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PORT LINCOLN AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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In South Australia, as in all new colonies, it has been too much the custom with interested parties to decry one part of the colony with the view of extolling the advantages and enhancing the value of another.

Unfortunately for Port Lincoln, it has hitherto stood in the former of these positions, having unadvisedly been made the subject of much misrepresentation on the part of persons interested in the land of the Adelaide and Murray districts. The principle on which these misrepresentations are founded is a bad one, and it can only be acted upon from forgetting that the mere success of Adelaide and its neighbourhood can never make South Australia a great province. As Port Lincoln, however, is now exciting considerable interest in various parts of the world, but more particularly among the friends of South Australia in England, a short sketch of this important settlement may serve to counteract much of the prejudice which it has been the object of certain parties injuriously to excite against it, and it may not at the same time be altogether uninteresting to the general reader.

The Port Lincoln special survey was taken on the 27th February, 1839, in the centre of Boston Bay, on entering which, and rounding Boston Island, a fine harbour is discovered—perhaps one of the finest in the world—forming a perfect semi-circle, entirely land-locked, with deep water close to the shore. The town takes in all the sweep of the fine beach, and the general rise immediately at the back, forming one of the most beautiful sites for a large city, that imagination can possibly depict. The general character of the land for ten miles round is open she-oak forest, with good soil on a fine limestone stratum. The

scenery from the hill at the back of the town is magnificent, about two thirds of the edges of the beautiful bay being a fine beach, and the remainder bold rocks, which, by merely facing down, might be rendered as fine quays as any in England, with water to float a five hundred ton ship alongside them. To the north-east of the town is Happy Valley, a fertile spot of about two hundred acres, on which are to be seen many excellent gardens, affording in their present appearance abundant proof of the richness and capabilities of the soil. The river Tod, a stream of about one hundred feet in breadth, and thirty feet in depth, lies in the same direction, running several miles into the country, its source being in the Mount Gawler range, about eighteen miles distant. The soil of the valley, through which the river flows is of a very superior quality, and is now laid out by Government in eighty-acre sections. Mount Gawler, too, is an important feature in this district, extensive sheep runs diverging from this point, in several directions, and great quantities of good agricultural land being available at its base. The Government survey has now been proceeded with to the extent of six thousand acres, and yet the Government surveyors have advanced but a very short distance from the township, and the four thousand acres first taken and laid out by the original settlers. Besides, well-informed parties, now on the spot, are prepared to point out many thousands of acres, all available in blocks of from two hundred to one thousand acres each. The climate of Port Lincoln, too, as is proved by the tables very carefully kept by Dr. Harvey, and periodically published in the newspapers of the province, is considerably cooler than in any of the settlements in St. Vincent's Gulf.

The visit of his Excellency Colonel Gawler to Port Lincoln in the beginning of 1840 is fresh in the recollection of many of my readers, as is also the exceedingly favorable report he published on his return. Speaking of the valley of the Tod, and the Port Lincoln Downs, he says—"After carefully considering the agricultural and pastoral capabilities of the two lines of country, I am gratified to be able to offer, as my decided opinion, that there is in this immediate neighbourhood, available land enough, *at the least*, to support a respectable port. The object of my visit is satisfied—with the country referred to, I am very much pleased—the pasturage is very good, and the agricultural tracts rich and beautiful." Again, speaking of Boston Bay, in the same report, Colonel Gawler observes—"Boston Bay is one of the finest harbours in the world. Its natural scenery is little if at all inferior to Rio Janeiro. As a port it is as secure, and more convenient. The available land *in its neighbourhood* may well support a population of FIVE THOUSAND SOULS." Very extensive tracts of

available land have, however, been discovered, since Colonel Gawler's visit, one of which, lying in the direction of Coffin's Bay, is thus described by Dr. Harvey, a persevering and enterprising explorer.—“In this direction,” says Dr. Harvey, “for sixty miles, there is much good land, and a great quantity of fresh water. At least two-thirds of this peninsula is fit for sheep or cattle runs, and the valleys are admirably adapted for tillage.” No resident has hitherto explored the country to a greater distance than seventy miles from the township, and the farthest station is within thirty miles.

It may be useful, however, as a matter of reference to those more particularly interested in the Port Lincoln district, to lay before them a few of the present statistical facts in a tabular form.

STATISTICS OF PORT LINCOLN AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD,
UP TO OCTOBER, 1841.

