

South Australia



The colony of S^o Australia
was founded in the year 1836;
Seven years hence its Jubilee
will be celebrated on the
Completion of its 50th Year.—

Great and marvellous
have been the changes that
have taken place in this
small dependency of the
British Empire since its
Colonization 43 years ago—
I myself have been connected
and closely identified, with
its history for nearly 40 years.

On the 1st of August 1839
one of my Brothers (now
in London) sailed from the
Firth of Forth in the Schooner
"Minerva" belonging to Kirkaldy,
(which was fitted out at
Brucehaven,) and reached

Adelaide on the 3rd of January
1840. — He commenced
business as a merchant in
South Australia shortly after
his arrival, and that business
has been continued by different
members of the family ever
since.

of the rise and progress
of the Colony of South Australia
therefore I feel ~~myself~~ fairly
warranted to speak, and
I now propose to give you, in
a condensed form ^{some of} the results
of my personal observations
(and experience) which I trust
~~will~~ have the effect of engaging
your attention for a little time
and it may be enlarging your
knowledge ^{on} the subject.

I am promising to give
you a lecture on South
Australia some months ago

I may say at the ~~Offset~~ ³ that ~~intended~~
I told you I intended to confine
my remarks in a great measure
to Personal narrative; to
Exploring Expeditions in some
of which I was personally
concerned; and to matters
generally not to be found
in Books, or in historical
records of the Colony; ~~propos~~
(That pledge ~~is now my purpose~~
to redeem,) but had it been
expected, or required of me
that I should lay before you
an elaborate History of the
Colony, or any polished Compo-
sition, the result of minute
research (or any studied pains-
taking address) I should
have declined the task as
beyond my present means
and opportunities of leisure,
and as also perhaps un-
suited to the occasion;
(but) simply to relate some

of the experiences of what ^{now} may be termed "an old colonist" (to make a running commentary as it were on passing events, intended not merely to edify, but to amuse,) is comparatively speaking an easy task, and fairly within the compass of a short address. —

It has frequently occurred to me in listening to lectures or perusing books of 'Voyages' and 'Travels' that too much space is devoted to descriptions of places or things already familiar to the reader, whilst their authors neglect what would be much more interesting, the incidents they meet with in travelling — the persons with whom they associate, and what is characteristic of the manners and

Customs of the People - hence
 the advantages of foreign travel
 where one meets with occurrences
 new and extraordinary; - sees
 many Curious characters and
 Scenes, all of which have an
 improving effect upon the mind,
 expand and open up the
 faculties, Cultivate and mature
 the powers of action, and
 teach a knowledge of the world
 so necessary to every one who
 is called upon to engage in
 the busy scenes of active life.
 Some people lecture now a
 days on subjects of which
 they know absolutely nothing
 but as to which, if they have
 common modesty, they must
 be conscious of their ignorance.
 What I am about to relate
 if not new shall at least
 be true; - if familiar it is
 I think important, and it does

not always follow that what is true and familiar ought on that account to be forgotten or despised. —

Interesting investigations in literature or science, in travel or in daily life indeed abound, but the knowledge of such subjects, possessed by a man whose life has been devoted to active business as mine's has been is not so easily acquired.

The charm of a lecture at the Colonies ^{Habit} is ~~perceived~~ that it should be real and true, otherwise however sparkling the incidents may be they lack interest for the hearer as soon as he begins to doubt their genuineness, and to lose confidence in their veracity.

For the better ^{Exposition} ~~elucidation~~ of my
 subject I propose to begin with
 a short sketch of South Australia
 in its relation to the other Colonies,
 And to follow this up with an
 account of recent Explorations
 in the Interior; after which I
 will refer to some of my personal
 experiences, more particularly as
 regards ^{as respects} ~~the~~ ^{topical} present condition of
 the colony as a field for labor
 and enterprise; - And ~~to~~ wind
 up with some general remarks
 on the present state of colonial
 society, and any other matters
~~which~~ I think may prove inter-
 -esting or instructive to my
 (Audience.) Hearers.

Australia is the largest
 island in the world having
 a superficial area of nearly
 3. Million square miles, a very
 little less than the whole of Europe.

its greatest length is 2536 miles
and its greatest breadth 1585-

This enormous expanse of country
is almost entirely level, and
Geologists have puzzled their brains
over its formation - There are
many indications that it was once
the bed of the ocean, and it is
known that vast deserts exist
wholly without water - Absence
of Mountain Ranges explains the
absence of rivers, and its general
aridity -

The Continent is divided
into five separate & independent
Colonies or States like Europe -
(I will point them out to you
on the Map -) These
Colonies are quite distinct from
each other, having separate
Governments, and in many
respects different laws: the
largest of them is Western
Australia with an area of

9

978,000 Sq. Miles - its capital is Perth - the population is now about 28,000 and the land under Cultivation is 46,000 acres -

South Australia, including the Northern Territory comprises 906,858 ~~Sq. Miles~~ Acres. Adelaide is the Capital - the population is now close on 250,000 with nearly 2 million acres of land under Cultivation, being the largest quantity of any of the Colonies in the Australian Group.

