

Handwritten text in cursive script, possibly a signature or name, written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The text is highly stylized and difficult to decipher, but appears to contain several words or a full name.

# ANGLO-COLONIAL GOSSIP.

[From our own Correspondent.]

LONDON, September 3.

Chief Justice Way left London on Wednesday morning for Bath, for a visit of the briefest character to Lady Cooper, the widow of a former Chief Justice of South Australia. He is at Exeter to-day, and to-morrow he is to embark on the Oruba at Plymouth. It is unnecessary to say that he has been most popular here, and has left hosts of friends. He has been spending a considerable portion of his time lately consulting the British Museum authorities about books for Adelaide University. Since I wrote last he has also been on a visit to Lady Musgrave, and on Tuesday evening he was at a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, with whom he dined.

Mr. F. Mortimer Trimmer, formerly of South Australia, who has written a novel to which I referred last week, has received a complimentary post-card from Mr. Gladstone. Mr. and Mrs. Finlayson have come up to town for a short trip from Kent, before going away to the Continent. Dr. Harmer has also been in London for a few days, but has now gone hence like most other people. Mr. W. Menz, of Adelaide, after a pleasant stay in London, has gone for a couple of months' trip on the Continent. Mr. W. H. Webb, who has been to Ireland, has again reached London. Mr. David Murray will leave for Adelaide on October 6. Lieutenant Hay has been on a visit to Sir William and Lady Ingram at Westgate. Messrs. George Wills & Co. have opened an office for shipping and chartering purposes in Leadenhall-street, London. Mrs. Waite is staying at Twickenham with her daughter, who is in much better health.

Mr. Playford has issued a circular appealing for funds on behalf of the widow and children of the late Mr. Charles F. Wells, who was second in command of the Calvert Exploring Expedition. *Inter alia*, he wrote:—"I have received, through my Government, a request that I will do what I can by bringing the fund under the notice of colonists from South Australia and Western Australia now in England to assist in obtaining subscriptions for this most worthy object. The death of Mr. C. F. Wells, in the prime of life, in such pathetic circumstances, and whilst engaged in the performance of a great public duty, has left his wife and family in a condition demanding immediate and generous assistance, and I venture to hope that your interest in the exploration and development of the Australian Continent, and the warm sympathy that you cannot but feel in the sorrowful case of this young widow and her children, will lead you to respond to the appeal of the Adelaide Committee on whose behalf I am addressing you." [Our cable messages have intimated that the response to this appeal has thus far been miserably disappointing.—ED.]

The new Directors of the West Australian Mining Company, with a capital of £120,000 in 2s. shares, are Sir T. D. McKenzie, Bart., W. J. Doyle, and Mr. G. T. Bean, formerly of Adelaide.

Mrs. Brown Potter, who has taken up her residence in St. John's Wood, is telling all her friends that Australia is one of the most lovely countries in the world, and that she has made lots of money there.

The New South Wales mounted troops embark to-day in the Oruba, after a very pleasant and useful trip in this country. The training they have undergone in connection with the Royal Scots Guards will be of considerable advantage to them. Since their horses were sold by auction on August 9 they have been touring the country.

A large number of cyclists journeyed to the Royal Albert Docks on Friday last to bid farewell to J. Platt-Betts, the world's record-holder, and E. H. Ainsworth, the five-mile N.C.U. champion, who left by the s.s. China. On his arrival at the antipodes the Catford rider will endeavour to reduce all colonial records, whilst Ainsworth will devote his attention to amateur events. Betts has arranged to have the benefit of several pacing teams already located in Australia.

The Board of Agriculture state that out of 381 cattle consigned to Great Britain from Australia last year, only thirty-two were landed alive.

The Canon O'Brien, Protestant Rector of Adare, County Limerick, who took so prominent a part in welcoming the Duke and Duchess of York to Adare Manor as the guests of Lord Dunraven is the son of the late Mr. William Smith O'Brien, who placed himself at the head of an insurrectionary movement after the death of the famous Dan O'Connell. Of course the insurrection was a failure, and O'Brien was sentenced to death, but ultimately was sent to Tasmania, and after some years returned to Ireland, where he died in 1864. It is interesting to note that a statue of Smith O'Brien, erected by public subscription, now occupies a site in the part of the City of Dublin which was refused as a site for the statue of the late Prince Consort by the Corporation of Dublin.

The disappearance of Frank Slavin, who set out for the new goldfields at Klondyke, has done perhaps more than anything else to draw attention to that region of the globe, which seems likely to eclipse Western Australia as a marvellous gold-producing country. To a Press representative Mrs. Slavin, his young wife, who has been staying out of London with some friends since Slavin's departure, said that the last letter she had received from her missing husband was dated July 15, Juneau, Alaska. "He had then," remarked the young lady, "gone as far as he could go by steamer, and was about leaving for the Klondyke. Frank said he hoped to get there safely. He had then been in America sixteen months. He was not alone, but was accompanied by Joe Boyle, his Manager, and Frank something or other—I do not exactly remember what his name is—who has fought in the ring, and is, I believe, the heavy-weight champion of Canada. They were on the point of departure, and were casting in their fortunes together. Frank had no large sum of money about him, but they were well stocked for the journey, for they had not only their own canoe, but provisions for six months. Since then I have not received a line from him, nor do I think that a letter could have reached me from where he is. Frank spoke as if his prospects were very bright, and seemed to think it likely that he would do well, and I was feeling quite hopeful as regards him until I saw the cablegram announcing his disappearance." [Subsequent cable messages have reported Slavin's death.—Ed.]

Though the consignment of oranges which came by the Australia, and which were sold on August 23 by Messrs. White & Co. of Covent Garden, bore the brand of Messrs. G. Wills & Co., that firm had really no direct connection with the shipment, and they merely handed it over to the auctioneer as instructed by the consignor. Messrs. G. Wills & Co. have put their actual consignment into the hands of the Colonial Consignment and Distributing Co., Limited, and it was divided up and distributed among the Company's branches and agents in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other places, and a large proportion have been sold by private treaty. I am informed that the selected, or I should say sound or full fruit—which consisted of navels and ordinary oranges—have realized from 11s. to 15s., and the average will come out well, and much nearer 15s. than 11s. Mr. Young, of the Government Depot, instructed Keeling & Hunt to sell a considerable number of boxes by auction to-day week, and they fetched 10s. and 11s. each case. On the same date Messrs. Keeling & Hunt sold 524 cases of oranges from Naples, and these averaged also about the same price, but which each contained 200 oranges. This I mention in order to dispel the illusion that there are no oranges to be obtained here at this season of the year. I understand that there are still 400 cases of unsold oranges consigned to the Depot by the Australia. When the sale of the Depot consignment is concluded it will probably average 10s. a box. Messrs. Osborne, of Covent Garden, have had a large number of cases of oranges from Sydney by the Ormuz, and these are averaging from 9s. 6d. to 10s. They are admittedly inferior to the South Australian.

