VOL. 22. CHARLOTTETOWN PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1852. NO. 1186.

# Miscellaneous.

*(From Village Life in Egypt, with Sketches of the Said.)*
BY BAYLE ST. JOHN.

## A NATIVE EGYPTIAN STORY.

### HOW HAK HAK BECAME SHEIKH OF KAFR HEMMIR.

"At about four malages from the town of Tanta, there is a village called Kafr Hemmir, the Place of Ass. It is inhabited by a people so stupid, that they cannot count their own feet, and always call to prayers two hours before noon, lest they should be too late. Formerly they were still more stupid, and it is said, that once when their muezzin had a sore throat, they lay in bed all day because they did not believe the sun had risen. About that time, there lived amongst them a youth who was hump-backed. He had been found by one of the women under a gulai-tree asleep and as she could not guess how he came there, she supposed he must have been brought by the birds. She also called to them, saying what was his story, but the crows replied 'caw, caw,' and the sparrows 'chip, chirp' and the doves 'coo-hoo-hoo.' Then the poor woman sat down by the sleeping hunchback and said, 'Little crooked thing, didst thou come hither of thine own accord or were thou brought by a mouse, a horse, a buffalo or an ass? Awake and speak; whence art thou and what is thy name?' Upon this she shook him but he only snorted and turned round without opening his eyes—'He sad Hak,' 'Hak,' replied the child shaking him again, but he snorted again as before. 'Hak Hak!' cried the woman laughing. 'Now it is evident this child is abandoned on account of his hump. I will adopt him even for the drollery of his name!' * * * Hak Hak was left to the care of mothers and used to show this feeling very much out of place. One day the Sheikh-el-Beled exchanged a little sheep he had with Hak Hak, for a very fine one belonging to the adjacent mother of the boy, who upon this reviled him and said, that when he was Sheikh he would exact a buffalo for each leg, an ass for each ear, a goat for each eye, and a sheep for each tooth of the stolen animal. 'What! eye, and a sheep for each tooth of the stolen animal. 'What! Thou envy my post? So he beat him and sent him away covered with bruises; but Hak Hak, muttered as he went along, that when his time came, he would make their hearts grieve for every blow.' In time after this, Hak Hak, who thought himself endowed by nature with the capacity of a merchant, resolved to go to Cairo and seek his fortune. He took two dozen fowls in a kafass, went down to the river, hagged a passage on board a boat, and reached the great city in safety."

How he was eased of his fowls and clothes in the great city we have not time to tell—but—

