

up like a Frenchman's on a head inclining to be bald, & a red sun-scorched face & the nether garments generally of the same check as L^d Brougham's. He is very close about himself, but gradually there has oozed out the fact he spent 4 or 5 years in Australia 7 or 8 yrs ago, connected with the Press: but since then he has been wandering in Japan China India, the Mauritius & the Cape: but whether this tour has been in connection with the press or not I can't say yet. I suppose it will all transpire some time: the closest of mortals must have some weaker moment in which his heart will unfold itself, especially in the many-sided intimacy of board ~~that~~ life: & even if he is not amenable to the softer influences of friendship envy & malice are pretty sure to discover it with a different intent. He seems disposed to be pretty generally attentive, & does not object to playing whist with elderly ladies

which perhaps is not so much a sacrifice to him, as he is not a great player. We have a very good quartet every evening, namely Leather Gubbins & I; Gubbins is the only blot, as he only plays a very plain game, & evidently does not care much for either fortune. But if Smythe is beginning to be generally useful, what are his efforts compared with those of his almost namesake, Smith? His Ballarat enthusiasm has brought him early to the front, & has volunteered a lead in anything. He is unfortunately not very refined, & ~~is~~ evidently risen from the ranks, so his boisterous energy is not so ornamental as useful. He has displayed considerable ingenuity in starting a daily sweep on the run - 10 members, 1/4 each, on the very simple plan of each drawing 1 of the 10 numbers, 1 of which must of course appear as the last figure in the daily run & the holder of that number