Acres of land taken by Special Survey and selected.....	4000
Do. Surveyed by Government, but not selected.....	6000
Do. Unsurveyed, but available for agricultural purposes.....	20000
Do. available for sheep and cattle runs—an immense number in all directions, as far as the settlers have gone, except due west.....	
First class houses in town.....	20
Second do. do.....	20
Cottages.....	20
Acres of land in cultivation.....	143
Present number of sheep.....	6600
Do. do. of cattle.....	450
Do. do. of horses.....	18
Do. do. of goats and pigs.....	100
Present population.....	195

From the above, which is under rather than over the real facts of the case, it will be easy to form a tolerably correct estimate of the amount of capital already invested in this very important part of the province. The estimated value of the different species of property may be stated thus—

ESTIMATED VALUE OF PROPERTY IN PORT LINCOLN AND
ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD, UP TO OCTOBER, 1841.

4,000 acres of land, selected, and paid for, at 20s. per acre.....	£4,000
6,000 acres of land surveyed, but not selected, at the average cost of say 2s. 6d. per acre.....	750
8 first class houses at £500 each.....	4,000
20 second class houses at £60 each.....	1,200
20 cottages at £25 each.....	500
143 acres of land under cultivation, at an expense of £9 per acre.....	1,187
6,600 sheep at 20s. each.....	6,600
450 cattle at £6 10s. per head.....	2,925
18 horses at £30 each.....	540
100 goats and pigs at £1 10s. each.....	150
Furniture, implements of husbandry, personal effects, and other sundries.....	2,148
	24,000

The Government establishment of Port Lincoln consists of a harbour master, a resident magistrate, and clerk, who discharges the

duties of collector of customs and post-master, a serjeant of police and four constables.

Hitherto, I have confined myself to a description of the country, and to the amount of capital invested in Port Lincoln and its neighbourhood, but I must now say a word or two upon the subject of its productions. A species of native flax, growing to the height of four feet, is found in great abundance at Boston Island, and is now used by the labouring people for filling their beds, but might be advantageously substituted for flax of New Zealand growth. Freestone, in every respect similar to that found at Bath, exists in great abundance, and, being sawn, or squared by the axe, gives to the buildings composed of it an appearance of comfort and elegance not usually seen in the formation of a new town. A beautiful red wood is obtained at Coffin's Bay, and on the edge of the Port Lincoln swamp, from the flooded gum tree, many thousand feet of which have been used in the settlement for joists, battens, and flooring boards, and, in many instances, for articles of furniture. The plains between Port Lincoln and Coffin's Bay are literally covered with kangaroo, and wild ducks and Cape geese are found in all the islands in Spencer's Gulf in great numbers. Oysters are to be found in the bay, and fish of every kind is very abundant. The eggs of the various sea-fowl are obtained by thousands in the months of August, September, October, and November; as many as five thousand of the eggs of the mutton-bird being sometimes procured on a single island, a great quantity of which are brought to the Adelaide market. Seals are found in great numbers on all the low islands in Spencer's Gulf, and whales are repeatedly to be seen from the houses at Port Lincoln, floating about in the bay. Vines have been planted by Dr. Harvey, and Mr. White, and are looking remarkably promising and healthy. Finer crops of wheat were never produced, than those now growing at the several locations in this neighbourhood; the crops of oats, barley, turnips, mangel wurzel, and every variety of garden produce, for the season, having also done exceedingly well. The exports, though small in quantity, consist of wool, oil, skins, whalebone, potatoes, corn, fish, wood, stone, lime, feathers, butter, cheese, and sundry other articles—many of which will now be greatly increased—the attention of the settlers being at the present time so far directed to agriculture as to lead them to expect from three to four hundred acres of land under crop next season.

I have as yet taken "my stand on solid—solid land"—and have said nothing of the "open sea." Look at the map, and you will perceive from this part to the westernmost extremity of the province—

“barren sand hills,” says the traveller—“these in fact are *universal*.” True; so are bays, and coves, and inlets *UNIVERSAL*—literally teeming with live oil, which the prevailing winds, with the requisite amount of human industry, would at once bring up to the head quarters pointed out by nature—*BOSTON BAY*. Last year, four French whalers and one American fished between this place and Fowler’s Bay; and this year, at least six foreigners are on the fishing ground, taking away the riches which we neglect. A small branch establishment of the Adelaide Fishing Company at Sleaford Bay is all that has as yet been attempted; although it is well known that no less than thirty-two whales have been seen in Boston Bay this year. The attention of the settlers at Port Lincoln is too much directed just now to pastoral or agricultural pursuits, and their means too limited to allow of their establishing a fishing company themselves; but, were one once started, there is little doubt of their readiness to enter cordially into it. Several excellent spots, admirably adapted for whaling stations, can be pointed out, and to me it appears quite evident, that the whale fishery ere long will be one of the principal sources of the wealth of the Port Lincoln settlers. Of this, I am so fully satisfied, in my mind, it is hardly possible to lay too much stress upon this one fact, any attempt to describe the capabilities of this district.