Queensland is the next in size consisting of 678,000 ~~Sq. Miles~~ Square Miles - its Capital Brisbane - population 200,000 and land under Cultivation about 600,000 acres.

Then comes New South Wales with an area of 323,437 Sq. Miles its Capital Sydney; - population 650,000, land under Cultivation about 600,000 acres. - And last, but not least in importance

is Victoria, settled in 1837, with an area of 86,831 square miles (2200 less than Great Britain) population now bordering on 900,000 and land under cultivation approximating a million and a half acres.

Victoria is the richest and most thickly populated of the Colonies, and owes its prosperity to the gold discoveries of 1851 which in the year 1852 amounted to 14 millions Sterling! - New South Wales and Victoria are the largest gold producing colonies though each of the others adds more or less to the general yield. South Australia is noted for its Copper, and its wheat, the Barroo MOUNTAIN and WALLAROO MINES having yielded large profits to the proprietors, but I should only bore you with further statistics as time will not allow me to go into these subjects so thoroughly as I could wish.

Australia in respect to its natural formation and products no less than in the manner of its rapid settlement & development is worthy of more attention than is generally given to it by those who are not directly or indirectly interested in its advancement:—

Vast deserts of arid sands, winds from the north that blow hot & from the south that blow cold, trees that cast their bark instead of their leaves, — tulips and lilies that grow high in the air, and ferns which attain the growth of trees. — cherries whose stones grow on the outside, birds with the most beautiful plumage which cannot sing, and the platypus, a curious animal half bird and half fish:—

These are some of the wonders of this strange chime, which lies far on the other side of the world

where the sun is now shining, and where the midnight chimes are being rung while we are at our woody meal, and the blasts of mid winter sweep over the hot and parched country during our summer months.

Exploration

The Exploration of the Interior is a subject which has engaged my attention for a number of years, and I had ^{the furtherance of} partly this object in view when in 1862 I imported Camels from India, which have now become quite acclimatized in South Australia, and increased in number from 110 to 500000. Without Camels, which can go a week or ten days without water on a pinch, the Interior could never have been successfully explored, and the "ships of the Desert," as they are called,

are the only animals that we know
of fit for such an undertaking. &
You will see by the Map
that the Continent is divided
into two nearly equal parts
by the Overland Telegraph line
running between ~~Adelaide~~
on the South ~~crosses~~ ~~Adelaide~~ ~~to~~
Adelaide -) and Port Darwin
in the Northern Territory on the
North Coast. -

The Interior of Australia
was until ^{the last} ~~the~~ few years a sealed
Book, and even now our knowledge
concerning it is not by any
means general or complete;
It is only recently that we
have had any idea of the
Geography of the Western Half
of the Great Australian Continent,
but much has been done within
the last four or five years to
make known to us the character
of that vast region.

Before referring specially to these
 however, I must give you a brief
 account of ^{some} previous explorations
 and point out the difficulties which
 the settlers and squatters have
 to encounter in pushing their way
 into the interior. —

About 30 years ago Leichhardt
 undertook to explore the north
 Eastern part of Australia: — His
 first trip to Port Phillip was
 successful, inasmuch as he
 accomplished what he undertook
 to ~~do~~ ^{perform} the second time he turned
 back fainting; and the third
 time he barely started to cross
 from East to West, and has never
 since been heard of; — only a
 few bleached bones of horses
 and some marks upon one or
 two trees have been found to
 indicate his fate. —

* My Brother who is now Present
knew this intrepid explorer
well, having made a voyage with
him from Adelaide some years later,
and had also the pleasure of
meeting him in London at that time.
He was much esteemed in S^t Australia
by all who knew him though afterwards
unfortunate in his Government at Jamaica

In 1841 Mr. Eyre - better known perhaps as the Governor of Jamaica, - made a march from Adelaide to King George's Sound, the record of which is filled with the most horrible details, thrilling incidents, and terrible tragedies in the history of Australian travel.

He had one white man as Companion and 3 natives; - after they had been out for some time their horses nearly all died and while Eyre was watching them to see that they did not stray his attention was drawn to the Camp by the report of fire arms; - He hurried back to find his Companion (Baxter) in the last agonies of death, and two of the black fellows gone into the fire arms and provisions! - He continued his journey with one boy and after undergoing ^{incredible} hardships he received assistance from a French whaler which enabled him to complete his journey to Western Australia in safety.

The same Country along the Coast was travelled by Mr. Forrest in 1869 with comparative ease, showing that the pioneers of any Country have much greater difficulties to encounter than those who follow after them.

Captain Sturt in 1841 endeavored to make his way North, but only reached one sixth of the way across and returned to Adelaide after suffering the greatest hardships and privations. - One man Poole died of exhaustion on the trip.

