

then its forges anea to guide and control
to prevent it from running into ex-
tremes; to keep a check upon enthusiasm
riot on the one hand, and to arouse
pathy and indifference to a sense of duty
on the other. The Press takes the helm
and steers the course; but if the wind of
public opinion be dead ahead, the helms-
man will always find himself drifting
backward if he attempts to run dead against
it. The Press and the people are a co-
operative body. Each supports and protects
the other.

There is, however, no doubt I think
that the newspaper press has been the
means of making people mentally lazy. A
man now buys a twopenny-worth or three-
pennyworth of thinking material when
ordering a newspaper as he buys his milk
or his bread. It is troublesome to keep a
cow; it is a nuisance to bake one's bread.
It is comfortable and convenient to have
one's thinking done for him, and so he
buys a twopenny-worth of editorial which
quite answers his purpose. If his editor
does not supply him with good thinking
matter he discovers it just as soon as he
does when his milkman or the baker sup-
plies him with diluted milk or bad bread,
and he has no more compunction what-
ever in changing a newspaper he has
subscribed to which does not do the
thing to his liking than he has his
baker or his tailor. Men now imbibe
principles they scarcely know how, but
having imbibed them and not caring to
trace them to their origin they simply
support the newspaper which advocates
policies and measures which coincide with
their own.

(To be continued.)

No. XXX.

By SNYDER.

THE PROGRESS OF VICTORIA AFTER THE
GOLD DISCOVERIES.

It was inside of three years after the dis-
covery of such enormous deposits of gold
had been made in Victoria, and when the
digging population had received, if not
strict justice, at least much consideration
at the hands of the Governor and
ministers at the head of affairs, that the
advance of the colony in its social,
domestic, commercial, and political in-
stitutions made such rapid strides. Not
California with all its enormous golden
wealth, a go-ahead population, and free
government is to be compared with what
was witnessed in Victoria.

In 1851, the date of the first gold dis-
coveries, there were twenty-eight churches
representing the principal religious deno-
minations. In 1857, or just six years later,
the twenty-eight churches had increased
to four hundred and seventy-three. The
seven existing churches of the Church of
England in 1851, had increased to ninety-
nine in 1857; the Roman Catholic, from
two to fifty-nine; the Presbyterian, from
eight to fifty-five; the Wesleyan, from five
to one hundred and ninety-two; the
aggregate of all the congregations, from
seventy-seven thousand to nearly half-a-
million.

And all this wonderful increase was due
to the fact that gold had been discovered
existing in ground which did not amount
to the one ten-thousandth part of the area
of the colony. In 1851 the yield of the
precious metal was a little over one
hundred and forty thousand ounces; in
1857 it was a little under three million
ounces. In the first year, the pick, the
shovel, the tin dish, and the cradle were
the only implements employed for getting
gold out of the earth. Seven years sub-
sequently there were two hundred and
eighty-two steam engines, four thousand
two hundred and fifty-six puddling
machines, one hundred and thirty-three
quartz-crushing machines, nine hundred
and eight sluices, five hundred and eight
whims, sixty-six horse machines, and two
hundred water-wheels; representing the
outlay of eight millions of money by those
engaged on the diggings in the search for
the precious ore. But the progress on the
gold-fields would not bear comparison
with the advances made in the chief centres
of population of the colony.

In 1854 the first telegraph line was
opened to Williamstown; in 1855 to Gee-
long. In the first of these years the
number of messages forwarded was under
four thousand; in 1857 these had increased
to twenty-seven thousand. The Victorian
wires now extend to South Australia, New
South Wales, and Tasmania.

But, probably, the progress made in the
banking institutions of Victoria surpassed
those of any country in the world. In 1851
the number of banks and branches in Vic-
toria was six; in 1857 they had increased

to fifty-six. In 1851 the liabilities of the
banks were a very little over one million;
in 1857 they had reached to nearly ten mil-
lions; the aggregate of the dividends de-
clared and paid being thirteen per cent.

In 1851 the births were three thousand
and forty-nine; in 1857, nearly eighteen
thousand.

