

felony of Britain—men convicted of crimes of the deepest dye. The officials sent out with these convicts appear to have become infected with the taint of the scoundrelism they came in contact with on the voyage. Never was there so much ship-laden crime. Never did Government officials prove more corrupt. The convicts when they had settled down at Port Jackson robbed and murdered each other, while the officials robbed the commissariat and the home Government, drawing money for purposes to which it was never employed, drawing pay for duties never performed, and sending home requisitions for stores and provisions which were converted to their own private use. Can it be wondered, if the officials being corrupt, licentious, and devoid of all moral feeling, that the prisoners under such charge and control were likely to be other than what they were? Sydney now ranks among the chief of Australian cities, with its broad streets, its fine buildings, handsome churches, noble institutions, and all that gives importance to the metropolis of a large colony like New South Wales. How much may be written of the past, in wondrous contrast to the present! Never was there such vast change in so brief a number of years as has been witnessed in Sydney and its surrounding districts. It is certainly not to be conceived for an instant that a country first occupied by convicts and governed by officers corrupt to the highest degree should present a favourable side of humanity. The wonder is how so much crime, and vice, and immorality should, in so short an era, have given place to much that is now good in the moral, social, and religious condition of the people. One of the earliest authorities, writing of the condition of Sydney at the time when it was a purely convict settlement, says that no such day as Sunday was observed. The convicts worked on that day the same as on any other, while the officials passed their time in gambling, dog-fighting, and other degrading amusements. Bishop Broughton, in a printed statement which he made in London, declared that the thousands transported from England every year were cast forth upon the shores of a colony where no means were adopted to prevent their instantly becoming pagans and heathens. "Six good men were not to be found—no, not three." The proportion of the sexes was four males to one female, the females—fully 90 per cent of them—having been prostitutes in England, and males highwaymen, burglars, murderers, and forgers. The Government officials were younger sons of good families, ruined by extravagance and debauchery. They had been sent from home to save them from further disgracing their families. The convict women received the most infamous neglect from the authorities. Even on the voyage out they were exposed to the utmost liberty of licentiousness. All who had charge of their moral safety abused their trust by taking the lead in every kind of immorality. One of the

Government surgeons named Cunningham, who had been placed in charge of female convicts on the voyage from London to New South Wales, makes an apology for the promiscuous intercourse among the women on boardship by saying, "Poor Jack is planted in a perfect garden of temptation when among these seducers." He believed that free intercourse among the women and the sailors would perhaps lead to a partial reformation by their being initiated in the moral principles of personal attachment. This was probably the same ship's surgeon who sometimes gave the reading of the Church service to a woman, who used to burlesque it.

A clergyman, the Rev. G. Cowper, in 1824, in a speech burning with indignation, declared the Sabbath to be unknown in the colony, while almost the whole of the Australian population was at the time living in a state of unblushing concubinage. Every decency of life was disregarded. Every newspaper press was as foul, impure, and corrupt in the early days as it is the reverse of all these in the present. One journal tells how "The man at Balkham Hills who lately cried down his wife, did so merely to raise her reputation and enhance her worth. He had," the paragraph went on to say, "converted the woman into an article of traffic, the sale of which amounted to six bushels of wheat and a black pig. A settler at Hawkesbury purchased the woman." Another newspaper sets forth the domestic scene:—"With all possible

composure," it told its readers, "the man resigned his wife upon the goods received in exchange being delivered up to him." Protest upon protest was now raised against such immoralities being any longer permitted. The Government felt compelled to give some heed to the remonstrance which had been made, and an order was issued, which proclaimed that from the late increase of nocturnal robberies, there was much reason to suspect that the petty constables and divisional watchmen suffered themselves to be prevailed upon by the housebreakers to become less vigilant than they should be. The proclamation had no effect, for the simple reason that the petty constables and divisional watchmen for the most part planned these robberies for other men to execute, when the proceeds from the plunder were divided. Probably the greatest amount of scoundrelism in these days was to be found among the Government constables.

In 1823 hundreds of prisoners were at large throughout the country, where they pursued their depredations as bushrangers. The Government actually issued a proclamation that all these should receive a free pardon upon their return to Sydney, upon which twenty men came and gave themselves up. Repenting almost immediately, they combined and attacked the Treasury, carrying off £3000 in specie. At this time women were flogged for offences against prison regulations. Seven women one morning received each one hundred lashes upon the bare back with the cat, administered by the prison flagellator.

