

tion and military posts between her own shores and her invaluable Indian possessions.

In whatever point of view we regard the opening of a canal across the Isthmus, it must be confessed that it would rank as one of the mightiest achievements of the age. To restore or improve upon a work first brought into use by one of the greatest of the Ptolemies, and to increase the commerce and importance of a country once so famous as Egypt, would be objects well worthy of attainment, setting aside other considerations. A feeling of lofty enthusiasm attaches itself to the contemplation of everything connected with ancient Egypt. We gaze with awe and veneration upon her stupendous structures and mysterious monuments of the past. We explore her dilapidated cities and crumbling ruins, but find nothing, in the present state of the country or its inhabitants, at all reconcilable with what must have existed 3,000 years ago. Let us hope, however, that as other nations progress in the path of improvement, and as science and intellectual pursuits extend themselves, Egypt will yet be restored to something like its former greatness. Under a better and less oppressive system of government, great things might yet be achieved. It possesses a soil of surpassing fertility, and for every commercial purpose the ancient port of Alexandria, besides several other favourable maritime sites. As we have said, it probably belongs more especially to England, on account of her Indian possessions, to take the lead, as far as other nations can do so, in every practicable enterprise connected with the improvement of the passage through Egypt, and to lend a helping hand in measures calculated to benefit that present impoverished country, knowing that she will in the end reap the greatest advantages, and maintain uninterrupted intercourse with the most valuable part of her dominions. As a preliminary step to the construction of a canal, a fresh survey of the country, in order that the levels of the two seas may be correctly ascertained, appears to us indispensable, in which the co-operation of our Government, the India House authorities, and all public companies interested therein, should, if possible, be secured. With these suggestions we conclude, referring our readers to the details of the plan already printed for circulation.

RECOLLECTIONS OF SYDNEY.

The Colony of South Australia. By HANDASYDE DUNCAN, M.D., Health Officer at Port Adelaide. London: T. & W. Boone.

Recollections of Sydney. By B. C. ПЕЕК. London: John Mortimer, 69, Fleet-street.

THE works, the titles of which are prefixed, both bear witness to the astonishing progress which our Australian Colonies have made of recent years. The settlement of South Australia, in particular, affords the most remarkable example of the success of British enterprise in that quarter of the globe. Fourteen years ago that fine province was an untrodden wilderness; it now numbers a busy and prosperous population of upwards of 30,000 Colonists, and their numbers are rapidly and steadily increasing. And this result has taken place in spite of the most serious errors on the part of those who had the management of the enterprise at its outset. These, however, were far more than counterbalanced by the great natural advantages of the new settlement, and the indomitable energies of its first European inhabitants.

Dr. Duncan's pamphlet, which is confined entirely to this Colony, contains in a small compass much valuable and varied information. He informs us that there are at present but two kinds of emigrants required in South Australia. These are, capitalists and labourers; and he fixes the amount of capital which is requisite for success at a higher rate than is generally supposed. The reasons of his opinion, however, are stated at length, and the details which he furnishes, while discussing this important subject, will doubtless prove interesting to many of our readers:—

As an illustration of how money can be invested, I suppose the case of a person landing in the Colony with the sum of (£3,000*l.*) three thousand pounds to his credit in the bank, it is easy so to invest that sum that he may live in the Colony with independence and comfort.

If he intend to live in the country, his first object must be to select a section of good agricultural land; having fenced it in a substantial manner, he will build a cottage and offices, and furnish them with economy; he will again fence off about forty acres to be left in grass as a paddock for cows and horses, and about two acres for a garden and vineyard; and getting it properly trenched, he will be careful to have it stocked with rooted vines, and fruit-trees properly selected.

I suppose him to purchase a couple of good milch cows, and two horses which can be used for saddle or draught, with the necessary har-

ness, cart, plough, harrows, &c., and to engage two servants—a farm servant, who can plough, do ordinary agricultural work, cut firewood, draw water, and a strong female servant, who can milk the cows, make butter, wash, cook, and keep the house clean.

