

those known from the Tasmanian territory, especially if a collector purposely visited the isles north of the main island during the spring season. As this could be accomplished by a very small expenditure, I venture to express a hope that the enlightened legislature of Tasmania, which was never even called on to support the issue of the seven volumes of the *Flora Australiensis* by Mr. Bentham and myself, from 1862 till 1877, will think fit to identify itself with the progress of this extensive publication in its continuating and supplemental volumes now under elaboration.

NOTES ON A SPECIES OF *EUCALYPTUS* (*E.*
HÆMASTOMA) NOT HITHERTO RECORDED
IN TASMANIA.

BY T. STEPHENS, M.A., F.G.S.

[Read 10th May, 1881.]

Among the timber trees of this colony, a species of *Eucalyptus*, popularly known as the "gum-topped stringy bark," has long been familiar to saw mill proprietors and splitters; but through some strange oversight on the part of botanical collectors it has never hitherto been included in the *Flora* of Tasmania. Some two years ago, having been asked by a friend to ascertain its botanical name, I found that no tree answering its description had yet been scientifically recognised; and I at once sought the aid of friends in various parts of the island, requesting them to obtain specimens in flower for identification, but without success. In February last, I was fortunate enough to fall in with a well-grown tree in full blossom, specimens of which were forwarded to Baron Von Mueller with a result which will be best described by quoting from a letter which he has kindly forwarded me:—

"Your letter of 2nd April is before me concerning the Hemiphloious stringy bark tree, and after your lucid remark there can be no doubt that it is *Eucal. hæmastoma* of Sir James Smith, so that your circumspect exertions have been rewarded by the discovery of a species of *Eucalyptus* new to Tasmania. This species has latterly also been found in Gippsland, and I have been able to study more fully its characteristics. You could oblige me by noting the differences of the timber (as opportunity occurs), and also of the seedlings."

The chief peculiarity of this tree is that while the lower part of the butt is clothed with a thick fibrous bark closely resembling that of the common stringy bark (*E. obliqua*),

the upper part, and the smaller limbs and branches, are quite smooth, whence its popular name. The timber is highly prized by splitters, and for general purposes it is described by many competent authorities as second only to the Blue Gum, though opinions seem to differ as to its durability. It is found in most parts of the Colony, and appears to grow as freely on the table land of the interior, reaching an altitude of not less than 3,000ft. above the sea, as along the coast line. The description of *Eucalyptus hæmastoma* in Bentham's Flora does not in all respects agree with the character of the tree as known in Tasmania, but the description will probably be revised by Baron Von Mueller.

AURIFEROUS COUNTRY AND GOLD-BEARING ROCKS.

BY CHARLES E. BARNARD, M.D., F.L.S.

[*Read 10th May, 1881.*]

The subject of my paper is one that cannot fail to prove of interest to this Society, seeing the great importance the gold-mining industry is assuming, and has already assumed, in the colony of Tasmania.

The advantages to be gained by fostering this industry in the colony need scarcely be dilated upon by me, as they are so patent to any one who will take the trouble to examine into the causes of the vast progress the Eastern colonies of Australia have made during the past quarter century. The numerous large towns and villages that dot this portion of the continent—the majority of them founded upon, or connected in some way with, the discovery of gold in their immediate neighbourhood—speak for themselves; and the immense impetus to trade, commerce, and immigration which it brings about shows what mining will do for a country, hitherto in a state of almost primeval solitude. But for this source of wealth, the major portion of these colonies would still have remained in a “state of nature”—one huge sheep run, with but a sparse population and scattered country villages.

With the magic touch of gold, all is changed. Everywhere over the land the busy miner is found digging and delving, and bringing to light the vast stores of hidden wealth. He is the pioneer of civilisation. In the solitudes of mountain and forest he seeks the precious metal, and should Dame Fortune reward his eager search by placing in his reach the long-sought-for golden treasure, the scene at once changes. Soon there springs up, as if by enchantment, first a village, which then