John McDouall Stuart, the most renowned of Australian discoverers, in 1858 & subsequent years made expeditions into the interior from Adelaide in the endeavor to cross from South to North; - His 3rd attempt was successful though fearful hardships were undergone, and

the overland telegraph now marks his track as a lasting monument to a great man's completed work. I knew Stuart well, both as boy and man, having played with him as a school fellow and heard him describe his last successful expedition shortly before his death.

Mr John Forrest in 1862 and several others tried from the West Coast to get inland between the 29th and 33rd par. of South latitude, but dry salt lagoons and scrub drove them all back:—Forrest's Expedition was sent out in search of Leichardt, or traces of that important expedition, but none were found, and the party was driven back like the rest for want of water.

The costly and celebrated Expedition of Victoria sent out at that Government undercharge

of Richard O'Hara Burke in 1861
 Generally known as the Burke
 and Wills Expedition ^{in 1861} should not
 be overlooked: - The party reached
 Coopers Creek from the river Darling
 with little or plenty. - Burke and
 Wills leaving the main body at
 the Creek left to try and reach
 the North Coast, leaving orders that
 if they did not return by a certain
 day the main body of the Expedition
~~should~~ return to Melbourne without
 them. - The unfortunate men
 arrived back at Coopers Creek
 after successfully accomplishing
 the overland journey but seven
 hours too late! - They were too
 exhausted to follow - were
 without food and had lost
 one of their party. - Burke and
 Wills died miserably from
 exhaustion and starvation.
 The Victorian Search Expedition
 Under Bowtell found King the

Sole Survivor reduced to a skeleton
 and lying in a Native hut some months
 afterwards, - the unhappy man had
 subsisted for a long time on Wardoos
 the seeds of a species of wild corn.
 The last entry in Mills' diary was
 "My pulse is at 48; my legs
 and arms are skin and bone,
 and like Mr. Micauber I must
 wait for something to turn up."

Two Expeditions were sent out
 in the search of the lost ones,
 2 from Queensland, 1 from Melbourne
 and 1 from South Australia.

I was in the colony at the time, and
 accompanied John McKinlay the
 leader of our ^{S.A.} ^{as far as Lake Hope} expedition, to within
 70 miles of Cooper's Creek and
 urged ~~McKinlay~~ ^{him} to send out a
 party in advance to rescue the
 survivors, but he declined to
 take the responsibility, otherwise
 we should have found out King
 before Horrocks; - after Mr. McKinlay's

Refusal of Samuel Sturkey and I
 started by ourselves, but after
 travelling 20 miles our horses gave
 in and we had to return - ^{to Lake Hood} Mr. Kinlay
 had Camels with him and could
 have managed it quite easily. -

Rowitt brought down the remains
 of Burke and Wills to Adelaide
 and arrived the same day that
 McDonald Stuart was received
 with honors for the very feat that
 Burke and Wills had accomplished.

McKinlay's Expedition ^{in 1861} which
 have referred to crossed the
 Continent to the Gulf of Carpentaria
 and returned by way of Queensland
 after encountering great hardships
 and subsisting for a length of
 time on horse and Camel flesh
 the only food left to them to
 enable them to get back to the
 settled districts -

For a period of 10 Years from 1862 to 1872 the prevalence of long and severe draughts in the interior put a stop to exploration - in 1865 and 1866 there was no rainfall in ~~Central~~ or South Australia, and sheep and cattle died by thousands every day. I myself lost 50000 sheep at that time - In 1872 Mr Ernest Giles started from Adelaide with 2 men and a few horses - his expenses were borne by some gentlemen in Victoria. - Shortly after leaving the telegraph line & proceeding in a westerly direction the head of a large lake, called Lake Amadous, with arms like an Octopus, and dry with blue mud and thick encrustations of salt especially put a stop to his further progress and Giles reluctantly returned owing to the disagreement of members of his party.

The Year 1873 is memorable for its Explorations - The Government of South Australia in that Year fitted out an expedition to solve the Problem of the Interior and Cross the Continent to Western Australia. Mr. Wm Gope was appointed the Commander, and he was well supplied with horses, men and provisions, besides 20 Camels which I lent gratuitously to the Government, but after travelling 600 miles he turned back without effecting any important discoveries.

The same year Col. Warburton though an old man, undertook to reach the Western Coast. I supplied him with Camels and every other requisite, my friend Captain Hughes joining me in defraying the expense. Accompanied by his son and some other men he started

from Central Mount Stuart to Cross
 a Country barren in the extreme,
 was driven North for lack of
 water, and finally arrived at the
 Okhovee River - his party were
 in a terrible condition and were
 then starving upon a teaspoonful
 of flour a day. - Warburton
 for 9 days, worn out by starvation
 was strapped upon a camel's back.

