

and no longer." Then follows the signature of the Commissioner; annexed are certain rules and regulations, among which are the preservation of the roads, the due observance of Sunday, and the extent of claim allowed to each miner, viz., 144 square feet.

In consequence of advice which we received from a friendly digger, we removed our tent to a level bearing the ill-omened name of Murderer's Flat, about a mile further down the creek, where a number of miners were at work, and where it was said, some of them were finding gold. "Feb. 8.—Some people washing stuff near us. I had a talk with them; they were very civil and allowed me to watch them extracting the gold from the washing stuff as the clay in which it is found is called. One man washed about a thimbleful out of two buckets of the stuff. Went on the hill where a rush of diggers took place about a fortnight ago; short as the time is since the digging was commenced, the entire hill for the space of some hundred yards from the centre has been burrowed and dug up. Some of the holes have turned out very rich, yielding several pounds weight, while others are empty, or as the diggers say, "Chicers." Some men with whom I had a conversation said they were "making wages:" wages meaning about two ounces a week. While on the hill I perceived a crowd running in an excited manner; and making my way to the point of attraction found that the cause was a visit from the Commissioner, a gentlemanly person with a gold-laced cap, attended by policemen in blue flannel shirts, with naked bayonets stuck in their belts, and carbines in their hands. The Commissioner was settling a dispute between two diggers, one of whom tunnelled from his own pit into that of his neighbour, and consequently became liable to a fine of £10, which was levied on him then and there."

"Feb. 9. Commenced a hole with C, and got down four feet by evening. 10th. Got to the rock early to-day at a depth of about eight feet; tried the washing stuff, and found only a few grains of gold, so must give that up. Tried cradle tailings, and got a few grains; not thinking so badly of the place to-day probably, from having something to do as well as from the novelty of the employment." And here I may briefly describe the system of *digging* which prevailed in the Mount Alexander district. A likely spot having been chosen, the most favourable position being usually the middle of a gully, a hole was commenced, if circular, about three feet in diameter, if oblong, about five feet by three. The hard clay was loosened by a pick and then shovelled out; and by alternately picking and shovelling, a pair of diggers would usually reach the bottom of a hole about twenty feet deep, in two or three days. After the first day's work, a rough windlass, made of gumtree, was rigged at the mouth.