

Once, and only once, I saw an emu ; but he saw me also, and started off at a rapid pace, before I could get close enough for a shot.

Snakes, of which there are a few venomous kinds, were scarce, as I saw only two during my stay. Lizards abounded, and centipedes and scorpions showed themselves occasionally.

One thing that struck me particularly in my rambles round the gold-fields, was the large extent of surface sprinkled over by small angular white quartz *overlying* the black vegetable mould, and strewn so thickly in some places, as to resemble at a little distance a covering of snow. Quartz is, of course, a rock peculiar to all gold fields, probably the matrix from which the water-worn gold, (with particles of quartz often adhering to it,) was washed. But how come the *angular* quartz to *overlie* the recent vegetable mould ? This is a question to which I have not yet seen a satisfactory answer.

I was unavoidably detained in Melbourne a whole tedious month, waiting for a vessel ; at length I obtained a passage ; but though it was only in the second cabin, most of my pound of gold was spent in securing it. The captain was a not very pleasant character, who not having the fate of the "Ancient Mariner" before his eyes, spent a good deal of his time shooting with a pea-rifle at gulls and albatrosses, as I overheard a sailor telling another, "to keep the devil out of his mind." My fellow-passengers, especially those in the second cabin, were mostly an ill-conditioned set, many of them being convicts who had "served their time," and who, though doubtless they had "left their country for their country's good," were certainly not returning for its benefit.

A notable exception and contrast, indeed, was formed by the presence of an English clergyman, who was most obliging in lending me books, and to this hour I feel grateful when I remember his kindness.

That clergyman is, or was very lately, a dweller in the "Dominion" ; should his eye fall upon this page, he will be reminded of the voyage from Melbourne to London, of the good ship Northumberland.

L.

THE CHURCH.

THE present age may well be said to be an age of revolutions. In whatever direction we look, whether to the old world or to the new, incessant and abrupt changes are taking place, traditions and institutions unquestioned for centuries past, are being placed on their defence, while men's minds are necessarily unsettled, and they are learning to doubt