Having accomplished what I have stated, the newly-arrived Colonist will be in the following position:—in a healthy climate, on a farm belonging to himself, with a good house, plenty of fuel (firewood), water, milk, butter, eggs, fowls, pigs, and vegetables, all, after the first outlay, without cost. The following table will show what I believe to be a sufficient expenditure to place the Colonist in the position I have supposed:—

Section of land and expenses	£ 90
Fencing 80 acres at 6s. a rod	144
Cross fence to inclose 40 acres	24
Inclosing and trenching garden ground and vineyard	50
Stocking garden with rooted vines and fruit-trees	20
Building a good brick cottage of four rooms, with kitchen and outhouses of broad paling	400
Furniture	200
Two cows, 12 <i>l.</i> —two horses, 50 <i>l.</i>	62
Harness, cart, plough, harrows	34
	£1,024

In addition to what is already enumerated, in the course of three or four years his garden and vineyard will yield abundance of fruit, and wine, and brandy, far more than enough for his own consumption.

I do not suppose the Colonist to derive from the produce of his farm any income, but that whatever is grown or prepared adds to his personal comfort only, and that what is sold meets any extra labour which may be required at the harvest or vintage. The necessary expenditure not provided for by the produce of his farm may be estimated as follows:—

Wages of servants, a man and woman, per annum	£50
Meat, at the rate of about 30 <i>lbs.</i> a-week, at 3 <i>d.</i> , say	20
Tea 1 <i>lb.</i> per week, say at 2 <i>s.</i>	6
Sugar, 8 <i>lbs.</i> at 4 <i>d.</i> , say	7
Candles, oil, soap, salt, pepper, soda, blue, starch, &c., &c.	10
Clothing, say	50
	£143

In all these calculations the necessary expenditure is put down at a rate unnecessarily high, but I have done so that I may lead no one into error.

It is now required to be shown in what way the capital remaining unexpended is to be invested so as to produce the sum of 143*l.* per annum.

The capital unexpended I suppose to be, in round numbers, at (1,900*l.*) one thousand nine hundred pounds; and if I can satisfy an inquirer that 10 per cent. can easily be obtained for money, it will not only prove

that the capital remaining unexpended, in the supposed case I have adduced, is sufficient to meet the additional expenditure required, but that it will also enable the Colonist to lay aside money for future investment.

There is another subject on which, from his professional position in the Colony, Dr. Duncan is very competent to form a correct judgment. We mean as to the comparative salubrity of South Australia and Great Britain. It will be seen that upon the whole he gives the preference to our recent settlement in the Southern hemisphere, although he does not deny that it presents various disadvantages to the emigrant.

Many thousands die of consumption annually in Great Britain, while yet in the morning of life, when the pulse ought to beat time to health, when the step should be bounding, and the spirit as elastic as the step; but the poison is in the blood; and the habits of society, the system of education, and the climate of Great Britain all conspire to give effect to a sad constitutional tendency.

A residence of more than ten years in the Colony has afforded me an opportunity of watching the effect of the climate on persons of this description, and I can assert with confidence that the climate of South Australia is a perfect antidote to the development of scrofulous and tubercular disease.

Let me be clearly understood, I do not mean that consumption after it has passed the state of miliary tubercles can be cured by the change of climate; but before disease properly so called has manifested itself, when there is only that constitutional tendency, that general organic debility which is the forerunner of actual disease, in such cases I regard the climate of this Colony as a specific; individual cases of consumption do occasionally occur, but in this, as in other matters, the exception proves the rule.

I do not urge emigration only as a means of averting death, but as a means of enabling persons of that description doubly to enjoy physical existence. The damp raw cold of the winter and spring of Great Britain produces coughs and colds and feverishness, and a feeling of exhaustion and listlessness in delicate people, and we must take into account the anxiety produced in the hearts of others, who, knowing the danger, watch with trembling every symptom as it arises.

Add together the sufferings of some, and the anxieties of others, and to be an antidote to all this misery Providence has given to England a country where consumption is scarcely known, and, more than that, where the languor and listlessness produced in a weak constitution by a raw damp climate are also unknown, but in their stead a feeling of elasticity and health and vigour, which those only who have felt or seen the effects of such symptoms can adequately value.

It may be well now to explain the kinds of sickness which prevail in the Colony.

The summer months of this Colony are trying to children under two years of age, though many of the deaths and much of the illness

occurring to children may be attributed to mismanagement and imprudence.

A child being about a year old is necessarily in all circumstances obliged to combat with two sources of irritation, viz., teething and weaning; these alone are severe on children, but when the heat of summer comes to be superadded, a child runs much more risk.

It is therefore desirable that children should be weaned during the winter months, and if at that time an infant is too young it ought not to be weaned till after the summer is past; by attending to this simple rule much illness among children might be prevented.

