

LITERATURE.

MOVE ON!

The march of life should never stay,
All things should onwards tend;
Man should not clog progression's way,
But strive to move and mend.
The waters move in depths of ocean,
The streams along the dales;
And rivulets, with onward motion,
Through sweet and verdant vales
Move on!

The clouds move gently through the sky,
The earth rolls ever on;
Time swiftly in his course runs by,
And years pass, one by one.
Man, too, should strive to follow them,
In this their onward way,
Permitting nought the tide to stem,
But ever, day by day,
Move on!

Men may be wiser, if they strive—
More virtuous, if they will;
And who, within this world, would thrive,
Must aim at higher still!
Let priests stand firm by doctrines old,
The wise will pass them by;
Weak minds may cling with subtle hold,
But strong ones valiantly
Move on!

Statesmen in vain, of days gone by,
May prate that they were best;
Our goal must ever forward lie,
Progression gives us zest.
Our destiny is centred here,
Deluded by no creed;
We know not terror, heed not fear,
But still, with greater speed,
Move on!

Like waters rolling to the ocean,
Down mountains piled on high—
Like clouds for ever in commotion,
That move across the sky—
Will we for ever onward press,
Thus fetterless and free;
And deeming virtue happiness,
Our watchword ever be,
Move on!

M. C. C.

A *Geographical Dictionary of the Australian Colonies, illustrated with numerous maps and drawings.* By William Henry Wells, Surveyor. W. and F. Ford, Sydney.

SUCH a work as the one before us has long been in request, and the want of it has been severely and generally felt. We hail, therefore, with extreme pleasure its appearance, as we have every reason to think that it will prove a valuable addition to our colonial library. This book professes to give a succinct and correct description of all the localities of any importance whatever in the Australian Colonies. From the variety of topics which are necessarily embraced in a work of this nature, and the multitudinous facts which are contained in it, it may be inferred that many errors and omissions have been made, which were to a considerable extent unavoidable. There can be, however, no peculiar objection to this publication on this score,—all works of a like nature are incorrect in some respects especially in a first edition. We shall before concluding, point out a few instances of omissions and errors having in our opinion been made, and we trust that the compiler will in a second edition which we have no doubt will be called for, rectify such mistakes. The labour he has already had in collecting materials must have been very considerable, engaged as he has been in the task for eight years; and his research has been very extended, as the list of books which he consulted, about fifty in number, fully testifies. These are to a certain extent vouchers both for the completeness and for the correctness of the information which is given us. The number of the drawings is considerably smaller than we expected, and two of them, although the best of the four, representing East Boyd, and whale fishing at Twofold Bay, as they only relate to places of minor importance, should not have appeared to the exclusion of others possessing more interest to the general reader. A view of Melbourne, of Adelaide, Hobart Town, or any such place would be infinitely preferable to either of them. In the maps we are completely disappointed,—a judicious selection has not been made, and those which are presented to us are very inferior,—in fact, utterly unworthy of the work. Our English friends will have but a very poor opinion of the artistic resources of the colony, if they judge by these maps. These faults, however, are remediable as we are certain that better illustrations can be executed in the colony.

We shall now notice a few inaccuracies which in glancing through the pages of the publication we have fallen in with, and we do so not with any desire of prejudicing the work in the estimation of the public, as works of this kind are peculiarly liable to errors, but with a view to point out the necessity for its careful revision. In giving a description of a town or any locality it is certainly no easy task to make a judicious statement of particulars, which shall leave nothing to be desired for, and yet contain nothing superfluous. Nor is this difficulty surmounted in the work before us. The chief fault which is apparent in the publication is the want of a methodical delineation of the characteristics of places. There is no rule attempted so far as we can see, to be adhered to. The descriptions are jumbled and chaotic, and the order used in speaking of one locality, is forgotten in the next, although the places are of the same sort. The consequence is that in describing a town for instance, many particulars are not given, which however are essential; and a trifling place often occupies a page, while more important places are despatched in a few words. Thus although we have an elaborate description of Hobart Town, no mention is made of its population, while in a much shorter description we are told the population of Launceston. In describing Liverpool the author informs us where it is situated, and then he proceeds to tell us of its