When the river was reached he
 he was carried into the water,
 and some of the party went in
 search of a sheep station 170
 miles off. - after they had gone
 Warburton had to kill his last
 camel for food, and when help
 arrived his companions were
 found too weak to stand up &
 were crawling about on their hands
 and knees. - Warburton received the
 Gold Medal from the Royal Geograph
 Society, and the decoration from Her
 Majesty of Commander of the Order of St. George.

Giles undaunted by his previous failure
 once more set out in '73 from the
 telegraph line south of the dreaded
 Lake Amadeus, - he had 3 men
 with him this time and 24 horses.
 They passed through good mountainous
 country but the natives were very
 troublesome - they soon ran short
 of provisions and began to eat their
 horses, and an Explorer's horse
 Cantell You is not an appetizing
 dish! They found an excellent
 patch of country where Melons
 Pumpkins, Corn, wheat & Cucumbers
 grew well - The seeds were sown
 by the party, and on their return
 the fruits were found ready for the
 table - they camped at this place
 for several months, but after
 losing Gibson one of his men,
 who lost his way and perished
 in the scrub - while Giles had again
 to give it up and return for
 safety to the settled Districts.

In 1873 Mr John Rops one of my
 overseers, whom I fitted out with
 Camels and provisions tried to
 push his way through to Western
 Australia in a more southerly
 latitude, but returned with the
 same dismal tale after travelling
 four degrees of longitude without water.

Very soon after Colonel Warburton's
 arrival in Perth the West
 Australian Government fitted out
 an expedition to cross the Continent
 to South Australia under Mr John
 Forrest, who was destined to
 bring the undertaking to a suc-
 = ceptful issue - He had 4 white
 men and 2 Blacks with him,
 plenty of horses & a good outfit -
 He followed up the Murchison
 and then struck across to the Cleve
 line. - After much privation the party
 succeeded in getting through & received
 a Public Banquet at their arrival in Adelaide.

The last Exploring Expedition in which I have been engaged was undertaken in the year 1874, when I determined to send a party thro' to the City of Perth on the 30th parallel, about 400 miles South of Forests ~~Creek~~ ^{Creek}, and so set at rest the conflicting opinions, ^{entertained} as to the character of the Country in that much dreaded region - Mr Ernest Giles was selected to be the leader, Mr Dickens 2nd in Command, and Mr Jeps Young Observer and Naturalist. -

the party consisted of 5 white men, 2 black boys and 2 Camel Drivers, with 8 months provisions.

This Journey was a very perilous one, partly arising from attacks by the Natives but chiefly from the want of Water. - They had to travel 337 miles on one occasion occupying 17 days, without

seeing a vestige of water - The Journal
 of the explorers
 entry reads thus - "It proved
 to be a race for life. - on the
 12th day we were reduced to such
 a pass that we held a council
 to decide how to dispense with
 some of the camels; - we decided
 to take them all on without trusting
 to Providence to help us out of
 any difficulties, and so we struggled
 forward until the 17th day when
 the black boy found to our joy and
 surprise a water hole sufficient
 to last the whole party for a fortnight.

In spite of dangers and
 privations of no ordinary description
 the party at length reached Perth
 in safety, and were cordially
 welcomed by the inhabitants
 which compensated them in some
 measure for the hardships they
 had undergone. -

In accordance with my

instructing Mr Giles made his way back to Adelaide, ^{overlapped} by a different route, midway between the tracks of Warburton and Forrest, 500 miles north of his Westward journey - he accomplished this also in safety, and returned the camels to Beltana Station, from whence he had taken them 18 months before. -

You will thus see that the Country which lies between South and West Australia has been traversed in all directions: Crossed by Warburton + Forrest - Crossed and recrossed by Giles; besides Eyre's and Forrest's lines along the Coast. -

Unfortunately Sand Hills and Sterility are the prevailing Characteristics of the Country through which these Expeditions passed, but the facts derived

from these Expeditions indicate that the Central Waste is bordered on all sides by a Belt, the greater portion of which is suitable for raising sheep and Cattle, and on the South there are many tracts which would make desirable sites for settlement if water could only be brought to moisten the parched earth.

Strange to say ~~that~~ the land on both sides of the Telegraph line and for some distance inland is fit to carry stock, and I know that in some places, - the Macdonnell Ranges for example, very fine well watered Pastoral Country can be had. - it must be borne in mind of course that all the knowledge we possess of these Waste lands has been hurriedly obtained, and that every Expedition has been simply a Wild Race for life across the Sands.

* Let any man lay the maps of Australia before him, and regard the blank upon its surface, and then let me ask if it would not be an honorable achievement ~~to~~ to be the first to unravel the mystery that hangs over it; even though the result should be considered nothing more than a Geographical Exploit.

