

news—founded, as was said, on a private letter received at Boston—took the round of the American journals, to the effect that a public meeting, “largely attended and enthusiastic, had been held in favour of Australian independence.”

Now, the collateral proof which I adduced in London on seeing, or fancying that I saw, the gravity of my information to be discredited, was this: that two years before, in May 1856 (I give the date only from memory), one or more adventurers from Boston had been landing fire-arms at Melbourne under such circumstances, though their importation was nominally legal, as led to their seizure by executive authority. Mr. Thomson, printer, of 4 Milne’s Square, Edinburgh, who had been printing for the *Stranger*, will sustain me in saying, that, with the matters related thereto, he had set an account of the incident in type; that, with other concomitants, he feared to print the matter as it stood; that, on my going to his office, at the *Stranger*’s written request sent from Aberdeen, I counselled Mr. Thomson not to run the hazard of printing that “additional matter” for the *Stranger*’s pamphlet; but, in case of its being printed, I deleted some portions of it referring to some reviewer, whom I supposed to be myself. Here, in passing, I may observe, that the editor of the *Aberdeen Free Press*, with whom I never had any correspondence, directly or indirectly, will probably state, should any one inquire, what he thought and said about the *Stranger*.

For myself, I had written an opinion to the effect, that his personal narrative, as set forth in that pamphlet and related verbally to me, carried with it an air of veracity, and was “deeply interesting.” The pamphlet was otherwise, as the *Aberdeen Free Press* had termed it, rubbish.

The *Stranger*’s position as a mere individual was nothing; but he was the agent of the Australian secret societies, whose object was revolution. Those societies are largely impregnated with the American gold-digger element, and have their agencies in the United States.

The chief speaker at the *public* assemblage on the 28th of August 1858 at Melbourne, was the gentleman who has the strong personal grievance—as well as an old political antagonism to government—of seeing his son, believed by him to be innocent, working in the chained gang of felons on the public works. I saw the *Stranger* post letters at Edinburgh to that gentleman, and knew that they informed him that I, with others, was engaged to sail for Australia. He did not show me what else the letters contained; but he showed that much to give assurance that he was in earnest in contracting with me to go to Australia. Ships leaving Britain about the time when I and others and himself, and the “things”