

We have glided so imperceptibly into the enjoyment of many advantages, comforts, and luxuries, the offspring of these discoveries—we have familiarised ourselves so complacently with the results—that we do not fatigue our minds to investigate how these results have been brought about; nor do we reflect as attentively as we should do as to what the future of this country is to be, and how those who succeed us must acquit themselves.

Our most accomplished geologists assure us that the area of auriferous drift is far from having been yet explored; that the extent of gold-bearing rocks is wholly unknown; that the depth to which they may be profitably worked is still undetermined; that unmistakable indications announce the presence of other minerals of no mean value; while the natural products already so abundantly cultivated, and those capable of bearing acclimatisation, display unbounded resources to employ industry, and for manufactures demanding a higher order of scientific and technical instruction than has been hitherto available for their judicious development. For it is not by wrestling against the inflexible laws of nature, which compel the industry of man to conform to the conditions of soil and climate, and the limits of his own knowledge; nor by ill-advised competition with the capital of older communities, employed under circumstances which give it an overwhelming superiority; nor by a contest with the stubborn principles of political economy, that we can expect to establish the permanent prosperity of our adopted land.

We are not, even in our time, satisfied to import the discoveries of others, and to invite the man of science and the skilled artisan to direct their operations. Australia can point with a modest satisfaction to the invention of Osborne in photo-lithography, and the test for blood by Dr. Day; to the cure for snake-bite by Professor Halford; to the method of removing pyrites, that inveterate enemy of the metallurgist, as well as the native alloys from gold, and toughening the metal by the use of chlorine gas, by Mr. Miller, of the Sydney Mint; to the scientific preservation of the meat of our redundant flocks and herds, so largely exported; and also to many others, mention of which would detain you too long, the omission to specify which will be pardoned, and not deemed invidious by the able and zealous men to whom the community is so much indebted.

Far be it from me to depreciate the benefits to be derived from sitting at the feet of those great masters who instruct mankind in

Europe, or to underrate the incalculable advantages to be gained by travel in expanding the mind, making it receive readily, almost involuntarily, impressions of the most improving description. Still, it is not to be supposed that parents will sever themselves from their children, or that they can afford to incur the risks and expense of educating their sons in another hemisphere, when it is possible to procure for them, all things considered, a good training in this busy human hive; where, in the midst of mines, factories, and workshops, with gifted operatives in every branch of every trade at hand, opportunities for the technical illustration of every department of theory exist, such as it is rare indeed, if not impossible, to find assembled in any other spot in such close proximity. We should not, then, ungraciously underestimate the faculties of our young men, and deem them incapable of holding their ground with their own relatives resident in the countries from which we have come. We should not act towards them in a manner at once ungracious and unjust, by denying them means to prove their ability and to try their constancy.

As the ranks of the learned professions become more densely filled, other sources of equally useful and honourable employment must be sought for those who come after. Your surveyors, your engineers, your architects, must be called into existence here, and the time will come when Victoria may, with pride, address to her own sons the mandate—

“Bid harbours open, public ways extend,  
Bid temples worthier of God ascend,  
Bid the broad arch the dangerous flood contain,  
The mole projected break the roaring main,  
Back to his bounds their subject sea command,  
And roll obedient rivers through the land.”

Let those, then, who desire that such things should be, come to the front, and with good will and open hand support your school.

It is not my intention to delay you by dilating on the detail of the course of study to be pursued here, already mapped out with much discernment from those of the great schools of Europe, our safest guides. You would not, however, excuse a neglect to acknowledge gratefully the obligation we are under to the eminent geologist, Sir Roderick Murchison, the venerable director of the Jermyn-street School of Mines, for the advice with which he has kindly favoured us, and the donation of books which form so acceptable a contribution to our