"At length a man spied him from a window, and coming forth, dragged him from his hiding-place and took him into his house, and washed him and his lamp, and clothed him and fed him, and listened to his story, at which he laughed heartily. When it was concluded he said—'O Hak Hak, a person of thy talent and beauty is made to be a great man. Thou hadst better return to thy village and marry the daughter of the principal people of Kafr Hemmir think that all wisdom consists in a long beard, and that they have not been blessed with many hairs. I will give thee a case of a cosmetic, which will make their beards grow as long as that of the Prophet. This will be a better means of making a fortune, than selling fowls and diving into wells.' Hak Hak thanked his benefactor, and departing with the cosmetic, returned to his village, where he enumerated what he had for sale, before the whole assembled population. To his surprise they all burst out laughing and made fun of him. He returned desponding to his adopted mother's house, and the world was black before his face; but presently the Sheikh sent privately to buy a small packet, and then the barber, and then the tobacco-seller, and then the coffee-house keeper;—all in private. In fact, before the evening, the whole of the population of Kafr Hemmir was sold, and every man in Kafr Hemmir went to bed with his chin steeped in the cosmetic, each believing that both his beard and his wisdom, would have doubled in length and depth. * * * Then they all rose early and hastily taking off the clothes which had nearly stifled them, found that their beards came off likewise! They clapped their hands to their chins and felt them, but to their astonish at their sinews! they found their beards gone and were greeted by screams of laughter, they ran out into the streets and learned the truth, that the whole population had been rendered beardless by the ointment which the Sheikh had given to Hak Hak! * * * As all were equally unfortunate, all laughed; but they resolved to punish the unlucky hunchback. He was called before the Sheikh, where the elders of the village had assembled and when he came in the circle of smooth faces, could not help giggling. 'He laughed, because he hath defiled our beards,' exclaimed the conclave. 'It is necessary to put him to death. We are all friends here, let us thrust him into a bag, carry him to the Nile, and drown him; for so shall no more may be heard of him.' This idea was unanimously accepted; Hak Hak, in spite of his struggles, was carried away in a sack, across an ass's back, towards the river. About noon his guards stopped to rest, and lying down, fell asleep; leaving the hunchback still in his sack. Now it happened that an old man, beat nearly two-double, came driving by an immense flock of sheep; and seeing these people asleep, and a sack standing by in the middle, was moved by curiosity to draw near to it. Hak Hak had managed to open it a little, and to look out with one eye; which observing, the old shepherd, marvelled, saying—'A bag with an eye did I never see before.' He demanded, in a low voice, what was the meaning of this. The eye became a mouth, and replied,—'I am the unfortunate Hak Hak, whom these people are taking by force to marry the Sheikh's daughter.—' What,' said the old man, who had married thirty-three wives in the course of his life, 'and dost thou repine at such good fortune?' 'So much that I would give all I possess to be a substitute.'—'Would ye? Wouldst thou give all thy possessions?' quoth the shepherd. 'I am not very old, I have two teeth left, and one of my eyes is good enough; but they would not take me in exchange.'—'Oh yes, wallah, they would!' if you call yourself Hak Hak! it appeareth that the name is fortunate, and I have been chosen only on this account. Unite the bag and let me out.' The shepherd, whose hands trembled from age and excitement, liberated Hak Hak, made him a present of his flocks and bade him tie the bag very tightly, lest the change should be discovered. The hunchback did as he was discovered, and hastened to retire with his sheep. Meanwhile the villagers waking up, threw their prisoner upon the ass, and proceeding on their journey, plunged the poor old man into the river, just as he was dreaming with delight of his first interview with the Sheikh's daughter, how he would smile and bid, please, and how she would bid him be of good cheer. * * * * Next morning, Hak Hak quietly returned to his village with his flock of sheep to the great surprise and fear of the beardless people; for they thought he must have made a compact against them, and went up to ask his pardon, and congratulate him on his escape. 'Ah villains! ah, dogs! ah, pigs!' he exclaimed: 'why did yes sad thrust me into the river where the camels were grazing, or the horses, or the buffaloes? I should then have been a rich man.' This hint was sufficient; the beardless held a consultation, and it was resolved, that every family should put one of its members into a sack, and throw him in, but he might bring up as much wealth as Hak Hak. They started off that very day, and drowned all the fine young men in the village; but waited a whole week without seeing them come back. So they began to be in a hurry, and went to the hunchback to ask his advice. 'My good friends,' said he, 'you must have thrown them in among the camels, and they want cords to tie them.'—Upon this they spent all their money in purchasing cords and cast them into the river; but another week and another passed, and at last they understood, that they had been tricked. So they rose against Hak Hak, determining to put him to death; but he escaped from their clutches and fled to a distant time for Caira. He edited to place, that there reigned at this epoch in Egypt, a king named Mohammed, whose life were one in such happiness, that he became tired of it, and felt every day and hour weighed on his hands. One day, in his gloom, he said to his Wezeer, 'O, Wezeer, I desire to hear an empty saying (*Bilmat farrah*); find me a man who will say an empty saying to me to-morrow, or I will cut off thy head.'—The Wezeer consulted his astrolabe, but it was to no purpose, and he went home, wondering what fate fully had seized the king. He passed all that day in his house; and getting up next morning, rode forth on his mule to ponder on what has happened to save his life. Now it happened, that on that very morning, the hunchback, Hak Hak, arrived in Cairo, and was seen by the Wezeer reposing by the wayside. He was a droll-looking fellow, whom nothing could pass by unnoticed so the Wezeer thought to himself, 'Perhaps this deformity may be of service to me.' Then he called aloud, O, traveller, wilt thou gain a hundred pieces of gold?' Hak Hak replied, 'The woman who rode my clothes, offered one piece of gold: it is evident, O Greybeard, that thou desirest to steal my skin.'—But the Wezeer explained to him, and he was satisfied. They went together to the audience-chamber; and the Wezeer, going first, found the King sitting sullenly looking on the ground. He dared not speak, but waited patiently for the decree of fate. Meantime, Hak Hak hid behind the door, and showing himself and his hump, begin beckoning to the King; and when he had attracted his attention, made signs that he wanted to speak to him in private. The King was amused by his droll gestures and grimaces, but did not move; upon which Hak Hak threatened him with his fists, and again began beckoning. At last the King Mohammed rose from his divan, and went out followed by the Wezeer. Hak Hak did not wait, but walked before, still making signs with his hand, shaking his head, and rolling his eyes, and walking with long strides on tiptoe, and wagging his hump from side to side. Thus they proceeded, until they came to the centre of the Kara Meydan, when Hak Hak stopped, and beckoned to King Mohammed to stoop down, that he might whisper in his ear. The King at first was afraid, lest he might bite him; but at last complied, whereupon the hunchback 'in a husky voice, 'King, hast thou ever been to Damascus?'—No.' was the reply.—'Nor more have I, O King,' quoth Hak Hak. For a moment the royal one looked puzzled, and then exclaimed, 'Seize this insolent mouthpiece, and put him to death!' Hak Hak was immediately seized, and explained, that this was the empty saying he had wished to hear; whereupon the king laughed, till they were obliged to support him lest he should fall in the dust, and he ordered Hak Hak to relate his history; and when he had heard it, he first caused to be scourged, and then appointed him Sheikh of Kafr Hemmir."

