

As we entered it is true on every hill & vale was placed some pretty smiling villa with its garden & green veranda, but the soil around was parched, arid & barren, & nothing but these eternal shrubs, the gum tree & swamp oak stared me in the face.—the latter as much resembling our oak as I do an oyster. . . The town itself . . . has still all the faults of its early youth—for instance . . . a row of handsome stone houses stand in juxta position with a row of the worst of wooden huts—then a handsome church some more huts, a barrack, houses, a market place & so on but without any order or regularity in any part. . . The principal buildings are the Governor's new house built in the Elizabethan style, but it is heavy and quite out of character with the climate, as of course the style admits of no verandahs, without which it will be an extremely disagreeable residence—Sir G. G. does not inhabit it, as it would cost too much to furnish—indeed it is not yet completed, but they must send some person of greater rank and riches than a Capt. of Eng^{rs} if he is to live in such a place as he should. . . Sir George Gipps is rather pompous & brusque but a very good man of business, to which he devotes his whole time—Lady G. wants dignity but makes up in kindness in heart for all wants—she is much loved by all Sir George is more feared than loved—this is perhaps as it shd be.

The Rev. Richard Fletcher, a Congregational Church clergyman who was brought out to Melbourne at the request of the Colonial Missionary Society, graphically describes his arrival in Melbourne and his attempts to find his son in March 1854.

Filthy sights of slaughter houses, tallow rendering shops, and dirty wharfs distinguish the approach to the far famed city. It rained hard and we found Melbourne awfully dirty—Here we parted from the Captain . . . and we set off to look for Richard. Wading through rushing rivers of water and picking our way through bogs of mud we at length reached the Victoria Chambers, which to our dismay we found were *burnt down!* Nobody near could tell us where Richard had removed to.

Charles Denton describes a voyage round the world including scenic descriptions of Sydney and surrounds which he saw by coach ('Another of Cobb's infernal machines') and Melbourne 'A wonderful place for its age and with all the go of the American towns'. He fancies however that 'It has more pretensions than requirements, and the high rents I am at a loss to know how they are paid'.

George Tennant Carré, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Artillery, made a tour through the colonies after a term of service in India in