

venience, delay, and disappointment occur on this route, although upon the whole it facilitates the intercommunication between this district and the city. Woolongong, the port at which the steamer stops, is a small thriving town, and will be the principal one of this district. It has no natural harbour, but one is now under construction, at the expense of government, by excavating the solid rock (limestone), for the accommodation of steamers and small vessels: a large number of convicts were at work upon it. The port will never be fully protected until the proposed pier or breakwater is built, for during half the year, the sea makes it dangerous to lie at anchor in the roadstead, notwithstanding the strong moorings which have been laid down. It will also be very difficult to enter the basin in bad weather, until such a breakwater is in existence to protect it. The basin, when completed, will contain about half a dozen vessels. The construction of the breakwater is carried on at the same time as that of the basin, and the stone excavated from the one is used in the construction of the other. Both were to have been finished in 1842.

The district of Illawarra is held by a few persons, who have large grants of land. The roads are constructed and kept in order at the expense of the government. When one of the residents was asked whether the road was a public one, he answered, it was a "government road."

The convict population, including ticket-of-leave holders, in this district bears a proportion to the free as one to three. Of the remaining two-thirds, more than one-half are emancipists and expirées. The proportion of women to men is also about one to three.

For the hospitable reception given them by Mr. Plunket, the Attorney-General of the colony, our gentlemen are under great obligation. He happened to be spending some time at his farm, near Woolongong. This contains about two hundred acres, and is exceedingly pretty. The residence of Mr. Plunket is a neat cottage, built after the manner of the settlers, and is well adapted to the country. It is surrounded by the most luxuriant foliage, nearly all of which has a tropical character, and includes palms, cabbage-trees, and several varieties of tree-ferns, all growing to a great height.

A drive through the woods, accompanied by the ladies of the family, afforded many opportunities of making collections, and getting information.

Some idea may be formed of the advancement of this district, and the rise in the value of property, from the fact that Mr. Plunket sold his farm for fourteen thousand pounds, which, but two years before, he had bought for seven hundred.