

which we are engaged, soon after we landed, at the termination of which, an alarm of fire was given, at which many all around were moved to run and enquire, who, no doubt, have not yet been so moved by the cry of alarm sounding in their ears from God's holy mountain. The Rev Mr Cooper and I went to the scene of conflagration and busied ourselves in saving property. I worked on the roofs of some of the houses like a tyro till I was quite exhausted, and feared ill consequences, but in the good providence of God was delivered from any evil results. Some who were in one hour left homeless, were much troubled by this afflicting circumstance, while others exposed themselves to peril in order to snatch their goods from the flames. Oh! that I may henceforth profit by the lesson God taught me on this occasion, and seek more earnestly to snatch brands from the eternal flames. The noblest deed, however, done on this occasion was by a young woman ruling her own spirit in doing good for evil to a lady left destitute by the fire who had been at enmity with her, for this young heroine, seeing her in distress, spake kindly to her and took her own bonnet off and put it on her head. The property lost was estimated at £50,000. We received but £70 for the cause of Him who gives men power to get wealth, and takes it at pleasure, and some thought we did well. I visited the Chinese boarding-houses while I was in Geelong, and got some young men to take the Scriptures in their own tongue from the Depot of the Bible Society. There are several thousands of them in the Colonies, and still they come, although they have to pay each £10 for landing. Some of them have subscribed towards the building of a Church. We returned to Melbourne on the 30th, and concluded our meetings in that city by attending to a farewell meeting held at the Mechanics' Institute, after which a steamer waited on the missionaries and bore them and a large number of sincere friends down the Yarra to Hobson's Bay, where, on board of our barque, we were affectionately commended to the care of the God of Missions, and in a few hours we were off for Sydney, where we arrived on the 6th of January. While we were sailing up Port Jackson to Sydney, which is about seven miles from the Heads, we were much delighted with the fine harbour and varied scenery on either side,

which gives a magnificent aspect to the landscape. The entrance of Port Jackson is very narrow—not two miles across—but it gradually expands to a capacious basin, which stretches nearly twenty miles into the country, into which a thousand sail of the line might manœuvre with ease. There are about one thousand coves in this splendid port, which are formed by rocky, yet wooded necks of land, which afford shelter to ships from every wind, and the scenery about them, being diversified by narrow cliffs and woodland hills, is highly striking and picturesque. Sydney is built of white freestone, and exhibits all the greatness and wealth of a first-rate English town. It is delightful for situation, the more so, of any town in Australia.

A few days after we landed in Sydney Mr Howe and I visited Newcastle, and Maitland, a small town containing five thousand inhabitants, which is situated twenty miles from the former up the fertile banks of the Hunter, which, like the Yarra, has the appearance of a small, narrow canal cut through a meadow.—The soil about this river is formed of an alluvial deposit of many feet deep, and, being irrigated by the streams which flow from the melting snows of the Australian Alps, yields two crops annually without much culture—some say—for forty years! I spent some happy hours while in Maitland with the Rev Mr McIntyre, who is making some self-denying and laudable efforts to promote Academical education in the Colony. Newcastle is a small town, and is retarded in progress by its convict population. It has a fine harbour and abundance of coal, which might be made a source of much wealth to the place. There is a magnificent hill above the town, from the summit of which Mr H. and I had a fine view of the surrounding country. While I was in Newcastle I had a strong desire to see some of the aborigines of this part of the country, and, having been disappointed on the morning of the 14th by the steamer not calling in due time, I had my desire fulfilled about noon, by part of a tribe coming in from Port Stephen, with whom I sat down upon the grass in one of the squares in wigwam fashion. The chief and one or two more could speak English, and I was therefore enabled to converse with them about the salvation which is through Jesus unto eternal life. They seemed to have much better ideas of God as the Creator than Redeemer