I have thrown together these facts as a challenge—in all courtesy—to the interested opponents of this beautiful portion of our province, and if they add any thing to the *particular* interests of Port Lincoln, in connection with the more *general* ones of our adopted land, my most ardent wishes will be accomplished. Of this I am quite confident, that a settlement upon which £24,000 has already been expended, and in which there are so many facilities for the safe investment of capital, and the future acquisition of wealth, cannot long be overlooked. Among other reasons, for its not having hitherto made greater advances in its strides towards true and lasting prosperity, is the general depression under which the whole colony has laboured, in consequence of the sudden and unexpected check upon the general expenditure of the province; but as this is now in a great measure removed, and as the advantages of Port Lincoln and its neighbourhood are becoming more generally known; its friends may look forward with confidence to its progressive improvement at an accelerated pace. Its pastoral, agricultural, and general capabilities, as detailed with a strict regard to fidelity and accuracy in the foregoing statements, are such as must eventually render it one of the most prosperous districts of this colony.

The expected arrival of the Orissa at Port Lincoln, direct from London, is but the commencement of a series of fortunate circumstances, con-

nected with this interesting and rising settlement, which must force a knowledge of its great capabilities upon the attention of the public, both in this colony and in England.

Adelaide, Oct. 18th, 1841.

TO ELIZABETH, ON HER BIRTH-DAY.

ACCOMPANIED WITH A WREATH OF THE FLOWER "EVERLASTING."

SWEET LIZZY! on thy natal day,
 I fain thy youthful brow would wreath
 With flowers, as beautiful and gay,
 As e'er in Spring their odours breathe;
 But ah! sad Autumn's dismal reign
 Hath swept with desolating power,
 O'er grove and garden, hill and plain,
 And left us scarce one lingering flower.
 Just so my heart, in sorrow's thrall,
 Mourns o'er its sweetest pleasures gone,
 And vainly would my lute recall
 Some portion of its former tone;
 Its notes of joy too long have slept,
 To wake the tuneless chords again—
 My heart too long, too often wept—
 It cannot breathe one joyous strain!
 Yet, though a melancholy veil
 Hangs o'er my bosom's sunshine now—
 Though Autumn flowers are all too pale
 To bind on youth's unclouded brow—
 Dear Lizzy! wilt thou pause to hear
 Affection's sad, but tender lay—
 A fervent prayer, a wish sincere,
 For blessings on thy future day?
 Thou wilt—for thou hast learned to prize
 The faithfulness of Christian love,
 And from this world to raise thine eyes,
 To brighter, happier realms above;
 To scorn the fleeting joys of earth,
 And pant for bliss that ne'er will cease—
 To seek a new, a heavenly birth—
 A life of holiness and peace.
 Then, sweetest girl! accept this wreath
 Of flowers we "everlasting" style—
 Types of that victory, e'en in death,
 Which makes the dying Christian smile—
 Emblems of Heaven's unfading bloom,
 And those celestial, radiant flowers,
 Those thornless roses that perfume
 Eternity's unsullied bowers.
 May'st thou, my young and ardent friend,
 Still keep those glorious scenes in view;
 May grace and truth thy steps attend,
 And day by day thy strength renew.
 Then, though these flowers, despite their name,
 Must yield at last to Nature's doom,
 In Heaven thy soul may humbly claim
 A wreath of everlasting bloom.

Adelaide, Sept., 1841.

MALVINA

FIRST CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE.

Omnia mutantur; mortali lege creata,
Nec cognoscunt terræ, vertentibus annis.

MANILII ASTRON.

Translated thus—

All things must change, as years decay,
And earth scarce knows herself from day to day,
The nations take such carnival disguises,
The general mother's bother'd with surprises.

ADELAIDE—THE CITY of Adelaide—what a strange cognomen to apply to a spot five years ago the mere haunt of the savage, the kangaroo, or the native dog! The CORPORATION of the City of Adelaide—the FIRST Corporation of the City of Adelaide—what a strange association of ideas is elicited by this phrase—a band of enterprising settlers, not only having located themselves on the plains of Adelaide, and gathered around them, in the space of five years, the comforts and advantages of civilized life, but having aspired to the distinction of a “city,” and having amongst them at the present moment a number of gentlemen with all their civic honors “blushing: thick upon them.”

