

extensive Botanic Garden, have been laid out for the pleasures of the people. The merchants have their Chamber of Commerce; the mechanics, their Literary Institution; the farmers, their Agricultural Society; and those interested in mining, their school and colleges. But the rate of progress has not been confined to the limits of the city, for thousands of acres all round are under cultivation for agricultural purposes, where many of those who spent their early colonial days mining are now, after their toil, content to settle down in the bliss of having a farm of their own, and of sitting under their own vine and fig-tree.

Opportunities were afforded for visiting some of the famous gold-mines in the immediate neighbourhood, one of which, belonging to the Black Hill Mining Company, situated at the foot of the hill which gives the company its name, on the banks of the river Yarrowee, was particularly interesting: here is a most complete and novel set of machinery. The steam-engine, a horizontal one, of 100 horse-power, is placed in the centre of the works, and drives six batteries of ten stamps each. The quartz is supplied to the stampers by a self-feeding apparatus, when it is reduced sufficiently fine to pass through wire gratings, at the back and front of the machine, having one hundred and twenty holes to the square inch.

A small quantity of mercury is put into each stamp-box twice a day. The crushed quartz is then carried