Again, at certain seasons of the year a fever which frequently assumes a typhoid type is prevalent; it is more common in Adelaide than in the country districts, showing that it must be favoured by local causes. It seems to assume a more severe form in persons lately arrived in the Colony; this is to be accounted for in a great measure by the fact, that persons of the working-classes on arriving have it in their power to eat much more animal food than they have been accustomed to use at home, and the system becomes over-stimulated.

Working-people very commonly eat meat three times a day, and I am satisfied that it is prejudicial to the health. Other causes act in conjunction with those I have named; neglect of the healthy action of the organic functions, exposure of the head to the sun without proper covering, and the abuse of intoxicating liquors, these are the causes of fever and other diseases.

But he who pays due attention to the proper action of the different organs of the body (not forgetting the skin, which I think one of the most important), who eats moderately of meat, drinks temperately of wine, takes sufficient exercise, keeps regular hours, and avoids exposure to the sun in hot weather, has a far better chance of enjoying good health than in any part of Britain.

With regard to the humbler class of emigrants, Dr. Duncan furnishes us with the following information. It will be seen that no apprehension need exist from too rapid an increase of emigration for some time to come. The details here furnished by Dr. Duncan are supplied from the *Government Gazette* of the 10th July, 1849:—

Return showing the average wages of mechanics and others in South Australia, for the three months ending June 30th, 1849:—

Blacksmiths, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per diem, without board or lodging; bakers, 4s. per diem, with board and lodging; bricklayers, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., without board or lodging; brickmakers, 1l. 10s. per 1000 at the kiln; bullock drivers, 3s. to 4s. per diem, without board or lodging; butchers, 3s. per diem, with board and lodging; carpenters, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per diem, without board or lodging; cabinet-makers, 7s. to 8s., ditto; carriage-makers, 7s. to 8s., ditto; coopers, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., ditto. Domestic servants, males, 20l. to 30l. per annum, with board and lodging; females, 12l. to 18l., ditto; farm servants, married couples, 30l. to 40l. per annum, with board and lodging; single men, 26l. to 30l.

ditto; masons, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per day, without board or lodging; millers, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d., ditto; painters and glaziers, 4s. 6d. ditto; plasterers, 7s. to 8s. ditto; sawyers, 9s. per 100 feet; saddlers, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d., without board or lodging; shoemakers, 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d., ditto; shepherds, 1s. 6d. per diem, with board and lodging; shopmen, 70l. to 100l. per annum, with board and lodging (over supply); tailors, 7d. per hour; tanners, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per diem, without board or lodging; wheelwrights, 6s. 6d. to 7s. 6d., ditto; miners, totwork, 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per diem, without board or lodging; tribute 5s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. ditto.

Answers to Queries.

1. What is the expense of erecting a country dwelling suitable to an agricultural labourer? From 10l. to 15l.

2. What is the rent of a town lodging suitable to a mechanic and his family? From 6s. to 8s. per week.

3. What funds have been placed at your disposal during the past quarter for the relief of immigrants? There are no funds at my disposal for this purpose.

4. Is there any fund in the Colony for the relief of the destitute poor? 800l. have been voted by the Legislative Council for this service, for 1849-50, to be expended in rations which are issued to persons in destitute circumstances, and who have no friends in the Colony. The sum expended in supporting the destitute poor, during the quarter, has been 140l. 4s. 6d.

5. State the description of labour which is in request in the Colony? Artisans of all kinds, agricultural labourers, miners and shepherds, and domestic servants are sure of employment; but clerks and shopmen, of whom a large number have lately arrived, are utterly useless in the Colony, and the emigration of such persons should be discouraged as much as possible. Many such persons are now wandering about the streets of Adelaide unable to procure employment.

“Would the rate of immigration for the last quarter satisfy the existing demand for labour? I am inclined to believe that the present rate of immigration is rather beyond the existing demand, but the formation of a railroad to the port being now decided on, that undertaking will give employment to a large number of persons; and the smelting of copper ore, which is now carried on successfully in the Colony, will enable many inferior mines to be worked profitably, and consequently there will be a greater number of miners required than at present.

7. Could it be safely increased with reference to the supplies of food in the Colony? No apprehension need be entertained of a scarcity of food, even were our population doubled in the course of the next twelve months.

