THE YAN YEAN RESERVOIR.

No city in the Southern Hemisphere, and very few of the Northern, can boast of a sure supply of water as that possessed by the Victorian Government for the use of the citizens of Melbourne. Viewed from a sanitary point of view alone, this boon of inestimable value, and its expense too may be attributed to the absence of minuscule and other diseases indigenous to all hot tropical cities, and which, in the absence of efficient sewers, would be certain to prevail in the capital of Victoria, and its suburbs; a great saving has also been effected in insurance by the diminished risk of fire.

Melbourne was for many years supplied from the River Yarra, until the drainage from the contiguous swamps, and the refuse from various manufactories along its banks threatened to render the water unsuited for human consumption, and it was decided to provide a supply of pure water from a new place of sufficient altitude to be self-supplying, and thus do away with expensive machinery similar to that now used at the water works at Cook’s River.

After considerable investigation the commissioners, in whom the Board had placed entire confidence, decided that the best supply could be obtained from the Plenty Ranges, and at a point about twenty miles from Melbourne, where a suitable site for a reservoir formed by nature, and only requiring an embankment to be thrown across a gully to render suitable for the purpose, was discovered. The reservoir was completed in 1855, and provided without interruption for fourteen years. The total cost of the work was £1,017,087.11s. 11d., and at a distance of about 15 miles it is reached by a splendid engraving, the water is conducted through immense iron pipes for a distance of about 10 miles to Preston, where a smaller reservoir, with elaborate filtering beds renders the supply, and regulates the pressure upon the pipes by which it is then conducted to the city.

"For it is knowledge we teach," Plato observed, "that which children were like bottles with very narrow necks; if you attempted to fill them too rapidly much knowledge would overflow, and the narrow necks in consequence would be easily filled. Those who would make young children prodigies, must bear very well that they would pour a pint into a pint measure."

Hasty words often make the wound which injury gives, but soft words mould it.