In 1851 social distinctions in the titles of
prelates were a matter of controversy in
the colonies. The Roman Catholics con-
tended for the extension of the title of
"Lordship" and an equal status with the
Anglican prelates. The rank of a Bishop
was derived from his seat among the peers
in the House of Lords. A special clause
was inserted in the Irish Act of Union,
providing for the Irish bishops the
possession of the honour which they had
previously enjoyed in the Irish House of
Parliament. The Roman Catholic bishops
were grieved that they should not en-
joy the same titles. Hence, the Imperial
Parliament provided that in England and
the Colonies, the title, as a courtesy,
should be extended alike to Anglican and
Romish prelates; but the Government
was instructed that the Roman Catholic
bishop in that colony should not take pre-
cedence of the Anglican bishop; nor
should any Roman Catholic bishop be re-
cognised under any local title that had
been bestowed in the Anglican Church.
A hot controversy ensued between Dr.
Perry, Bishop of Melbourne, and the Right
Rev. Dr. Gould, Roman Catholic Bishop.
The Government, for a time, sided with the
Anglican Bishop, to the following extent:
All letters addressed to the Bishop of
Melbourne were delivered at the residence
of the Anglican Bishop, many of which
were intended for the Roman Catholic
Bishop. The differences eventually sub-
sided, and no subsequent difficulties have
occurred to bring the two ecclesiastical
heads of their respective Churches into
collision. Bishop Perry was a man of
great learning; but he was intolerant,
overbearing, and harsh, even to those of
his own clergy under his episcopate. His
ecclesiastical arrogance caused the first
Free Church of England to be established
in Australia, which largely increased in
numbers in the course of a few years.

It was at the close of 1852 that the
subject of prison discipline came up for
public discussion. The gaols and hulks
under Mr Price, the then Superintendent of
convicts, were, as described in the Mel-

bourne journals, so many hells. The
cruelties inflicted by Captain Price in the
treatment of criminals, formed one con-
tinued theme of public discussion, ending
in universal indignation. The gaols and
hulks certainly contained as bad a class of
criminals as ever wore chains, and so
strict discipline was necessary; but the
barbarities perpetrated by gaolers and
warders were of the same degree as those
which, at a more remote period, were
practised at Norfolk Island. The gaols
were crowded; the prisoners, filthy. They
were robbed of their rations; and if they
complained they were thrown into the dark
holds of ships' hulks. Frequently they were
starved; were, if at all troublesome, sus-
pended on their toes for hours, by means
of ropes fastened round their wrists, and
drawn up to a beam. In one road-gang
four prisoners attempted to escape; two of
these were shot down. The other two
escaped, and were never captured. The
next was a desperate attempt of a noto-
rious highwayman and bushranger, known
as Captain Melville, to capture a prison
boat, with officers on board. A dreadful
scene ensued. Two of the warders had
their brains beaten in, while two of Mel-
ville's confederates were shot. The tragedy
culminated in the murder of Captain Price.
He was stoned to death by a gang of
prisoners—beaten to a mummy. The ex-
ultation of the prisoners on the morning
when that terrible tragedy occurred, was
that of demons rejoicing over some
deed of transcendental wickedness.
Captain Melville had been the ringleader
in every attack made upon the gaolers,
and in every effort to break out of
prison. It was he who acted as principal
in the famous gold robbery on board
the ship Nelson, in Hobson's Bay
several years before. It has been said
and I believe with truth, that Melville
was descended from a very high family;
that he had been well educated; had
originally been a soldier; had assaulted
his officer in the presence of his company;
had been arrested; escaped from confine-
ment; and had reached Tasmania, by
working his way out on board ship. When
placed upon his trial, on a charge of
murder, he delivered a long and very
telling address, the main features of which,