The “*Recollections of Sydney*,” by Mr. Peck, contain a lively and interesting account of the impressions left by a visit to that rising city. To persons about to settle in the Australian capital, or its vicinity, this little work must prove a valuable repository of useful information. Every detail which can possibly interest the emigrant is here supplied. House-rent, the

price of provisions, the charges of the hotels, and even the fares of the cabs and omnibuses which ply in the London of the Southern hemisphere, are accurately detailed. The book is also provided with a map of the city, containing the newest improvements which it exhibits.

The following piece of information may prove useful to such of our readers as may be meditating a trip to the antipodes :—

The Royal Hotel, near the Post-office, is the largest and best in Sydney ; it is a fine lofty stone edifice, the front entrance being adorned with a portico supported by Doric columns. Above the portico a verandah runs along the front of the hotel, and another verandah on the second story. Entering the hotel, we may retire to one of the numerous well-furnished rooms, and the waiter will speedily bring us the refreshment we require, be it a bottle of champagne or a "stone fence." By a stone fence, gentle reader, is denoted the mixture of a glassful of ale and a bottle of ginger-beer—a very pleasant beverage in a warm climate. Thus refreshed, we may repair to the spacious billiard-room, and watch the game, or even ourselves moderately indulge in the amusement; or, remaining in the private apartment, we may muse on the astonishing number of licensed places of resort for the sale of spirits, the high rents paid for them, and the profits of grog-selling. There were fifty-nine applicants for publicans' general ale and beer licenses, in the town and district of Parramatta, for the year commencing on the 1st July, 1849. We have unfortunately mislaid the list of publicans resident at Sydney, but, if we remember right, there are no fewer than 200. The inns and shops are well furnished, not only at Sydney, but also at Bathurst, Maitland, Goulburn, and other towns of importance.

As to the climate of Sydney Mr. Peck remarks as follows :—

The weather at Sydney is, for the most part, very fine and propitious, the sun shining brilliantly in the cloudless blue sky, and cheering the Colonists with the warmth of his not too oppressive rays. The fine weather continues for six or seven weeks with but little variation, and then the rain falls heavily for a few days, after which the miry roads are speedily dried by the winds and sun. Hot winds, which are exceedingly oppressive, are not unfrequently felt at Sydney, and other parts of New South Wales. During the great drought of 1838, a hot wind lasted at Bathurst three weeks! Their direction is from north-west, or a few points on either side of it; and, what is remarkable, the bitter dry winter winds are from the same points. It is almost a corollary, that the evening of a hot-wind day brings up a "southerly buster," as we have heard the vulgar call it, very chill indeed, not only by contrast, but in reality, as this wind comes from the southerly region of the Australian Alps, which always have snow on them. The heat at Sydney is great, but the regular sea-breeze revives the drooping frame, and keeps people in perfect health and spirits. The highest to which the mercury has been known to rise in the sun was 127 deg. Fahrenheit. This happened on the 16th of January, 1837.

In May and June the winter sets in, strong westerly winds blow, the flowers fade, the leaves wither and fall, and the rain occasionally comes down with greater vehemence than during the summer; but frost and snow very rarely make their appearance at Sydney. To the salubrity of the climate may be traced the general longevity of the Colonists; and to this salubrity may partially be attributed the personal attractions of perhaps the majority of the young ladies of New South Wales.

There is scarcely any class of emigrants for whom Australia does not hold out great advantages, excepting always young gentlemen without capital, or without that industry which is necessary to acquire it. To one important section of our Colonists, farmers of small capital, Mr. Peck volunteers the following advice, which appears exceedingly sound:—

Great Britain has sent shipload after shipload of emigrants, but the field is yet open; the demand for labourers has not ceased—the prospects of the careful shepherd, agricultural labourer, or mechanic, are bright and cheering. But there are higher classes of emigrants, to whom we may say a few words. The sons of English farmers, with a capital of 200*l.* or 300*l.*; men “reared to country life, brought up under the eye of parents, and their rougher natures softened down by the gentle influence of sisters; reared on the principle of paying twenty shillings to the pound, and ignorant of those petty and dishonest tricks of buying what they know they cannot reasonably expect to be able to pay for”—such men are likely to prosper in the Colony. Such men will be prepared for the necessary toils of agriculture; and their careful industry will doubtless be rewarded by a double harvest. We can give no better advice to such intending emigrants than that on their arrival they should lay up their capital for two or three years in one of the Sydney banks, proceed into the interior, and engage as assistants to experienced settlers. At the expiration of that time they would be less liable to imposition in the purchase of land or stock. There are too many designing persons in New South Wales, whose sole object is to gain the highest price for their lands, cattle, or sheep, caring little whether the property they sell be good, bad, or indifferent.