*(From Godey's Philadelphia Lady's Magazine.)*

## INFLUENCE OF EXTERNAL NATURE ON MAN.

BY J. J. BAKER.

In casting our eyes over the earth, our attention is first arrested by the great variety of scenery, and the different degrees of fertility that characterize its surface. The contrasts are remarkable and striking. In the polar regions we have an aspect of perpetual desolation; while, in tropical countries, sunshine and verdure every where greet our eyes. The poet of the 'Seasons' thus describes the former regions:

"For relentless months, continual night
Holds o'er the glittering waste her starry reign.
There, through the prison of unbounded wide,
Barred by the hand of Nature from escape,
Wild roams the Russian exile. Naught around
Strikes his and eye but deserts lost in snow.
And heavy loaded groves; and solid floods
That stretch athwart the silent, vast waste,
Their icy horrors to the frozen main."

Such is a truthful and beautiful description of these regions of the earth roamed by the Laplander, the Siberian, and the northern Russian and Greenlander.

Now let us turn to the shores of the Mediterranean, and the Islands of the Grecian Archipelago, and refresh our vision among the scenes celebrated in classic verse. Here, the mantle of snow gives place to robes of green, decorated with Nature's best gorgeous colours: here all is radiant with light, where bird and beast find a congenial home, and mankind, sympathizing with the scenes around them, exhibit an character, which, in a cold climate, may be observed in a single country, as in Switzerland, or in two contiguous countries, as in England and Scotland. In the former case, one part of the country, being "embosomed in the deep recess of the grim Grisons dwell;" while another part 'force the stubborn soil' of the mountain for bread: one part are shepherds reposing in the grateful climate of the valleys, while another part are sad in fare, and jibed with sneers and reproaches, by their cold, ice-mountain shows. Equally diversified are the scenes of the two contiguous countries referred to, but too familiar to need a description.

We may consider the diversities aspects of the earth as so many changes in the countenance of great Nature, with which we are affected as with the smiles and tears, jows and sorrows of a dear friend. In the contemplation of the former, we behold the grand majesty of a king, sweing into silence and admiration; from the beetling cliff, rugged and barren in its aspect, she frowns upon us with the eye of a despot, sending a thrill of horror through our nerves; while, in the latter, she smiles upon us, lightly as her eyes beaming joy, and her face wrinkled with laughter, on the quiet lake, embowered among hills, a placid, serene smile sits upon her countenance, transfiliting our thoughts and hushing our passions into peace. Again, we behold her in the heaving and swelling ocean, when the tempest goes forth upon its bosom, agitated, as it were, by some monster passion, foaming with rage and sending a wrathful voice; and anon she sits on the desert, desolate and sad, with the dishevelled lock, the weeping eye, and accent of woe.

