
Their endless lease.

No crimson blood-spot stains thy tranquil face,
Illumined by the day-god's richest glance.

Adopted mother of a manly race,
Oh, may thy power still prosper and advance,

Thy wealth increase.

Fame, in her mighty volume of the past,
For thee, New Mother, keeps no gory leaf,

Oh, never may war's black, despoiling blast,
Soil thy bright banner of the yellow sheaf

And golden fleece.

As Freedom's outposts on Pacific's breast,
Thy smaller sisters stand around thy throne;

Each wears a queenly diadem and crest,
But thou art empress of the South alone—

Reign on in peace.

An Australian Romance.

IN Australia several attempts have been made to educate the blacks out of their nomadic habits and into a civilized life, but in almost every case the philanthropic effort has failed to eradicate the instincts of barbarism. Mr. Ballou, in "Under the Southern Cross," tells the romantic story of one of these failures.

A young native, a lad of ten years, was taken from his wild life and brought to Brisbane to be educated, and to grow up in the home of a white family. Those engaged in the experiment secured the consent of the boy, of his parents, and of the tribe. They did their best to make him comfortable and happy.

During nine years everything promised success. At school he proved an apt scholar, and became a favorite with pupils and teachers. He was dressed like his associates, and seemed so satisfied

with a civilized life that many good men and women looked forward to the day when he would exert a strong and beneficent influence upon his own people.

One day, shortly after he had passed his nineteenth birthday, he was missing from Brisbane. No one knew what had become of him save a young lady, and she kept her knowledge to herself. After months of search, the young man was found at his former home, living the nomadic life of a naked savage. No inducement could prevail upon him to return and live among his white friends.

At last there came out the romance which revealed the secret of the young black's nine years'