

the western side of the city, has its frontage entirely occupied with wharfs and quays. Here all the inter-colonial steam companies have their stations; while ferry-boats run in all directions to the north shore, to Balmain, St. Leonard's, and higher, to the township of Pyrmont, and so for some eight miles up the lovely Paramatta River, passing Cockatoo Island, where is situated the government dry-dock, in which we were on the 20th April successfully placed, and had sundry repairs, &c. The dock is 400 feet long, with 20 feet depth of water over the sill. Workshops are provided, with an extensive plant of modern machinery, so as to be enabled to undertake any repairs to the vessels on the station.

I have no recollection of seeing in any early work on this colony reference to the charming scenery of Sydney Harbour, or the many navigable rivers which are near it; nor is much said of the glorious ranges of the Australian Alps. But there are scenes of nature here at hand as lovely as are to be met with in any part of the world. A few days after our arrival, invitations were sent by the members of the Government to a picnic on Mount Victoria, in company with the officers of the German frigate *Arcona*. A special train started at 7 o'clock from the City Station on the Great Western line, with a very large party of us; and as an escort were the Hon. Samuel Lloyd, Treasurer, Hon. Saul Samuel, Postmaster-General, the Minister of