The new comer, if not on his guard, may find that he has purchased land liable to be flooded in the rainy season, or land with no water at all; or he may discover that the title is disputed, for landed property has in many places changed owners more than half a dozen times. A personal inspection of land or stock before purchase is indispensable.

THE DUTCH ARCHIPELAGO.

CONSOLS are again approaching par. Money is abundant, and the millions which for the last few years have been employed in railroads have found their way into the pockets of other capitalists, who are anxiously looking out for fresh channels and new adventures in which to exercise their enterprising spirit. The small territory of England is insufficient for the vast commercial genius and capital of its roving inhabitants. In every part of the world the Anglo-Saxons are the first pioneers to open the forests of new countries and to bring through these avenues the riches of the interior to their newly-formed sea-ports.

Wool in Australia is a doubtful speculation; agricultural investments in Canada or the States have generally proved a failure to the British capitalist. The process, also, of turning produce in these Colonies into *specie* is tedious, particularly when the raw material, that is gold, can be found. Gold! Yes, nothing but the precious metals will satisfy the daily-increasing spirit of speculation of the age we live in. Anticipating the future, we come to the natural conclusion that our overflowing capital will in a great measure take that turn, having the example before us of our intelligent brothers Jonathan flocking in such thousands, and with such success, to their newly discovered gold territory, and having the knowledge that so many gold regions lie within our grasp unknown to the miner.

It has always been considered in political economy, that gold and gold mines, instead of being a source of wealth to a country, has, on the contrary, involved its possessors in ruin. Such has, in fact, always been the case in times of old: such, we have no doubt, will still be the case amongst the actual finders of the gold, who are in general either of the lowest class, or desperate characters, who, when favoured by fortune, know not how to appreciate her gifts, and recklessly squander their hard day's earning. The intelligent merchant, however, profits by the labour of the actual finder, and great must be those profits if we judge by the thousands of shrewd and well-educated Americans, many of whom abandon a safe and thriving business in their native States, to undertake the risk and hazard to life and capital inherent to new speculations in a new country and amongst a lawless community.

California is, from all accounts, a barren country, at least in the vicinity of San Francisco, so that there is no inducement beyond that of gold to allure the capital and industry of our

transatlantic friends towards those shores. The great sensation that California has made in the world induces us to inquire whether other portions of the globe are not equally favoured, or even more so; for although they might not be as rich in the precious metals, advantages of soil and climate, and a population that might be brought to habits of industry, would make them more desirable locations for the employment of capital. We immediately turn our attention towards that enormous group of hitherto almost unknown islands whither Sir James Brooke has already so successfully turned his adventurous steps. He is the first that has entered on this new project, and although at first unassisted, the correctness of his views, the justice and mildness of his administration, have crowned his first efforts with success, and have finally called forth the sympathy of the world and the assistance of the British Government.

The result of this is, that the band of pirates that infested these seas has disappeared, and Sir J. Brooke is at this moment the *de facto* sovereign of 700 miles of Borneo proper from Point Api to Maladu. Taking it only in a philanthropical point of view, how desirable would it be were many men of his upright mind and kind feeling towards the unfortunate races who inhabit this beautiful Archipelago to turn their attention towards this subject!

The great difficulty attendant upon these enterprises has been first tested by Sir J. Brooke, who, by entering into treaties with a native sovereign, has been enabled to gain a footing in a country considered under the protection of a jealous and all-monopolising nation. This has, we doubt not, given rise to many diplomatic notes, and may give rise to many more; but in the meantime Sir J. Brooke is daily gaining a firmer hold on the country and the natives. The riches of these countries are well known, and in a future number we shall be enabled from authentic documents to give more accurate information on this subject.

The principal article of export that has hitherto remunerated Rajah Brooke is antimony ore, the chief product in the neighbourhood of Sarawak. It is not difficult, however, to perceive that the lord of Sarawak carries his views beyond his present district. By comparing his own notes with the returns given by Sir S. Raffles, he estimates the gold produced in the kingdom of Sambas, situated to the south of Sarawak, at 5,005,000 dollars per annum. The working population being 35,000, each man producing $6\frac{1}{2}$ bunkals per annum, at the rate of 22 dollars a bunkal we arrive at the above sum—to 1,237,500l.

This kingdom of Sambas was formerly under the protection of the Dutch; but they have taken so little pains to repress the