population, afterwards delineating its boundaries. In describing Campbelltown this order is changed; we are told of its whereabouts, and then of its boundaries, while the account of its population and the number of its houses are very awkwardly tacked on to the last line. These may appear trifling matters to some, and so undoubtedly they are when considered individually, but when they characterise a publication they become important, and in the present instance along with other trifling defects of a similar nature, they impart a slovenly appearance to the execution of the work. The author would have found it much easier to have laid down rules for describing places, giving similar particulars in a similar order. Thus when giving information respecting a mountain, the writer, after naming it, and reciting any particulars connected with its name, should state its locality, its height above the level of the sea, and the nature of its composition, concluding with any general particulars relating to it of an interesting and peculiar nature. But what information do we gain from such a description as this, "TANGULGA. Is situated on the Namroy river, in the district of Liverpool Plains, N. S. W." What is TANGULGA? A river, hill, town, village, mountain, creek, or any thing the fancy can refer it to. Of what use is it to insert such descriptions? Yet in the same page we find three or four names of the same visionary nature; and throughout the book there are numerous instances of names which suggest irresistibly the idea of disembodied spirits, possessing no features by which we can identify them. We know that there is a mountain called Tanguila, near Liverpool Plains, and this knowledge enables us to make the supposition that this tantalizing Tanguila is a misprint for Tanguila. Some places, however, have the misfortune not to be mentioned in the work at all. Thus, although mention is made of a George's River in Tasmania, the George's River which flows into Botany Bay is forgotten, so far as we can see. Also the remarkable volcano called Wingen, at Liverpool Plains, which we think is entitled to notice in a work where the most insignificant station finds a place, is not alluded to. We could point out many other instances of omission, or at least what we cannot help considering omission, but these will suffice to support our remarks. As consequences of the want of a system by which to be guided, we find that the description of Dungog, a village containing 124 inhabitants and 25 houses, occupies the same space as that of West Maitland, a town with a population of 2409, and with 558 houses, that is, rather more than a page; while the important seaport town of Wollongong is despatched in five lines! But, what is more surprising, these five lines give us almost as much information concerning Wollongong, as is conveyed to us about Dungog in upwards of fifty! The compiler has, at least in one instance, sadly marred the alphabetical order, by which we were almost cheated into accusing him of having made several important omissions. If pages 60 and 88 are consulted, it will be found that the letter O is made to precede the letter L, by which transposition we are treated to the defectable description of Boyd Town, before being introduced to the Blackwattle Swamp, to Bligh, or to the Blue Mountains. Then, again, we were sadly puzzled to find out the description of Lake Alexandrina: we pored frequently and carefully over the columns of AL, but without success; when, luckily, we bethought ourselves of looking at the word Lake, when, to our gratification, we discovered the truant. But it by no means follows that all lakes are described under the term Lake. Lake George, for example, is described in the proper place, viz., at the word George. The same contempt of perspicuity in arrangement is evinced in the description of Capes, and in other cases. This we consider a great defect in the work.

In describing the Sydney Press, the writer states that the *Courier, Times, and Squatter*, rank among the list of newspapers. We found fault with him before for presenting us with undefinable shadows in place of substantialities, now his error is reversed, and he gives to "airy nothing a local habitation and a name." The projectors of the abortive attempts at starting new journals, have the satisfaction of seeing their handlings enjoy at least an imaginary existence; or rather must they not be greatly chagrined to find that the evidence of their unsuccessful efforts will always stare them in the face, recalling unpleasant recollections? It is really a cruelly kind blunder.

The compiler's description of Port Essington, which by the way must be looked for under the word *Port*, is far too favourable, and is evidently taken from the glowing accounts set forth at the time of forming the settlement.

The Asylum at Tarban is not now under the superintendence of Mr. and Mrs. Digby, nor is Dr. Lee the medical officer. Dr. Francis Campbell, the author should have known, is now medical superintendent of the establishment, and we believe that Digby is retained as head-keeper. However this inaccuracy is excusable, as the change has so recently taken place.

The errors we have noticed, we are not at all surprised at; indeed we were prepared for meeting more flagrant and outrageous ones. This work, and every one of a similar nature must go through several editions before it can be purged of all inaccuracies, and before omissions can be filled up. But there is a notable violation of decency in this work, which we fear will effectually injure its character. It possesses so much of the grotesque and ludicrous indeed that it is more calculated to excite laughter than any thing else, although we fear that the author will find it no laughing matter. Our respected friend Benjamin Boyd, who seems bent upon earning distinction some how, has it is evident managed through the medium of this publication, to get his interests indirectly consulted and advocated. In what other way can we account for the fact that two of the four engravings represent the one East Boyd, and the other Whaling off the Boyd Town Lighthouse. This, however, is a trifle. Let us turn to Boyd Town and we shall find this El Dorado of Mr. Boyd's morbid imagination, occupying upwards of sixteen pages in its description. Did we say description? We might have excused that, and have merely found with it the general fault of superfluity. But nearly fourteen of these sixteen pages are devoted to the host of certificates setting forth the peculiar merits of Boyd Town, with the most of which said certificates, the public, on a certain occasion some four or five months ago, were nauseated in the columns of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. In this violation of propriety, we are at a loss which to wonder at most, the folly and egotism evinced in the continued obtrusion of himself and affairs upon the public, on the part of Mr. Boyd, or the suicidal conduct of the author, in thus

prejudicing the sale of his work, as will unquestionably be the case, by allowing it to become a vehicle for the advocacy of private interest. The gross impropriety of devoting so much valuable space to the consideration of this comparatively insignificant locality, in a book claiming a general interest, will be more apparent when we compare it with the description of Sydney, the Capital of Australia, which occupies scarcely three pages. Were it not that we trust to all this superfluous matter being expunged, and in consideration of the numerous merits of the work, we should most certainly condemn it as a party production, and wholly unworthy of public patronage. As it is, we recommend it to the public, not certainly as a publication devoid of faults, but as one which supplies us with a vast deal of information, of which we ought not to be ignorant, and which no other work can give us, and at all events as a work which is extremely valuable if we regard it merely as the rough material out of which a correct and perfect gazetteer of the Australian Colonies may be compiled.