These remarks have been made with the view to introduce the question as to how far human character is modified and moulded by the aspects of external nature. Without intending a full discussion of the subject, we shall produce a few illustrations showing this influence to be considerably great. In reference to English character, a favourite poet thus writes:—

"They take perchance a well-directed aim,
Who seek it in his climate and his frame;
Liberal in all things else, yet Nature here,
With stern severity, does not spare the cost
Winter invades the Spring, and often pours
A chilling flood on Summer's drooping flowers;
Unwelcome vapours quench autumnal beams,
Ungenial blasts attending cart the streams;
The peasants urge their harvests, ply the fork
With double toil, and all in their work:
Thus, with a vigor for his good designed,
She rears her favourite man of all mankind."

Though this is poetry, yet poetry utters a great many truths; and it is very curious and suggestive of fact, that English climate and character so entirely correspond, that it is blustering, fellow, just like his winds; and, if his climate is fickle and sullen in its changes, so is he moody and his tempers uncertain. Are his winters frosty, and his summers genial? so are his likes and dislikes, his loves and his hates: he has much winter and not a little sunshine mingled with his character.

Now, if we turn to France, we shall find a people of very different character and a beautifully diverse climate. The atmosphere is soft and transparent, and the temperature uniform and genial. Every breeze is freighted with the odour of flowers, and every grove is vocal with the song of birds. Now, though we would not assume everything to climate, yet how strikingly do French manners coincide with the aspects of nature around him?

'Give Frenchman, *every, debonair*, and brisk,
Give him a mistress, a fiddle, and a frisk,
Is always happy, reign whoever may,
And laughs the sense of misery away.'

In Italy, the same correspondence exist between the face of the country and the character of the people; for, though it be true that climate everything they have debased the Italian character, and brought down its high aspirings, yet such is the magic of their sunny clime, that despite the most adverse moral influences, it still, chameleon-like, reflects the hues of the scenes amid which it is spread.

We shall find a further confirmation of our idea by a reference to barbarous nations. The Negro of Africa, Australasia is proverbially gloomy, rendered so as much by their modes of life, as by their climate. Captain Parry says, they are dull and gloomy, living together like swine, in snow houses and dark caves, and that they are scarcely ever seen to laugh or heard to joke. All the circumstances of their lives conduce to the results. A poet has embodied these ideas in the following beautiful lines:

'Half separated by the distant sun,
That rears and ripens man, as well as plants,
Here, human nature wears its rudest form
Deep from the piercing season sunk in caves,
Here, by dull fires, and with unjovous cheer,
They wait the tedious, lingering gloom. Immersed in fur,
Dozes the gross race. Nor sprightly just nor song,
Nor tenderness they know, nor aught of life
Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without.

It may be said, that the vices of these people have blunted their sensibilities, and rendered their mind sad and dull. If we but turn our eyes to the islands of the Southern Pacific, we shall see a people more degraded, equally destitute of education, and so far as we know, equally low in natural endowments. But if we find the same dullness, grossness, stupidity, and gloominess that characterize the Esquimaux? Here, the sun shines in all his glory, gilding the mountains and trees and waters with his radiance, and making the earth beautiful to look upon; here flowers bloom, birds sing, and warm and soft breezes blow. Can man be gloomy here? Can he resist the spirit of gladness that breathes around? The islanders are expert and elegant dancers. Unlike their northern brethren they rejoice in a rude music, and take pleasure in social assemblages and personal display. Dancing is generally accompanied with music, and with a good degree of exhilaration of animal spirits, though, in promiscuous assemblages, certainly attended with a deterioration of manners; yet, so far as it is the expression of joy in these islands it shows a correspondence between their climate and character. No such amusement obtains a footing in rude climates and on inhospitable shores.

These observations might be extended to all the countries of the earth. Wherever extraordinary scenery, or a peculiar character-istic of natural scenery obtain, we are certain to find corresponding development of character in the people. Certainly the instances are not of equally certain character, but they are so numerous without some signal proof of the facts in question. As before observed, we do not refer all the peculiarities of character that distinguish one nation from another to the influence of external nature; on the contrary, we believe, that Nature lays on the foundation of many of them, and some may be traced to the influences of other nations, to traditional and religious observances, and other causes.

