

also find a society sober and highly cultivated, cherishing the best gifts of the civilization which they have transferred in its completeness from the old world.

The community of some 250,000 or 260,000 people which is usually embraced in the general title of Melbourne, is in fact a number of distinct municipalities, divided by no natural boundaries, and practically one city. This is a peculiarity of Australian settlements. Ballarat, the first great mining centre of Australia, is a town of 30,000 inhabitants, comprising however under that general name, no less than seven municipalities. Facts like these indicate the spirit of independence in which the first settlers peopled the country, a spirit which seems still, in the absence of any consolidating force, fully rife. The Australian colonies are divided in feeling from one another by local jealousy. The tendency is not, as it has been in Canada towards closer union. In Canada the national festival is Confederation Day; in Victoria it is Separation Day, on which the separation from New South Wales is commemorated. Till quite lately Victoria was shut off from New Zealand and her sister provinces by the barrier of a protective tariff.

Let us, if we would gain a glimpse of Melbourne and its people, take a stroll on Collins Street, the Broadway or Oxford Street of the Southern capital. On this genial afternoon in June (the Australian fall) while the sun is shining cheerfully after a shower, and the streets and houses are well-washed and clean, we may mix with a well-dressed throng of men and women the *haut-ton* of the city. Like the *haut-ton* of other cities they affect one special promenade, called here "the block." Here are the shops where the glories of Paris are displayed in splendid shop-fronts. The men we meet, in the cut of their whiskers, their dress and manner, are English. It is still in some circles considered a reproach to appear "colonial." The young women are fresh-complexioned, fine-featured, and graceful, in their trimness of figure and tastefulness in dress, not unlike their American cousins. Now and then you will notice a bright-looking girl with a couple of books neatly strapped together, reminding us that Melbourne is a reading city and has more than one public library. After travelling through New Zealand it is a great comfort to see the women of Melbourne. Flattery herself dare not assert that the women of New Zealand are dangerous by reason of their personal charms.

But let us go eastward, detaching ourselves from the lively throng, and enjoy a quieter walk where Collins Street slopes gently upwards from the business portion of the city. The first thing that strikes us is that the taste in architecture, unlike the American but like the English, is not towards extreme loftiness in buildings. The next thing that the streets are broad and well paved. A composition in which "blue-stone," a stone of the country which serves excellently for building, enters largely, makes a pavement as firm and smooth as the Paris asphalt. Apparently all the streets are paved with this material. Owing to the width of the streets,

they never seem to be crowded, so that walking and driving are always pleasurable. There is one great drawback about the streets of Melbourne. They have no underdrainage, and a stygian stream flows at all times on each side of the road in rainy weather and it *does* rain in Australia - swelling into a raging torrent, and sometimes carrying to destruction children and even horses. There is not a town in Australia which is under drained. The only explanation I have met with is that in some mysterious way this is due to the climate.

Here on our left, as we proceed, is the Town Hall, an imposing building with a very high tower, which is reproduced in all Australasian town halls of any pretensions. The Melbourne Town Hall contains one of the large rooms and large organs of the world. The Victorians are intensely fond of music and the drama, and are able to indulge their taste for both, for artists of the first rank now visit Australia. In the evening when the concert halls, opera houses, and theatres are in full life, one realizes that the people are essentially a gay people. A race of New English is growing up in an Italian climate, and the Southern New Englander is learning not to take his pleasures sadly. In their love of music the Victorians are Italian. Tasmania is still more Italian, and, small as its population is, has already produced first rate musical talent. While I was in Melbourne a young Tasmanian was storming all hearts by her performances in Italian opera.

Next to the town hall is a tall building with an ornate front, which, as a place of social importance, must not be overlooked. It is the Victoria Club, the social rendezvous of the mercantile class, next to the "squatters" the most influential class in Melbourne. The squatters are the aristocrats of Australasia. The term implies no reproach, as it does in Canada, but describes the occupants of the immense sheep-runs, containing from 50,000 to 150,000 acres of land, and feeding thousands of sheep. A little higher up Collins Street the squatters meet in a club which would not discredit Pall Mall. That pre-eminently British institution the club, exists everywhere in New Zealand and Australia. If half a-dozen Englishmen are thrown together in a settlement, it will not be long before they begin to think about organizing a club. I have seen the club in a mushroom New Zealand village, consisting of two or three rooms attached to the hotel, with tattooed Maories lounging on the door steps. The clubs are used as private hotels by members and strangers introduced by members, a vast convenience in New Zealand, where the art of hotel-keeping is in a painfully backward state. The English system has been imported with all its discomforts.

The commercial gentlemen who gather at the Victoria Club are a free-handed, free living lot, making and spending their money readily. "We have a good deal of the American about us, sir. We are a go-ahead people," was what I heard more than once in Melbourne. In their energy, their speculative audacity, their freedom