it was afterwards ascertained, were
strictly true. He spoke of the brutal
usage he had been subjected to by those
placed over him in gaol. He contended in
most pathetic language that if prison
punishment was intended to reform the
criminal, the cruelty of keepers would not
effect the desired end; the starving of
prisoners would not do it; for men under
such treatment became—not reformed—
but brutalised. Revenge, said Mel-
ville, was not only sweet, but it was
salutary. When a gaol warder had been
taught by what he had witnessed, that
a prisoner, having been treated with
undue severity, retaliated by murdering a
warder, or two or three, if it could be
accomplished, this resulting in living
warders being less unjust to those under
their charge. When, said Melville, a
soldier shoots his officer dead, for some
piece of tyranny, that soldier is hung, as
he deserves to be. But he is but a martyr
after all, for the benefit of his fellow-
soldiers. When an officer has learned that
his tyranny may cause a bullet to be sent
through his heart, or brain, without an
instant of warning, he will cease to
tyrannise. The killing of Mr Price, the
Superintendent of Convicts, had produced
a humane successor. Melville's address
shewed this much: First, the incessant
outbreak of human passion, on the part
of gaolers and officers, towards the
criminals they had charge of, under a
system of discipline either very erroneous,
or very badly administered; and, secondly,
the unfavourable effect upon prisoners of
these and other physical inflictions. The
law and its agents seemed alike a ministra-
tion of pure vengeance; and this feeling, in
the great majority of cases, shut out from
the prisoner the consideration of his own
wickedness, and impressed him only with
the view that his lot was cast in a state of
life-long warfare with society and its myr-
iads of justice. A most distinguished
foreigner, present in Melbourne at this
juncture of affairs, wrote a letter to the
AGE newspaper which at that time had a
most telling effect. He asserted that the
prison discipline, as adopted in Victoria,
was neither more nor less than a barbarous
revenge of society on its criminals, rather
than a reformatory school, such as was the
Prussian system. In that country the
prisoner is confined by himself at first; his
cell well-lighted from the roof. If he prove
long refractory the light is obscured. After
a time he has work given him, if he asks
for it; and subsequently, on good conduct
he is allowed to work with his fellow pri-
soners. No brutality—no unkindness—
towards him is allowed. Public indigna-
tion became at length so loud and strong
that the Government felt itself almost
coerced into calling for a Commission of
Enquiry as to the management and disci-
pline of the Victorian Gaols. An enquiry
was held in due course. It was shewn
that Mr Price had been a cruel tyrant;
that the prisoners had been subjected to
terrible ill-treatment; and the wonder
expressed was that more warders and
gaolers had not been massacred. A new
regime was established, and shortly after-
wards the gaol system of Victoria was
stated to be equal to any in the world.

No. XXXI.

By SNYDER.

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE COLONIES
PREVIOUS TO THE EVENTS WHICH
ARE RECORDED IN THESE
REMINISCENCES,
VICTORIA.

In the chapters where I have recorded
my reminiscences I have narrated the chief
events which came under my notice. I
could have given many interesting details,
but could only have done this by introduc-
ing names which would perhaps have given
pain to those still living, or the surviving
relatives and friends of those who have
long since passed out of life. This I have
carefully avoided. I shall now, in three
concluding chapters, give a brief and I
hope not uninteresting account of the
history of these colonies at a date which
preceded my arrival in the Southern
Hemisphere. I will commence with Port
Phillip, now known as Victoria.

It will show how very small and
insignificant communities, settled under
the most unpromising conditions, grew
into active life, and in a comparatively
small number of years have been merged
into flourishing States, each carried on
under its own distinct constitutional
Government.

In 1835 a project to colonise Port Phillip
entered the mind of Mr J. P. Fawkner, of
whom previous mention is made in my re-
miniscences. Mr Fawkner formed a party
consisting of five others besides himself.
He purchased a small schooner and em-
barked at Launceston, in Tasmania, for
Hobson's Bay, Port Phillip. The party
searched for a fresh-water stream until
they found the Yarra, when they fixed on
a sight now known as Batman's Hill,
marking out ten acres for each, and draw-
ing lots for choice of land. Having pitched
their tents they proceeded to form a gar-
den, and plant out fruit trees, grain, and
vegetables. Within one week from the
landing the party had five acres of land
harrowed, and sown with wheat. Here
was shown an extent of enterprise, indus-
try, and confidence in the future which
formed one of the great characteristics of
our earlier colonists. Subsequently Mr
Fawkner removed his establishment and
fixed his tent at the rear of the present
Custom-house, where he opened the first
hotel. Mr Fawkner and party were ordered
off their land by Mr Batman, who laid
claim to a prior right of occupation; but
the party refused to move, and held what
they considered to be justly their own.