If our foregoing observations have established the proposition that the aspe't of external nature exerts a very important influence in moulding the character of man, we think the fact itself cannot be denied of being a matter of curious and interesting inquiry, and of instruction in matters of highest moment. If it is the law of man's nature, that he becomes assimilated to the things around him, it becomes important to him to bestow some attention upon the architecture of his dwellings and places of constant resort, and upon the aspect of their position and adornments. We know, that this law of our nature has been taken advantage of in bygone ages, to nurse the worst superstitions, and even now, we fear it has led to the same measures for impressions to bolster up decaying systems of error.

The law of assimilation is peculiarly active in associations between moral and intellectual beings. We are told by Scriptures, that 'we all with open face beholding, as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.' What a glorious assimilation is this! With what gratitude should we reflect on the fact, that God has given us natures susceptible of such glorious transformations, and capable of such high attainments in the scale of being!

Scriptures authorities have attributed deformity to the same law. 'A sad countenance' seems to be the peculiar characteristic of the hypocrite, and is always a pronounction of moral blight.

## MR. SALT'S GIGANTIC FACTORY.

*[From the Bradford (England) Observer.]*

It is known to most of the ordinary readers of this journal, that our enterprising townsman, Mr. Salt, has continued to extend and commenced the erection of extensive manufacturing premises in the neighbourhood of Shipley, with a view to concentrate his now many factories and establishments into one vast whole, which the utmost economy of labour may be combined with every recent practical improvement in the alpaca and mohair manufactures. A partial, and, in some important respects, erroneous description of this undertaking has lately appeared in the London Morning Chronicle, and has therefore been induced to visit the works, in order to furnish the public with a just view of their extent and importance.

The estate on which these buildings are erected stretches from the lower road leading from Shipley, to the Bingley Road, across the railway, the canal, and the River Aire, to the confines of Baildon Moor, and is bounded by a beautiful and picturesque road, so familiar to the numerous visitors to this romantic spot, Eldwick Glen. The part of the estate devoted to the "Works" we are about to describe is one of the many beautiful spots so abundant in the beautiful valley of Aire. The River Aire, rapidly and noisily rushing through Skipton to Lancaster and Glasgow, and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, both of which will be able to convey goods to and from the premises without either cartage or porterage. The area appropriated to the building is computed at six acres, while the several floors in the mills, warehouses, and sheds, form a superficies 55,609 yards, or 11½ acres.

The mill, which rises from east to west, will be 550 feet in length and 72 feet in height above the level of the rails. It includes six stories, and is constructed of massive stonework in the boldest style of Italian architecture. The mill is the most imposing in the Baildon town than of a building destined to the peaceful pursuits of commerce. The floors are formed on arches of hollow brick made on the ground by Clayton's patent process; the openings in the bricks being used for the purpose of ventilation. Rows of ornamental castiron columns and massive cast-iron beams support the arches. The roofs will be of iron. The windows, of large size, are to be entirely filled with immense squares of cast plate glass. The whole of the building will be fire-proof.

From the centre of the mill running northward to the banks of the Canal, a distance of 230 feet, are the warehouses, which, at the lower end, are 80 feet above the water. In the angle formed by the mill and warehouses to the eastward, comprising an area of 8,400 yards, are the well-room and weaving shed, accommodating upwards of 1,000 looms. In the mill and warehouses by fire-proof hoists. The weaving shed will hold 1,200 looms. The shafting will run in vaults under the floor, thus preserving the vast room above free from every obstruction. The corresponding angle on the western side of the warehouses will be occupied by an immense shed for combing machines, and chambers for washing, drying, and sorting the wool, and by engine and boiler houses. Beyond this shed there is an enormous filter and reservoir, capable of containing 500,000 gallons, into which the rain-water will be conducted from all the roofs, to be applied to the purposes of scouring wool. The shed with the combing machines, is to a length of 240 feet, with a very handsome facade, form the western boundary of the works, and face a new road made by Mr. Salt, which will extend from the Bingley turnpike road, crossing the railway by a handsome cast iron bridge, and the canal and river by a wrought iron tubular girder-bridge, 450 feet in length, to the edge of Baildon Green; thus connecting the estate on the north bank of the river with the turnpike road on the south.

