

of a man recruited his health on the Mission Horse, and rapidly regaining strength, he became associated, as a partner in a small foundry.

His next recollection has reference to the first nugget which he thinks came from the Mt. Alexander district, but nothing definite was known on that point, and the presence of gold in the land was first made apparent by Hargrave's discovery in New South Wales. Hargraves and Esmond (the Victorian discoverer) came out together from the Californian diggings and Esmond's find was made whilst he was fulfilling a fencing contract in the Pyrrinees - the gold being discovered in the post holes. Then the excitement commenced, and a week later Hiscock made his discovery (so well known) near Buninyong. The male population fairly left Geelong and Mr. Oddie "put his ^{house in} order" - or rather, he squared up his business affairs, and on the 22nd. of August, started for the diggings, and arrived at Buninyong on August 27th. 1851. The first thing that attracted his attention was a two horse cart, filled with cradles and tubs going to some distant spot. That was Connor's party - one of the two parties (the other being Merrick's) who discovered gold at Golden Point, Ballarat East. Mr. Oddie found Mr. Hiscocks alone in a gully, - and with him he got his first gold - a small quantity. Mr. Thos. Bath accompanied by his wife - arrived in the meantime and a general move was made for Golden Point, which was reached about half past two on September 2nd. 1851.

The best positions at the Point were already marked out, and Mr. Oddie had to take a "back place". The representative of the Geelong Advertiser, Mr. Alfred Clark, sought information for his paper regarding the quantities of gold being obtained, and Mr. Geo. House told him that from the first day of their arrival they had obtained 300ozs. a day. The information was accordingly printed and new people accordingly flocked to the place, and the digger's holes were rushed - "every man for himself" being the rule.