

peared to be more social feeling between her husband and father than she had ever hoped for, and a joyous vision flitted across her of time bringing about a thorough reconciliation, and of their all being happy together. She laughed, she talked, she almost sang; and Mr. and Mrs. Leicester inquired what had become of the lowness of spirit spoken of in Mr. Castonel's note. He answered pleasantly, that their presence had scared it away, and that if they did not mind the trouble of coming out, it might be well to try the experiment again on the following evening; he could see it was the best medicine for his dearest Ellen. They promised to do so, even Mr. Leicester. Especially, he added, as he must now leave almost directly.

The glow on Ellen's face faded. 'Why leave, papa?'

'My dear, there is a vestry meeting to-night, and I must attend it. Your mamma can stay.'

'Will you not return when it is over?' resumed Ellen, anxiously.

'No; it will not be over till late. It is likely to be a stormy one.'

'But you will come to-morrow? And remain longer?' she feverishly added.

'Child, I have said so.'

'Upon one condition—that she does not excite herself over it,' interposed Mr. Castonel, affectionately laying his hand upon his wife's. 'Add that proviso.'

'Oh, if Ellen is to excite herself, of course that would stop it,' returned the doctor, with a smile. The first smile his countenance had worn since her disobedience.

Ellen saw it, and her heart rose up in thankfulness within her. 'Dearest papa,' she whispered, leaning towards him, 'I will be quite calm. It will be right between us all: I see it will. I am so happy.'

At seven o'clock they heard the little bell tinkle out, calling together the members of the select vestry, and Mr. Leicester took his departure. His wife remained with Ellen, Mr. Castonel, also; nothing called him out; and they spent a happy, cordial evening.—When she rose to leave, Mr. Castonel rang the bell for Mrs. Muff to attend her. He would not leave Ellen.

'What nonsense!' said Mrs. Leicester.—'As if any one would run away with me. I shall be at home in five minutes. I need not trouble Mrs. Muff.'

'It will do Muff good,' said Ellen. 'She has never stirred out since my illness. And then, mamma, she can bring back the receipt you spoke of.'

'Good-night, my dear,' said Mrs. Leicester, stooping to kiss her. 'Do you feel yourself better for our visit?'

'I feel quite well, mamma,' was Ellen's joyous answer. 'Nothing whatever is the matter with me now. Only,' she added, laughing, 'that I am a little thirsty.'

'That is soon remedied,' said Mr. Castonel. 'I will get you some wine and water, Ellen.'

'How thankful I am to see your mistress so much better,' exclaimed Mrs. Leicester, as she and Mrs. Muff walked along.

'Ma'am, you cannot be more thankful than I am. I have been upon thorns ever since she was taken ill. Poor Mrs. Castonel—I mean Miss Caroline—having been cut off suddenly by the same illness, was enough to make me fearful.'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

THE LATE ALEX. KEEFER, ESQ.

The last overland mail took to England the news of the death, in Australia, of a young Canadian, Mr. Alex. Keefer, who was the first member of the Bar of Canada admitted to practise as a barrister in that colony, and the first Canadian elected to its Legislature. This lamented gentleman, besides that professional ability which led to his rapid advancement in a strange country, possessed literary attainments of no common order, as evinced by some letters of his which have been occasionally published in the papers at Montreal and Toronto during the last seven years.

Alexander Keefer, the tenth and youngest son of the late George Keefer, Esq., of Thorold, was born there on the 20th November, 1825. He was educated at Upper Canada College and studied the profession of the law in the office of the late Hon. Robert Baldwin, then in partnership with the Hon. Mr. Justice Adam Wilson. In 1850 he was admitted to the Bar of Upper Canada, and in 1852 sailed from New York for Australia, via Rio Janeiro and the Cape of Good Hope. For the first two years of his residence there, he essayed to the gold digging, in common with thousands of all professions and callings from nearly every



THE LATE ALEXANDER KEEFER ESQ., BARRISTER AT LAW.

quarter of the globe. In March, 1855, he decided to return home, having gained the chief object of his travels, the complete restoration of his health, which had been broken down from excessive mental application the year after his admission to the Bar in Canada. While waiting at Melbourne for a ship he entered a law office, and finding the profession a very lucrative one at that time in Australia, he was advised to remain in the colony and resume it. To effect this a serious obstacle had first to be overcome, which required six months of continued exertion and a considerable outlay in money.