There is yet one part of the Country which remains to be explored to complete our knowledge of the Region North of Colonel Warburton's route, which is shown by the map as still a terra incognita; and I have arranged to send out another expedition under the leadership of Mr Sep Young when I get back to the Colony; to start from ~~the vicinity of~~ Central Mount Stuart, and proceed in a slanting direction to the North West Coast ~~and~~ when that task is accomplished the examination of the Country lying to the Westward of the Telegraph line may ~~perhaps~~ fairly be considered as at an end. *

A record of my personal experiences need not occupy much of your time -

My first Voyage to Australia was made in the year 1854 in the Steamship "Queen of the South" which left Southampton in May and reached Melbourne in 47 days. Melbourne at that time was but a small town, comparatively speaking, for the gold diggings had only begun existence for 4 years, and had some difficulty in obtaining lodgings. - Remained only a few days and then went on to Adelaide in the Coasting Steamer "Bosphorus". -

In visiting new Countries, seeing strange places, and meeting with strange people, the interest being awakened by so many mixed emotions, Curiosity, Wonder, and the feeling

of novelty, is much more vivid than that which any subsequent events can excite, and the impressions are generally the Truest for the eye takes in all at a glance.

By familiarity with a scene we individualize the objects, but our first impressions retain the prominent features and general character of the picture. - Thus it is that first impressions cling to us through life, and those periods when our first impressions were formed become the data by which we recall the past history of our lives.

My first impressions of Adelaide, and I may say of the Colony at large, were in the highest degree favorable; - I found the city standing on a fertile plain about 8 miles distant from the sea, with a

range of hills, called the Mount
 Lofty range, forming a beautiful
 background, and the plains in
 front studded with houses and
 gardens. - Since then the City &
 Plains have made wonderful strides
 towards improvement, but after
 four and twenty years experience
 my first impressions remain,
 and I know of no place in the
 wide world which presents a
 more desirable residence ^{of simple tastes} to men
 of quiet and retiring habits than
 South Australia. -

The rapid progress of this
 Colony in all that constitutes
 wealth and prosperity in a new
 country; - the severe reverses
 which it sustained ^{at the outset} and the
 successful manner in which it
 emerged from them all, are
 chronicled in books, and need
 not specially be referred to by me.

Adelaide is more like a provincial town in England or Scotland than any of the other Colonial Capitals, and the tone of society is ~~perhaps~~ more cultivated, and formed ^{more} upon the model of the Mother Country, than might reasonably be expected ~~from~~ a town of such recent origin. -

Kindness and hospitality to strangers may be instanced in proof of this, ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ this has always been a leading characteristic of the Province. -

The climate I admit is hot, very hot, during the summer months, but from April till November, the weather is delightful. - We now take advantage of the experience of those who live in climates similar to ours, and ~~by~~ avoiding exposure to the midday sun, and wear as a rule light clothing in summer,

but improvements may still be made in these respects:— for example we should all be stirring at early morning, and do as much of our work, whether of brain or muscle, as we can, before the heat overpowers us, and we should turn some of its most oppressive hours into a time of rest or siesta during the day:— These, and the use of Pinks, will ~~surely~~ ^{surely} make the climate in course of time not only ^{and endurable} healthy, but more agreeable:—

We have hot winds occasionally in South Australia, and very hot and disagreeable they doubtless are! They invariably come from the North and are supposed to traverse an arid and burning desert in the interior:— When sweeping over the plains the wind comes in gusts, not cool and refreshing, but hot and piercing, and you

feel your parched tongue withered
 and shrivelled up in your mouth: -
 You feel in a fever & You have such
 a sense of suffocation, and heat, and
 pain that you seek for shelter wherever
 it can be found; - Happily these
 winds are not of frequent occurrence,
^{or of long duration} but as they occur at the time the
 Crops begin to open the injury sus-
 -tained is sometimes very serious -
 The effects are like a blight over
 the whole face of vegetation; -
 after a few days the Crops that before
 seemed flourishing are all scorched
 and drooping. - I remember one
 dreadful Sunday ^{a good many} some years ago
 when the Apples were literally
 roasted on the trees in our Gardens
 and when our dinner was completely
 spoiled by the excessive heat. -

Notwithstanding these climatic
 drawbacks Know of no Colony
or dependency of the British Empire

superior to South Australia as a field for emigration is provided the labor required be of the right sort: -

New Colonies are essentially beneficial to the laboring population, and all kinds of work here are better remunerated than ^{at home} ~~at home~~ ^{work}. -

The Clerk, the man of small salary in various occupations, or those of fixed and narrow incomes cannot keep pace with the increasing costliness in the necessaries of life and must remain poor in the midst of prosperity. - The educated man who seeks to better his fortune in a purely intellectual groove, will find himself a great deal out of place amidst the hurry and turmoil of the pursuit of wealth; - but if he be industrious and steady there can be no life to compare to that of a colonial one for the working man. -
Nowhere can his capabilities

be so soon ascertained and tested, or a broader field for their development afforded him - Encouragement meets him on every turn. - beautiful homes in all directions serve him as sign posts of successful industry, and what might have appeared a wild dream in his native land stands boldly forth here as a reality. He needs but knowledge of the things within his reach, and a thankful and contented spirit to enjoy them.