The arrangement, design and construction of the buildings, are confided to Messrs. Henry F. Lockwood and Wm. Mawson, architects of Bradford, who are three distinct contractors for the masonry works, which are in the hands of Messrs. Fearnley and Wainwright, and Messrs. Moulson, of Bradford, and Hogg, of Leeds, respectively. The iron work, a very extensive contract, is supplied by Mr. Neill, and Messrs. Beanland, of Bradford, and Ives, of Shipley. The iron work, a very extensive contract, is supplied from the foundry of Messrs. Cliffe and Co., of Bradford, and the gentlemen who have charge of the iron work. But the tubular girder-bridge has been contracted for, and is in the course of execution, by Messrs. Butler, of Stanningley. The contract for slating is in the hands of Messrs. Ellis, of Leeds. The joiners' and plumbers' contracts are not let. We must not omit to mention that Messrs. George Hogg, James Ogilvie, and Wm. Chesterton, are the several clerks of the works, charged with the constant supervision of the buildings, a duty which they discharge in a very efficient manner.

The engines, boilers, and machinery, are entrusted to the eminent firm of Messrs. Wm. Fairbairn & Son, of Manchester. The engines are of the most improved construction, and of the united power of 400 horse power, but capable of being worked up to the extent of 1,250 horse power. The boilers will be constructed partly on the tubular principle, and placed beneath the level of the ground to the southward of the mill and communicate with the chimney (250 feet high) at the eastern extremity of the works, to which is given the effect of an Italian campanile. The engine-houses are situated on either side of the principal entrance to the mill, and some idea of the magnitude of these vast machines may be gathered from the fact, that the engine bed has absorbed upwards of 1,200 tons of solid stone. The engines will be supplied with water by means of tunnels passing below the canal and communicating with the Aire. Another series of tunnels will return the water back to the river when used.

A branch from the railway will pass under the central arches of the mill, at which point there will be two hoists for loading and unloading railway trucks, and two for ordinary wagons; and at the north end of the warehouses the same number of hoists will be provided, two for wagons, and two for loading and unloading vessels on the canal.

The whole of the works thus described are being constructed of stone, supplied by twenty quarries in the surrounding neighbourhood, and, for extreme massiveness and solidity, have no equal in this or any other country.

The gas-works, to be situated between the canal and river, are to be upon White's patent hydro-carbon system, and are calculated to supply 100,000 feet per day for 5,000 lights, in the mills, sheds, street and houses of the work-people.

When the works are finished, 4,500 hands will be required to keep them going. This will involve an addition to the population of Saltaire of from one to ten thousand persons. To accommodate these, Mr. Salt proposes to erect forthwith 700 dwelling-houses of various classes, replete with every convenience requisite for the health and comfort of the inhabitants. Fortunately, the architects are especially enjoined to use every precaution to prevent the pollution of the air by smoke, or the water by sewerage or other impurity; and from the high professional character of those gentlemen, and their known sympathy with sanitary reform, we have every reason to believe, that this object will be realized. In this respect, as well as in many others, the new town of Saltaire will stands as important practical lesson to the mother town of Bradford. Wide streets, spacious squares, with gardens attached, ground for recreation, a large dining-hall and kitchens, baths, and wash-house, a covered market, schools, and a church; such combined sanitary improvement that modern art and science have brought to light, are ordered to be proceeded with by the gentleman who has originated this undertaking. We congratulate, gentlemen, the energy, or the philanthropy of this enterprise is most to be commended, we know not—each is striking, and different minds will admire the one or the other, as the case may be. That it may be completed successfully, and be the source of increased prosperity to our respected fellow-citizen, is the earnest wish, not only of the writer of this notice, but of every member of our community, which has already been so greatly benefited by his spirited and benevolent exertions.

In the *Times* and *Daily News*, the expense of this gigantic undertaking is set down at half a million of money; but we believe, every expense connected with it will be more than met by less than half the sum named.