The law of the colony of Victoria had been framed in the interest of the profession of both branches, barristers and attorneys, from the United Kingdom only. All members which were admitted to practise as a matter of course, but ignored barristers from other colonies, and compelled even attorneys to reside a year after giving notice of their intention to practise, and further to undergo an examination.

Mr. Keefer felt it his duty to maintain the honor of his native province, and therefore sought, by petition to the Supreme Court, for himself as a Canadian barrister, the privileges accorded to those from the United Kingdom, but was repulsed. Nothing daunted thereat, he invoked the aid of the press and the Legislature, and after a six months' contest with the Bar was admitted by a special act, in March, 1856; and in April went to Beechworth, the capital of the Ovens District, about 200 miles inland from Melbourne. Possessing a practical knowledge of gold mining, he at once obtained a large and lucrative practice in his own profession, and was soon solicited to represent the district in the Provincial Legislature. This he declined, because the capital was 200 miles distant, and, besides the loss sustained by absence, the heavy personal expenses in that colony were then borne by the representatives themselves. In 1859, however, he was solicited from all quarters to save the district from the disgrace of returning a demagogue whom no one else could defeat, and yielded, with the understanding that he should resign as soon as the election of a proper successor could be secured, which he did the following year, and then set about preparing for a visit to his native land, in connection with one to the contemplated Exhibition at London in 1861. This having been postponed till 1862, he left Australia for Ceylon in Nov., 1861, and thence took the P. & O. Co. Steamers to Calcutta. From this point he visited Cawnpore, Delhi, &c., and returned by Kurrachee and Bombay to Suez, and after visiting the Nile, Jerusalem, the Jordan, &c., he reached Liverpool in May. In September, after seeing the United Kingdom and a portion of the continent, he came out to Canada, after ten years absence, in time to see the progress of the Province as evinced at the Provincial Exhibition in Toronto. In

November he returned, via the overland route, and reached Melbourne in May last. In four months thereafter he was struck down after ten days' illness, by a return of the same disease which caused his emigration to Australia. We conclude our short memoir in the words of the Toronto Globe:

'He returned to Australia to die. The news of his decease was telegraphed from Beechworth, where he resided, to Melbourne the day before the steamer sailed. The Argus correspondent telegraphed: 'He was a much respected citizen, whose loss will be greatly felt in the Ovens District, which Mr. Keefer at one time represented.' We may add that every Canadian in that distant country found a friend in Mr. Keefer. His house and purse were always open to them.'

The following graphic sketch is from one of his letters to friends in Canada:

GOLD DIGGING IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, IN 1854.

Perhaps it may be interesting to you to hear something of the manners and customs of the diggers, their mode of life, and the manner of searching for, and the method of securing the gold.

It would puzzle the genius of a Dickens to portray the variety of character one meets with in every part of the country; suffice it for me to say, that the population is composed of drafts from all parts of the world as yet approached by commerce, the scale preponderating in favor of Great Britain. Our trans-Pacific friends, (as Americans are called,) however, are getting a fair share of the commerce of the country, and promise to infuse into John Bull (who has hitherto had his own way here) something of that progressive spirit which I am pleased to see now characterises Canada. There is an abominable squatting monopoly which has swallowed up all within a little of the land of the country, which is held by the squatters for grazing purposes only—they being prohibited by law from cultivating what is actually necessary for their own use and that of their dependants. These squatters hold the whole country (with an inconsiderable exception) in sections ranging from ten miles square to twenty miles square to each, under leave from the Colonial Government—of fourteen years, generally. The country is dependent for its breadstuffs, vegetables and horse feed, chiefly upon the adjacent colonies of South Australia and Van Dieman's Land. The direct result of this suicidal land policy, by discouraging agriculture in this colony, is to permanently settle and build up South Australia and Van Dieman's Land, where a more liberal land policy somewhat analogous to that of Canada, obtains. Thus you will observe that in a population of upwards of 200,000—with the exception of the squatters, who number about 200 only, and who get their returns from wool, all who do not find refuge in their trades, professions or callings, or who do

