

our tents with some slight regard to comfort as well as to cook a good hot supper, the need of which all felt and acknowledged.

Cutting what timber was required for fuel, as well as for tent poles, we formed the camp in two rows, the front of one row facing the front of the other, somewhat in fact like a street, at each end of which we made a large fire to cook supper, and to dry ourselves before retiring to the tents for the night. A hearty supper having been disposed of, we began to acquire modified views of our present condition and future prospects, and though surrounded by many discomforts, contrived to be reasonably jolly under the circumstances. Before retiring to rest, we arranged our guard for the night by appointing two of the party to remain on watch, to be relieved by other two every second hour until the whole company arose in the morning. This precaution was the more necessary in proportion as our distance increased from Melbourne, as the zeal with which the bush-rangers pursued their calling became warmer exactly in the same ratio. In order to prevent any dispute with regard to the hour that each would prefer on which to be on guard, the different watches were to be decided by lot, against which no appeal was allowed. The duties of the guard were to keep the fire well supplied with fuel, and to walk backward and forward, one at each end of the camp, at such a distance from the fires that the light should not reveal their presence until relieved by the succeeding watch. Very fortunately for ourselves, we kept up this precaution during the whole journey to the diggings, and indeed for some time after our arrival there, until our subsequent dispersion as a distinct company rendered it impossible to continue the arrangement any longer.

Two more days of steady, persistent plodding through the mud, and we reached the foot of Mount Macedon, where wood being very abundant, we pitched our camp early in the day in order that a long invigorating rest might prepare us for the remainder of the journey.

(To be Continued.)

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BEAUTY.

BY PRINCETONIUS.

We cannot define beauty any more than we can our tastes. We know, by sensation, the taste of sugar, of wormwood, or of water, but none can give an accurate account of such. Philosophers have quarrelled over it, and painters have divided on its merits, some believe in ideal beauty and some in real, but so far no truce in their warfare has been effected, yet there is beauty everywhere. It is seen in "ilka blade o' grass wi' its ain draps of dew—in every dancing rivulet or flowing river—in every modest hill or towering mountain—in the mote which dances in the sunbeam, and in every feathered songster which warbles in the air, from the humming bird drinking ambrosia from every opening flower, or the lark singing his native song with burnished wings over the flowery lea, to the soaring eagles floating in the blue expanse of heaven,—from the microscopic insects which build towers, parapets, halls, minarets and highways on the sunny side of some miniature hillock, until ruins ploughshare has strewn their cosy "biggins," to the majestic natural temple, where beauty and strength have combined to crown God's greatest works,—from the lovely flower which delights the eye with its variegated colours, and the nostrils with its fragrance, to the lofty oak or the towering cedar, whose nodding tops adorn the mountain's brow—from the blazing and flashing diamond which decks the crown or coronet, to the "spangled heavens a shining frame," when worlds roll in grandeur to "the music of the spheres," and—from the lower forms of animated nature, to the human face and form divine; that *face* and *form* which are powerful to break hearts, give pain and pleasure alternately, with a potency unparalleled, and to make lovers face the deadly breach and seek the cannon's hungry maw; dare the perils of the deep, and stake their all to bask in woman's genial smile.

James of Scotland lost Flodden by being lured into the meshes of Southern beauty, on the battle field. Anthony lost his hold of the Roman Empire by his worship of lovely Cleopatra. Leander got his death