## English Mode of Navigation.

*(From Wilmer & Smith's European Times, Nov. 13.)*

### LATEST FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A correspondent of the *London Times*, writing from Adelaide, July 8, says:—

The condition of this colony at the present moment is very peculiar. Six months ago it appeared to be on the brink of bankruptcy, and the prospect was overwhelmingly discouraging. Now, it is wealthier than, perhaps, at any period since its foundation; landed and leasehold properties are higher in value than they were before the gold fever, and people have returned. More than 2,700,000 have been added to the available capital of the community within the last four months, yet no perceptible effect upon the rate of interest has been produced. The value of money is still from 12 to 2.25 per cent. Much of this capital is not in the hands of the parties accustomed to use it, is employed in the purchase of gold, on which very large profits are realized; while the wealth of new acquisition is accumulating in the form of bullion in the banks or in the pockets of the owners. There is consequently very little enterprise, and very little demand for labour, excepting by the shipkeepers, and on these the wages are very low labourers to be obtained. The bulk of the working population, the mechanics, shepherds, and daylabourers—though they have returned from the diggings for the winter, will not work; for, if they have saved a few pounds, they prefer living upon it, or trading upon their means,' and, it not, they contrive to exist upon their anticipations of success in the next trip. Money circulates freely, but the circuit is very limited, and confined to supplying the wants of the diggings, it starts from the coffers of the wealthier classes, and flowing either directly or by various media into the pockets of the laboring people, but returns to the capitalists through the medium of the tradesmen, who are dependent on the working-classes, and flows upward into the already overfull fountains of capital. No public works are in progress—scarcely any for private persons; nothing is done but digging and selling. The people usually denominated the labourers are enjoying holiday—the *otium sine dignitate*; the merchants and storekeepers, shipping-agents, and others employed in supplying necessaries, including thereto many things not ordinarily so called, such as silks and jewelry, are reaping rich harvests.

Gold in excessive quantities and unaccustomed hands is the cause of this unusual state of things. But it will work its own cure. By attracting to the colonies a much larger proportion than hitherto of the emigrating population of Great Britain, it will supply the chief want—viz., labour at a moderate price. That need met, agricultural, mining, pastoral, and commercial pursuits will absorb tenfold more than our present redundant capital; which, after all, is no vast amount. The quantity of gold deposited in the Assay-office here, from its opening to the 15th inst., inclusive, is 189,403 ounces, producing in the colony upwards of £680,000. Nearly the whole of this has been brought hither from the Mount Alexander diggings in small quantities, from an average of about £3 per ounce, the product of six months' labour of about 5,000 persons. They, however, do not realize the amount named as the reward of their toil. Most commonly, they dispose of their small lots of gold at from 65s. to 68s. per ounce to brokers, who realize about 72s. per ounce for the quantity, originally deposited, clear of all expenses. The ingots remain in the cellars of the banks, and are represented by their paper. So great is the demand for notes, that one of the banks (the South Australian) has just been compelled to employ two additional clerks to sign them for the manager and accountant, and, also issue for the first time, £100 notes, printed in the colony. Considerable uneasiness is felt, lest the Bullion Act, passed by the Legislative Council of this Colony in the short supplementary session of 1851-2, should be disallowed by the Home Government. In that case, the whole of the system established under the act, and which has resuscitated the commercial life of this colony, would necessarily be suspended. This would be a serious blow to our prosperity; and might lead to disagreeable consequences of a political kind. The first clerk of the local Legislature, it is said, would be to re-enact the Bullion Ordinance, delaying its operations, however, until a second decision had been formed in the Colonial-office.

The diggers are the persons who reap the least benefit from the diggings. They endure all the fatigue and privations, and brave all the dangers of gold-seeking, and are seldom, if ever, more than earnest, with the additional misfortune of the loss of sober, simple-minded habits. The best test of great success is undertaking a voyage to England, and this is done by a very few indeed. Some of the working farmers acquire a sensible centre. They spend their week into the grounds, go off to the diggings, and return in time to gather their crops. They secure thus an ample reward for their labour, and have a chance of drawing a prize in the great gold lottery.