Many Young men of good families meet here with the disappointment arising to their relying too much on the superiority of their birth. - In some instances they are quite unfit for adaptation to circumstances which is the main spring of success in a colonial world, and in others they are unwilling to try it. - The experiment of sending out to the Colonies Younger Sons of

the upper classes with the idea, or under the plea, of reformation, is as unwise as it is cruel and ^{unwarrantable} ~~selfish~~ - it often meets with the saddest results, and cannot be too strongly condemned.

As ignorant of the requirements of a life so utterly different from their early one calls for as they are unfitted for it; away from all control of family and friends; no safe restraint by the wholesome fear of being cast with the associates of their old sphere they become discouraged, careless, reckless, and too often drift into the dangerous loafing class, whence they rapidly sink to their ruin, & the disgrace of their friends.

To become an efficient Colonist a man must understand the specialities of the land he is in, and by comparing them closely with those of the old country find out how much of what he has previously learnt may be

available to him in his present life,
and resolutely set aside that
which belongs not to it. - it is
with tenacious minds often more
difficult to unlearn than to learn.

The Agriculturist especially needs
to be on his guard against too great
a fixity of opinions, and the effect
of prejudice on the march of im-
provement. - An untaught man
with merely fair intelligence might
succeed better by simply following
the lessons taught by experience
than the man who, confirmed in
a system, would fail to see its un-
suitableness to the circumstances
of the land he cultivates. Nature's
rules are imperative, and climate
determines what the different Countries
shall or shall not produce, and the
kind of human beings best adapted
for their cultivation. - The Farmer is
the Colonist par excellence; he belongs
to the land, lives by it and for it,
and his labours are for the good of all.

We have in Adelaide some excellent Mechanics whose works are hardly to be surpassed anywhere, but their Number is but small compared to the demand which our rapid Progress calls forth. -

In the different branches of Building Work more especially, the dearth of Competent workmen is greatly felt; - Houses must be had; and houses of more or less Pretension greet you at every turn, springing up as it almost seems in a day, but to build them, men who have scarcely learnt the rudiments of their trade, and others who have left theirs for higher emoluments in the building line form the Builders Staff.

Colonial life embraces a Multitude of subjects, the importance of which varies according to the degree of interest we may happen to take in it; - there is perhaps no better field for study than that

of a Colonial Community composed as it is of such an infinite variety of material, brought together from many parts of the world to be worked up by circumstances into a singularly distinctive people full of vigour and enterprise.

Each Nation's Representatives bring some contribution to the general stock of practical information which self interest soon teaches men to take advantage of. - it is interesting to watch how, under that mighty stimulus deep rooted prejudices are set aside and how soon fusion takes place.

Provers in Men, never dreamt of before even by themselves, are called into sudden action; and Natures, quickly roused into intelligence by contact with their fellow beings, soon acquire that self reliance which ever forms the solid basis of prosperity.

Thus grounded the most common
 Place individual, if he but work
 Steadily at his Vocation, and gain what
 Knowledge he can on his way, storing
 it up as a thing of value for future
 use may, in time rest peacefully
 from his labors in Competence and
 Respectability:— But for the Man
 whom Nature has favoured with
 especial gifts, opportunities such
 as never could have fallen to his
 lot offer themselves to him in this
 Land so full of Resources— He
 has but to choose his Path;—
 no matter what his Ambition may
 be, if he keep it constantly in
 View, working towards it, and be
 honest, he will prosper and reach
 the Goal at last.—

But here too often he finds
 the grand failure of his life;—
 He has reached a height for
 which neither his breeding or
 education qualify him.— In his

road up tort, in that narrow groove which leads to wealth he has wiped those views of the world's ways and means which teach man how small he is - And how much he has to be taught and refined before the iron of his nature can be tempered into that true polished steel wherewith the battle of life must be fought and its laurels secured. -

Wealth is a great gift, but it is not abiding in itself. - its potency for evil is quite equal to that of the good it may bring. -

Wealth all powerful as it is cannot of itself make a gentleman, and frequently serves but to bring out in high relief faults in a person's nature which might have remained unsuspected but for the glare of his ostentation. - This class is a natural growth of Young Colonies, where in the eagerness of the race after riches, the means of

enjoying them when attained are overlooked, and their power for good is wiped - But Time throws the light of experience on the fallacies of the past, and men find that the grand edifice their wealth has built up for them lacks its chief good - the substantial foundation of Culture and education.