Let men regard the above in whatever other light they may, they must at least admit, as the celebrated philosopher of Verulam has it, that “time is one of the greatest of innovators;” and, without exposing themselves to the charge of rank heresy, they can hardly deny, with such evidence before them, that “truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.” In the midst of the chances and changes passing around us—chances and changes accompanied with a general *debâcle* of the human intellect in reference to the whims and fancies of our progenitors—and chances and changes which—

As years decay,

Make earth scarce know herself from day to day—

there stands the City of Adelaide—the celebrated “city of the desert”—not the prototype of a series of Indian wig-wams—nor yet the twin sister of a large collection of rudely constructed native wurleys—but a good substantial, brick-and-stone-built city—with its churches and chapels, its public buildings and its private residences, which do as much credit to the ingenuity and skill of its artists and artificers, as they do to the liberality and enterprise both of the governing and the governed. Nor is this all; the city of Adelaide—as we have already supposed—not consisting of a gathering together of the scattered remnants of our common humanity, incapable of the power and appliances of self-government—but of a confederated band of some six or seven thousand souls, enjoying all the advantages of a general colonial government, and, in addition to these, exhibiting the first example in the history of a British colony of the possession of the will and the power to take into their own hands the management of their municipal affairs—a court composed of fifteen common councillors, three aldermen, and a mayor, being appointed for this purpose—a court amenable

for their acts in the first place to the bar of public opinion, and next to the twitchings and goadings of their own consciences.

In remarking upon persons or public bodies, the task of individualizing is always difficult, and sometimes invidious. The difficulty arises from so many points of resemblance, and so few of discrepancy, existing among public men—a fact which leads us too commonly to infer, that there is “a distinction without a difference;” and the invidiousness, from too great a proneness to be startled at our own pictures when fairly and honestly drawn, or to yield ourselves up to undue influences when attempting to draw the pictures of others. This difficulty, however, is not insuperable, nor is the execution of the task of individualizing upon others inseparably allied to invidiousness. An apt illustration of the truth of this may be afforded in an attempt to immortalize THE FIRST CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE, and in thus endeavouring to hand down to posterity the names of a few of its leading and most influential members.

At the time of the election of the first Town Council in 1840, a disposition existed on the part of the constituency generally to return a body of thinking and really respectable men, and in this they so far succeeded as to raise to the civic board a number of gentlemen whose rank in life and habits of business were considered unexceptionable. At the close of the election, the rate-payers congratulated themselves, that, in the event of their straying accidentally into the council chamber, they should at least be exempt from the bore of listening to what Curran has designated—the eloquent and impressive speeches of the gentlemen “in the dirty shirt and greasy breeches.” It does not however, appear, to have been anticipated, that so many of their representatives would have “made themselves thin air, into which they vanished,” as soon as the ink on the declaration of office was dry; much less, that they would have left their less fortunate, but not less conscientious compeers, to wage an unequal warfare, during the greater part of their retention of office, with those “raw-heads and bloody-bones of combatants”—the public and the public press. This circumstance, however, is not without its advantages—as it will restrict the present notice of the Town Council to seven or eight of its members—the gentlemen most remarkable for their attendance, if not indeed the standing quorum of the corporation for the year.

At the head of the list, we place his Worship, JAMES HURTLE FISHER, Esq., the first Mayor of Adelaide, and the first Resident Commissioner of the province of South Australia. Mr. Fisher is a practising conveyancer and barrister, and is acknowledged to be well skilled in the law of real estate. When a member of the legislative council, previous to the union of the Resident Commissionership with that of the Governorship of the province, he prepared the drafts of two bills for the regulation of the transfer of property, both of which were subsequently published, and are understood in some degree to form the basis of the Registration Act now passed into a law. Mr. Fisher's practice as a conveyancer is very extensive, and his briefs at the civil sittings of the supreme court are numerous. As a public speaker, Mr. Fisher has attained no great celebrity, his attention

being rather directed to the facts at issue, than to any adventitious aids to be derived from vehemence of style, or mere rhetorical flourishes. His flow of language is not always such as to enable him to open his case with such perspicuity and forcibleness as might be desired, but he invariably shows himself perfectly master of his subject, and addresses himself to its various points with a pertinacity not to be shaken by any of the flippancies or impertinencies of opposing counsel. As a public man, Mr. Fisher is not superior to what the world may think of his actions, nor does he indeed appear to have any great dread of the scriptural denunciation—"Wo unto you, when all men speak well of you"—but seems rather to court it. With a desire to appear in any other light, than in that of a party man, Mr. Fisher assumes an air of the most perfect independence, but in giving his decision—or in expressing his opinion—he strikes a careful balance in his own mind between the loss he shall sustain, or the advantages he shall secure, in point of popularity, by the adoption of an opposite course. In truth, he does not like his "conscience to budge" upon any hard run question, or even upon the most trifling point, unless the world goes with him. His great fault seems to lie in his inability to say—*Nay*—if it is to subject him to the least harshness of criticism, or the least unkindness of feeling. As a gentleman, in person, in manners, and in feeling, Mr. Fisher is universally respected, but as the depository of the highest civic honors it was in the power of the corporation to bestow, he is thought to have manifested a want of firmness. His countenance is sufficiently intelligent, without being peculiarly striking, and his age from fifty to fifty-five.