not engage in mercantile pursuits, have no other alternative than gold digging. Here we find among those classed as 'diggers,' men of all professions, (not excepting the clerical,) trades and callings, and not a few of refinement. This is so much the rule that wherever I have been, as yet, in the diggings, I have always found desirable associates. You would be amused to see the ingenious methods of concealment, under which a practical eye can discern the bearing of one ill accustomed to the blue shirt and corduroys of the digger. No legitimate occupation is considered infra-dig on the gold fields, though the weight of authority looks upon digging as the most aristocratic. Not very long since I retained a member of the English bar to remove our tent and traps to a different part of the diggings with his bullocks and dray, and he took 15s. by the motion.

During the summer months, (for convenience we divide the year into summer and winter) say from October until May, we live in tents which are pitched in the most desirable spots compatible with the theatre of our labors. Our great study is to keep our worldly goods from accumulating and annoying us in moving. We are reconciled to the absence of superfluities, and I often think how I would in by-gone days, comiserate any one deprived of chairs and tables, et hoc genus homo, which, as a general thing, we could not receive as presents saddled with an injunction to take care of them. In winter I have never lived in a tent, yet the great majority of the people do. Last winter—and I built a logshanty, and covered it with bark, in which we were very comfortable. Our winter here is similar to November with you, though milder. Rain is the chief ingredient in it. I have only twice noticed ice of the thickness of a penny.—The frosts have no effect on the forest trees, as far as the foliage is concerned, which is never shed at once as in Canada. A curious thing relative to the trees here is, that they shed their bark periodically instead of the leaves. We have now got into winter quarters at 'The Avoca,' a new gold field about 120 miles from Melbourne in a N. W. direction. We are living in a logshanty, and devote most of our evenings to reading and sewing buttons on our shirts.

Gold is found in different parts of a goldfield at various depths from the surface, (as at Ballarat.) extending 160 feet to the rock. The external indication, at those diggings which I have visited, seems to be white and pink quartz—the surface uneven, caused by parallel gullies running from either side into a main receptacle channel for carrying off the rains. Upon the hills between the gullies the deposit is usually within a foot of the surface, mixed with a quartz gravel lying upon a stratum of stiff red clay. Sometimes by sinking through (after removing the gravel for the purpose of washing) we again find in these hills another auriferous stratum lying upon white pipe clay, and following it on to the gullies on either side. The largest deposits are found in the middle of the gullies, generally occupying a narrow 'lead,' where the pipe clay is farther from the surface.—The depth to this pipe clay in the gullies varies from two feet at the upper end, to nine or ten feet, where they become lost in the flat lying at right angles with them. Upon this flat the sinking is deeper, varying from ten feet at the head to frequently (as at these diggings) upwards of fifty feet at the foot.—The mode of getting at the gold is by sinking a shaft, the size of an ordinary well, down to the auriferous stratum, which is from three to six inches in thickness, and lays upon the pipe clay. No part of the earth taken up before reaching the stratum lying upon the pipe clay is reserved for washing. When the stratum is reached, it is removed, with two or three inches in depth of the pipe clay, to be washed. This auriferous stratum is generally composed of clay mixed with black and white water-worn quartz gravel, having the gold diffused throughout it, but chiefly lying immediately upon the pipe clay. After this, which we call 'washing stuff,' is removed, we sink about three feet into the pipe clay, and 'drive' the latter away from under the auriferous stratum, send it out of the shaft, throw it away, and then knock down 'the washing stuff' overhead, and send it up to be secured. The method of obtaining the gold from the 'washing stuff' is by placing it in a tub and puddling it with water until all the clay is dissolved, and nothing remains but the clean gravel and the gold. It is then run through the 'cradle,' which separates most of the gravel from the gold, concentrating the latter on a slide made for its reception in the cradle. The contents of this slide are emptied into a pan, where the dirt is removed from the gold by the oscillating motion of the pan in the water, leaving the gold itself concentrated by its weight in the bottom.