The greatest female philanthropist of any age, Mrs Fry, made the most strenuous efforts to secure to women sentenced to be transported such protection and advice on board ship that they should not be more contaminated upon their arrival at Botany Bay than when they left London. One of these ships sailed away after every woman prisoner had been exhorted, prayed with, and entreated to reform and lead new lives. Many extras had been given to them in the way of additional clothing, food and medicinal comforts. Every care was taken to place them under an excellent gentleman, who received the appointment of surgeon-superintendent. And this is what is told of these women: When sailing up the magnificent harbour of Port Jackson, and looking at and admiring the wood-crowned heights, the majestic beauty reflected in the calm waters of each romantic cove; when charmed with the soft airs that reached them, perfumed by a thousand flowers, these wretched, fallen, degraded, disgraced women may probably have dreamed of joys to come, may well have believed that in such a paradise of nature they could and would be good. Some whose hearts had been softened under the last appeals of the surgeon who had attended them so carefully on the voyage, were then leaning over the bulwarks looking with moistened eyes to the beauties of the country they had come to, and where the prospects of a new and better life sunned forth before them. But as they neared the landing-place the vision of their promised happiness darkened. Reckless, swearing men and wanton-looking, foul-mouthed, ragged women were there saluting their approach and heralding their visit to what would certainly prove to them no haven of rest. The reeking smell from the rum shanties met them on their walk to the temporary shelter at the Sydney Gaol, where they were received for the night. But how that night was passed is told by the surgeon of the ship. "On visiting the gaol in Sydney," he said, "the morning after the prisoners had been landed, I found that many of them had spent the night in noise and indecent revelry, occasioned by beer and spirits introduced into their quarters, which could not have been done without the knowledge of their keepers. There had been no clergyman to receive them, no matron to direct them, no separate place where the decencies required of female privacy could be observed. And this, be it understood, was in a British colony, under British rules, every official to direct affairs having been appointed at Downing-street. The next day

the women were to be conducted to the female factory at Paramatta, some fifteen miles from Sydney. The journey was to be done in boats. The scenery and the surrounding country between Sydney and Paramatta are beautiful beyond the power of pen to describe. The journey should have been performed in three hours, but it was not done under twelve. The poor women were sent in parties rowed in boats

by convict constables; perhaps the most brutal, depraved, and abandoned of men. These wretched women had to submit themselves to the licentiousness of these scoundrels. The women landed at night, everyone more or less drunk. We shall hear from the Surgeon-Superintendent what happened to these women after they had been carried ashore at Paramatta. "On their arrival, they had not got within the walls of the factory before they were surrounded by hordes of dissolute convicts, who were provided with bottles of spirits, and others with provisions, for the purpose of forming a banquet according to custom, which they assured themselves of enjoying without interruption, as a prelude to exercises which dare not be mentioned. The state in which the place was kept was revolting in the extreme. The women had no other beds than those they made from wool in the grease. There was no attempt to separate the women from the men. Sydney, like Hobart Town, was simply, as the first minister of religion declared it, 'Hell upon earth.'" Thus two amongst the most beautiful countries on the face of the earth were first peopled by the scum which rises on the surface of the very worst classes of society. Now, at this day, New South Wales contains nearly two hundred ministers, representing the various religious denominations, and has over three hundred churches, with accommodation for 60,000 persons. There are over 1000 Sunday-schools, and 7000 Sunday school teachers. It gives high-class education with its several universities and public educational establishments. It has 7000 miles of telegraph lines; it has spent eleven millions in railways; has 760 post-offices; while no less than £800,000 are annually spent upon charitable institutions from money privately donated, or voted by the Government and other public bodies. The "then" of Sydney fifty years ago with the "now" of Sydney in this present year of grace will be recorded in history as among the wonders of European colonisation.

NO. XXXI.

[By "SNYDER."]

THE PROGRESS OF VICTORIA AFTER THE GOLD DISCOVERIES.

It was inside of three years after the discovery of such enormous deposits of gold had been made in Victoria, and when the diggin 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 institutions made such rapid strides. No 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 discoveries, there were twenty-eight churches representing the principal religious denominations. 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 the gold out of the earth. Seven years subsequently 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 by Williamstown; in 1855 to Geelong. 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 Victoria 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 millions; the aggregate of the dividends declared and paid being thirteen per cent.

In 1851 the stock of the colony was:—Horses, twenty-one thousand; cattle, three hundred and seventy thousand; sheep, six millions, an increase which can only be viewed as something marvellous.

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 contended 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 enjoy 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 precedence of the Anglican bishop; nor should any Roman Catholic bishop be recognised 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 difference eventually subsided, 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 Melbourne journals, so many hells. The cruelties inflicted by Captain Price in the treatment of criminals, formed one continued 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, suspended 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 notorious 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 Melville'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 exultation 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 confinement; 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