The personal appearance of MR. ALDERMAN DAVIS is just that of a worthy representative of one of the London guilds, transferred from the Metropolis of the British empire to vegetate in the province of South Australia. Without any pretensions to the highest order of intellectuality, Mr. Davis possesses a quickness of apprehension, a solidity of judgment, and a command of language, not ordinarily met with in the same person. His habits of business as a merchant are exceedingly active, and his reputation as a naturalist, and as a person of general knowledge, is considerable. With no desire to appear otherwise than what he really is, Mr. Davis comes to the consideration of a subject with great calmness and self-possession, and expresses himself upon it without the least concern as to the way in which it may tell upon himself. His subject is evidently uppermost in his mind at the time he is speaking, and his own interests, or personal feelings, are consequently kept in the back-ground. His opinions are either the result of a sort of intuitive perspicacity, or of much deep reflection, and are always expressed with firmness and decision, but never with a want of courtesy, or with an air of dogmatism, although with evident indifference as to their results. With Mr. Davis, there is no moral equivocation, no tampering with personal projects, no desire to keep up the appearance of favoring one object whilst he is in reality serving another. He knows nothing of that "half-faced fellowship," which leads a man to compound matters very amicably with his conscience and his character, and to proceed no further in the

cause he espouses than may be done without risking his popularity. In fact, Mr. Davis possesses most of the qualities of a useful public man, and it is to be regretted, that he should have resigned his charge into the hands of his constituents, and have refused to allow himself to be put in nomination for another year. No member of the Town Council worked harder, or with more singleness of purpose. He is now in the prime of life, being just on the wrong side of forty, with a sound body in a sound mind.

On entering the council chamber, and narrowly observing MR. ALDERMAN SMILLIE, a perfect stranger would be at a loss to form an opinion either of his intellectual calibre, or of his general personal qualities. Seated in the Aldermanic chair, with his chin deeply buried in his breast, and apparently indifferent to what is passing around him, he still conveys the impression of one who is not thoroughly absent, but who loves to indulge, on ordinary occasions, in the quiet and contemplative. In his features there is a kind of hardness, or rigidity, which does not often relax, without, however, giving the idea of any unkindness of sentiment, or any discontent of feeling, either with himself or others. His habitudes of thought, having, for the most part, been in a legal direction, have given to his modes of expressing himself a terseness, and a closeness to the point, which sometimes appears harsh and dry, but which frequently proves to others the starting point for renewed discussion. With an apparent rusticity of manners, and with an obvious disinterestedness of purpose, he studiously sets his face against all attempts at innovation. "the powers that be," and, in this respect, is anxious to maintain his allegiance without a flaw—like "one entire and perfect chrysolite." If the question, however, were one between two equally constituted authorities, on which he was called to express an opinion, the chances indeed are, that his verdict would be influenced in some degree by a virtuous regard to the interests of the weaker. Under no other circumstances, does he ever boggle, or give back at a pinch, but invariably shows that his leanings are all on the side of power. In his place in the council, he never troubled himself much with the drier details of the working of the machinery, but reserved himself for "state occasions," on which his opinions were generally looked for and valued. A question having arisen on one occasion as to the propriety of the Mayor's affixing his title to any public document, not exclusively connected with the corporation, Mr. Alderman Smillie, in perfect accordance with his habitual leanings, hastily told the Town Council that were he in the situation of the Mayor "he would not care a snuff" for any of their decisions, but would affix his name and title to any document he pleased, if he felt himself to be right. Mr. Smillie's great experience in business, however, and his extensive knowledge of the world, greatly outweigh any defects in his habits of thinking, which a more than ordinary share of hypercriticism might enable us to detect and expose. He is now, perhaps, in his sixtieth year, but is as fresh and as vigorous in his intellect as when only half his present age.

MR. ALDERMAN STEVENSON'S position in the colony, as the editor of one of our colonial newspapers, renders the attempt at an out-