The first cattle and sheep were landed
in November, 1835, consisting of fifty-five
Hereford cows and 500 sheep. The
Fawkner party lived on board their
schooner for a month, while a wooden
house was being erected. Batman and
his friends and servants lived in sod huts.
One day an aboriginal, whom Fawkner had
treated kindly, came and informed him
that the blacks had laid a plan to murder
all the whites. Upon this information the
new-comers united, and stood by each
other in despite of their previous
differences. They were well-armed, and,
brave to a man, were not to be intimidated.
A parley was held, which resulted in the
blacks retiring and crossing to the south
side of the Yarra. The natives then, as
to this day, dreaded gunpowder. Dr.
Thomson, many years after elected Mayor
of Geelong, was appointed arbitrator in all
cases of disputes between the white
settlers. Mr Stewart, a Sydney official, was
present at this time, and was authorised
to report upon the conduct of the colonists.
Advantage was taken of his presence,
and a petition was forwarded, through
him, to Governor Bourke, asking for the
appointment of magistrates and police to
maintain order, and pointing out that
the cost could be defrayed by levying
duties on imported goods. This was
granted, when settlers came from New

South Wales and Tasmania in large num-
bers, bringing many thousands of sheep
and hundreds of cattle. The settlement
was now placed under British rule, and
progressed rapidly. And now commenced
the appropriation of the rich land in
possession of the aborigines, by purchase.

I give a fair specimen of one of many
attempts to dispossess the Port Phillip
aboriginals of their lands, which were as
precious to them as are the magnificent
areas the Maoris of the past claimed and
at the present day claim as their own.
The document which I copy will be ad-
mitted to be about as extraordinary a one
as was ever committed to paper. It runs
as follows:—

Know all persons, that we, three brothers
Jagajaga, Jagajaga, Jagajaga, being the three
principal chiefs, and also Cooloolook, Bungarie,
Yanyan, Moowhip, Monmarmalar, being the
chiefs of a certain native tribe called Dutigal-
lar, situate at and near Port Phillip, called by
us, the above-mentioned chiefs, Irausnoo and
Geelong, being possessed of the tract of land
hereinafter mentioned, for and in consid-
eration of 20 pairs of blankets, 30 knives, 12 toma-
hawks, 10 looking-glasses, 12 pairs of scissors,
50 handkerchiefs, 12 red shirts, 4 flannel
jackets, 4 suits of clothes, and 50lbs of flour, deliv-
ered to us by John Batman, residing in Van
Diemen's Land, Esq., but at present sojourning
with us and our tribe, do, for ourselves, our
heirs, and successors, give, grant, enfeoff, and
confirm unto the said John Batman, his heirs
and assigns, all that tract of country situate
and being in the bay of Port Phillip, known by
the name of Indented Head, but called by us
Geelong, extending across from Geelong har-
bour about due south, for ten miles, more or
less, to the head of Port Phillip, taking in the
whole neck or tract of land containing about
100,000 acres, as the same hath been before the
execution of these presents delineated and
marked out by us, according to the custom of
our tribe, by certain marks made upon the
trees growing along the boundaries of the said
tract of land, with all advantages belonging
thereto, unto and to the use of the said John
Batman, his heirs, said tract of land, and place
thereon sheep and cattle, yielding and deliver-
ing to us and assigns, to the meaning and in-
tent that the said John Batman, his heirs and
assigns, may occupy and possess the same, and
our heirs and successors the yearly rent or tri-
bute of 50 pairs of blankets, 50 knives, 50 toma-
hawks, 50 pair of scissors, 50 looking-glasses, 20
suits of slops or clothing, and two tons of flour.
In witness whereof Jagajaga, Jagajaga, Jagajaga,
the three principal chiefs, and also Cooloolook,
Bungarie, Yanyan, Moowhip and Mon-