The land laws in South Australia are extremely liberal, and ought to induce working men to emigrate from this country ^{in order} to take advantage of them: - Any laboring man with a small capital can select from 50 up to 1000 acres in the interior at \$1 per acre, and be allowed 10 years to pay for it. - As he must settle on the land, and work it, if he has a family to assist him, ^{as usual} all the better. - Within the first 2 years he is required to build a house for himself, sink

a well enclosed in the land, and in each year thereafter cultivate 1/5 of his holding the produce of which is at his own disposal -

South Australia may well be proud of her farming population to whom the stability of her prosperity is confided, in whose hands the staff of life has become a great power in the land, and to whom in time of need she will not look in vain for help. -

The climate of our adopted land, with its bright skies and clear atmosphere has, when it is at its best, a charm which infuses itself into human life with the exhilarating air one breathes; and which lingers long & yearningly in the memory of those who have fully enjoyed it when they have returned to the gloom & austerity of their native land. - I consider myself one of that happy number

Our Drawbacks as I have said, are heat, and sudden, often extreme alternations of temperature; but on the whole few climates have so little to complain of; and few Colonies can be found - if anywhere advantages so far outweigh its inconveniences.

In a lecture of this sort, chiefly addressed to working men, the question of wages and cost of living may very properly be ~~referred to~~ ^{introduced}, and without referring to authorities on the subject will merely mention the result of my own experience. Wages as a rule are much higher in the Colony ^{in the other country.} than ~~in~~ when I left Adelaide in Octr 1877 was paying my Coachman, gardeners, and out door laborers £ of a month of 4 weeks, equal to 5 of a day, ~~the~~ finding themselves in food & lodging.

and head gardeners of course con- siderably more; - My domestic servants received 12/- a week, Landscap 14/- and Cook £60 a year. - Smaller establishments must pay less, but good servants always command higher wages.

The cost of living to working men at least is rather cheaper than at home; - Mutton was 3/- a lb Beef from 5 to 6 and Bread I think 6^d the quarter loaf when I left, but these prices vary according to the seasons, and 2 or 3 years ago fat sheep could be bought in Adelaide for half a crown a head!

Rice and Sugar, Colonial Wine and Beer - Fruit and Tobacco are cheaper in the colony, but spirits, being liable to import duties, are not so cheap.

Grapes are so plentiful and cheap that they can be

bought at 50/ a Ton, little more than 1/2 the price of Potatoes. House rent, servants wages, Firewood, Boots and Shoes and Clothes are the articles that cost more money than in England, but really after all the difference is not great, and I feel almost justified in repeating, that working men especially, can live more comfortably at a cheaper rate in the Colony than at home.

This address I apprehend would be incomplete without some allusion being made to the progress of the Colony in regard to its Productions, Railways, Telegraphs, Public Institutions and Finances, but I will be careful not to weary you with either lengthened or unnecessary details. —

In the year 1834 an act was passed ^{in England} for founding the colony of South Australia, which specially provided that the proceeds of the lands sold should be applied

1st to immigration; - 2nd that no convicts should ever be sent out; and that 3rd as soon as the population reached 5000 a constitution with representative Government would be granted. These conditions have ^{now} all borne their ^{legitimate} fruits, and as a result the present position of the colony exhibits great natural resources, a salubrious climate, industry and enterprise in her people, and a freedom and stability in her institutions. -

Our Government consists of a Legislative Council or Upper House with 18 members, and a House of Assembly with 16 members all elected by the people. - We live under

what is called "Responsible Government,"
 Carried on by 6 Ministers who form
 the Cabinet and receive Salaries
 of a Thousand a year each - Ordinary
 Members of Parliament are not paid
 for their Services. -

Our laws are administered by a
 Supreme Court, Presided over by
 a Chief Justice and 2 other Judges.
 The Real Property Act first intro-
 duced into our Colony, and now
 in active operation is a process
 by which the transfer of land may
 be accomplished in as easy and
 cheap a manner as any ordinary
 Commercial transaction.

Our churches are conducted on
 the Voluntary principle, or
 freedom from State Control. -
 We have now about 1000 churches
 of all denominations in the
 Colony and 600 Sunday Schools

25
 20 years ago the number of Public Houses equalled the number of Churches, ^{about 230} but I am happy to say it is not so now, the latter ^{churches} being a long way ahead.

Public Education is entrusted to a Council appointed by the Government with a paid President, and its principles are these;

- 1st The education is secular but not to the exclusion of the Bible.
- 2^d Free to those who cannot afford to pay, and 3rd Compulsory wherever practicable. - Parliament has made liberal grants of money and land for supporting a comprehensive system of public instruction.

An Adelaide University for the higher branches of education has lately been established, the income of which now amounts to £6000 a year, with an

Endowment of 50,000 acres of land, sufficient to support 6 Professors, of which 4 only have as yet been appointed. —

The Institutes in various parts of the country now number nearly one hundred.

