

They came through Ballarat and found the place practically deserted. The Lodden was in flood at the time, and much difficulty was experienced in crossing it. Finding a man there unable to cross the stream, Mr. Murray took him in his arms and carried him over. In due course they arrived at Castlemaine, where they washed some dirt, and found nice little nuggets, but as they were intent on better things, they pushed on to Bendigo, where they sold the contents of their bullock dray load consisting of a ton of flour for £20 a bag, and bran at a £1 a bushel. As they approached the diggings each man on the fields discharged what fire-arms he had, which gave a stranger the impression that a fight was in progress. They went seven miles beyond Bendigo, where gold was being obtained in abundance. Here they did very well, but the life was rough, and in four months they returned to Geelong and sold their gold at £2 - 15 per oz. That winter (1852) was the wettest he has ever known. Whilst at Bendigo Mr. Murray narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the police. For economic reasons it was decided that one of his party should go without a licence, Mr. Murray was that one. In due course the police came over the diggings, and he looked for a hole in which to hide