We have almost forgotten to notice the introductory Poem on Australia, by S. P. Hill, which, despite some feeble lines, and trifling ideas, is one of the best pieces which we have seen produced in the colony. Indeed it took us somewhat by surprise, being much superior to most of the author's productions. The lines—

Far, far beyond, prolific rears spread,
Where whispering winds have made their balmy bed,
Disturb'd but by a LEICHHARDT'S daring tread.

are extremely felicitous.

Journal of an Overland Expedition in Australia, from Moreton Bay to Port Essington, during the Years 1844-1845. By Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt. Boone.

The expedition described in this book excited great interest during its progress. The smallness of the party, the scantiness of its equipment, and the enormous tract of country proposed to be explored, stamped it at its commencement with a character of rashness; and when several months had passed without any tidings of the travellers, the people of Sydney generally gave them up for lost. Two parties successively went out in search of them, or, failing their discovery, to ascertain their fate; but neither could get upon their track, or learn anything concerning them: and when at last they reappeared, after more than fifteen months' absence, the delight and gratitude of the colonists of Sydney took a very substantial form. Upwards of fifteen hundred pounds were collected for them by public subscription; and a gratuity of a thousand pounds was voted to them by the Legislative Council of the colony. Doctor Leichhardt has since received, too, the latest honours of the Geographical Societies of London and Paris. The successful issue of his perilous enterprise, the fortitude and perseverance displayed by the persons engaged in it, the advantages derived from it to general science, and in particular to the colony and society of Sydney, were the proper and sufficient justification of these well-merited rewards.

The details of the expedition, in which a distance of upwards of three thousand miles was traversed, are given by Doctor Leichhardt in this volume, and will be read with great interest. He was the originator, director, and animating soul of the enterprise, from its commencement to its close. He limited the party, in the first instance, to five besides himself; exacting from them the condition that they were to be contented with animal food, patiently to submit to every other privation, and resign themselves implicitly to his guidance: but, on similar conditions, he allowed four additional persons to join them at Brisbane. It seems clear that it was by these prudent precautions, by confining provisions and stores to what were actually necessary, and by keeping the expedition as far as possible in what Doctor Leichhardt calls "light marching order," they were able to encounter the difficulties of the broken mountainous countries through which they passed, to endure the unusual privations to which they were subjected, and at last to achieve success. They took with them seventeen horses and sixteen head of cattle; and not the least interesting part of the Doctor's narrative relates to his brute companions. The bullocks were highly unmanageable at first; but ropes, iron nose-rings, and other artifices, were some check to their refractory bluntness; and the familiarity of constant association, and of common wants and dangers, seems to have made it at last quite a family party of "man and beast." The horses, the dogs, and the bullocks, came to have each their peculiar character, their marked individuality, their (as it were) personal interest for the men; and when the expedition fell upon its evil days—horses drowned, dogs lost, and bullocks of necessity killed—it was with no small grief they lost the old familiar brutish faces. The men of education in the party, beside the Doctor himself, were four, well acquainted for the most part with Natural History pursuits; the attendants were two aboriginal natives, a Crown prisoner of Sydney, and a sturdy young lad.

We shall not attempt to give any outline of what befell the expedition. Some notion may be formed of what they had to contend with, when the reader is told, that, having stored themselves with provisions for seven months only, which the Doctor had calculated to be sufficient for the journey, they were nearly sixteen months in reaching Port Essington. "I was deeply affected," says Doctor Leichhardt, describing his arrival at the latter place, "in finding myself again in civilised society, and could scarcely speak, the words growing big with tears and emotion; and even now, when considering with what small means the Almighty had enabled me to perform such a long journey, my heart thrills in grateful acknowledgment." He had arrived at Port Essington, too, with the satisfactory sense of having been engaged in no thankless or profitless labour. The result of his enterprise was thoroughly successful. It has added not a little to our existing stock of knowledge in the various departments of natural history; and has made discovery, in districts before untrodden, of an almost boundless extent of fertile country, replete with means for the establishment and growth of civilisation, and connecting the Australian Continent with the shores of the Indian Ocean.

We shall borrow a few extracts from Dr. Leichhardt's unassuming yet most striking narrative, to show the character of the hardships endured, the dangers braved, and the almost insuperable difficulties surmounted by steady fortitude. After the eighth month their condition began to be very critical.

"When we left our last camp at the Lynd, John Murphy's pony was missing. Charley went to look for it, and did not join