Railways We have 400 miles of railway in operation, and other lines forming which in a few years will more than double this quantity. The average cost of our Railways, which are all made by the Government, is now reduced to £4600 per mile. And the policy pursued has been to reduce the cost of carriage to a minimum with a view of developing the resources of the agriculturist and mining districts through which the lines of railway pass. —

Roads We have nearly 3000 Miles of Main Trunk lines of road in the settled districts, the cost of which, amounting to 2 millions has been paid out of the General Revenue;— In addition to the main lines as many more lines of By roads have been constructed by District Councils, Local Municipalities

Telegraphs We have 4000 Miles of Wire at work throughout the Colony ^{with thorough communication} with all the sister Colonies including Western Australia, and a Cable is now being laid to connect New Zealand, thereby completing the chain which will unite the whole of the British Possessions at the Antipodes with the Mother Country, and the rest of the civilized world. —

In the year 1872 South Australia at her own cost and risk

* The main road, which is a very fine road improved and everywhere bridged by the Government at great cost runs by the telegraph line to Adelaide, the telegraph stations being 200 miles apart from each other - Buggies have been driven along this road from Palmerston to Adelaide without difficulty -

erected a line of Telegraph from Adelaide
 to Port Darwin, a distance of 2200
 Miles, across a Continent which had
 only been traversed by an exploring
 party. ^{Previously} ~~that~~ we papers can now be sent
 to and from England in four and twenty
 hours for 10/6 a word! This great
 undertaking cost the Colony £370,000.

I must summarize for - sake of
 brevity - our 3 great staple
 productions, viz. wheat, wool
 and copper.

Wheat is the most important
 interest, inasmuch as nearly as
 half of the Male Population
 are engaged in farming pursuits.
 Within the last ten years the
 growth of wheat has more than
 doubled, and we expect from
 the present harvest (now being
 reaped), at least 12 Million Bushels
 which will enable us to export 250000
 tons of Breadstuffs, after providing for Home
 requirements.

The Special Commissioner of the Colonies at the Vienna Exhibition says in his report ^{on this subject} of all the British Colonies "South Australia exhibits the most striking picture at present of farming industry and on the whole seems to be the place where, good as the labourer's condition may be elsewhere, he has, by prudence and industry, the best chance of rising in the social scale, and becoming in his turn the employer of labour."

Wool - The export of wool has increased 50 per cent - during the last 5 years, and the value which in 1866 was under one million £ is now upwards of 2 millions - and the number of Bales 126,000 as against 62,000

of late years the enclosure and subdivision of runs by fencing has been found to produce greatly improved results

both as regards the quality of the ~~stock~~ and of the wool; and the formation of dams & reservoirs in which large bodies of water can be stored, are being carried out to a large extent, and are all important in increasing the N^o of stock. —

Almost limitless tracts of country bordering on the telegraph line, as well as land laid open by recent explorations are awaiting pastoral occupation, and considering the vast extent of available territory at present unoccupied in South Australia there would appear to be little doubt that the extraordinary progress already made in the production of wool will steadily continue.

Copper - is at a very low ebb at present, almost all the mines in the Colony being stopped; but it has not always been so

For South Australia owes no little
of its prosperity to the employment
of a large number of its people
in the working of her Copper mines,
several of which have been exceed-
ingly profitable to the proprietors.

The Barramling since its
commencement has paid in
dividends about £800,000 and
the Mount, £950,000. - The
Walleroo being a private company
does not publish its returns.

However none of these mines
can be worked ^{to advantage} ~~profitably~~
with Copper ^{selling} under 20 per cent.
and the term "Ichabod" may
therefore fitly be applied to
them at present "for their glory
has departed." - Have faith in the
future of the mining interest however
^{with others} ~~the~~ content to wait the turn
of fortune's wheel in favor of
these once rich and productive
properties.

a few words on the Finance
of the Colony and I have done

our finances have never
been in a more prosperous condition
than at present. -

The receipts from all sources of
revenue indicate the steady
progress and growth of the
Community, and there is a tone
of elasticity which promises well
for the future. -

The General Revenue amounts
in round Numbers to £1,200,000
and the ^{annual} expenditure to somewhat less.

The Public Loan account
is kept distinct from that of
the General Revenue. -

The Public Debt I may
now guess, for I cannot say
exactly, at 7 millions, and
against this debt are placed
the Reproductive Telegraphs
Railways & permanent improvements.

The balance due by land selectors
for lands sold on credit and not
yet paid for, amounting to nearly
3 Millions; besides unalienated
domains to an extent of 200
Millions Acres! -

In glancing at this retrospect
one cannot fail to recognize
the great success that has attended
the enterprise of a handful of English-
men, who, without adventitious aid
have, during a single generation, esta-
-blished a flourishing Community
& produced most of the social and
material advantages of the Siberian
And much of Old World Civilization,
Conducive to the happiness and prosperity
of a people - 50,000 to 60,000 men
supporting three their number of women
and children, occupy 200,000 Sq. Miles
of pastoral country and possess millions
of sheep, - own upwards of 6 million
Acres of land, and grow 12 Million
Bushels of wheat; Conduct an

External Commerce of nearly
 10 Millions Sterling and raise
 A Million and a quarter of Revenue.
 Such is the material result
 shown in the forty seven years
 of the Colonization of South
 Australia.

