

of these waves of fire and smoking floods are epics of the grandest order. And now, after long ages, in these calm and settled days, when our earth is unshaken by the war of the fierce elements, she holds these rich treasures in her bosom, and we probe our way through the thick rocks and recover from the beds of these ancient streams the precious metal hidden there, perhaps, when the first great fiat went forth, and the waters were parted from the land, and out of chaos a new planet sprung into being, at the command of God. * * *

After returning to the city from my mining excursion, I called on Mr. Bardwell, with whom I drove round the suburbs, visiting Buninyong, a mining and agricultural district containing 1981 inhabitants, and passing through Sebastopol, a mining village containing some 6000 inhabitants, where in all directions are to be seen evidences of the past—numberless mounds and deserted claims, now being reworked by persevering Chinese, who succeed occasionally in obtaining a few ounces of gold from amongst the *débris*. Driving back, we passed through the new Public Gardens, and on reaching the city, I left by the 7.15 train for Melbourne, arriving there after a four hours' run, and then by rail to Sandridge.

During our stay various entertainments were arranged for the benefit of the "Challengers." Eventually it was with great regret we found that we must be on the move again.