

The following was written at Christmastide 1879 by a young Lady resident of Sandhurst, and is descriptive of a railway journey from Sandhurst to Beechworth, undertaken at that time.

Three weeks of pleasure and reprieve
How gladly I shall Sandhurst leave
And near three hundred miles away
At Beechworth spend my holiday

At half past six the train must start
and I'm impatient to depart
The whistle sounds I'm off at last
And now through Golden Square have passed

At Kangaroo Flat we stay awhile
Then on again o'er many a mile
Of counting pleasant as a park
Then through the big hill tunnel dark

Past Ravenswood for picnics famed
From the surrounding bush reclaimed
Now we the Harcourt Station near
And spend a few more minutes here

The train has started once again
Next time we stop at Castlemaine
Oh, what a crowd and what a crush
Such numbers to the train now rush

I thought it almost full before
How can it hold so many more
After a short five minutes stay
The train speeds once more on her way

No stops till reaching Elphinstone
A pleasant quiet country town
Among the hills and now the rail
Winds round those hills to Taradale

A little nicely scattered neat
And pretty town as you could meet
Malmsbury next, with reservoir
A good sized space it stretches o'er

Kyneton at last, that's just half way
And here we've fifteen minutes stay
To get refreshments; needed too,
Then on to Tylden and Carlsruhe.

A minute's stay then on we wend
Our way until we reach Woodend,
Now round Mount Macedon we wind,
And soon we leave it far behind.

Macedon, Gisborne, Riddells Creek,
Places that pleasure goers seek
At Lancefield Road we're now I see
Then on once more till Sunbury

It reached, with vineyards fine,
Stretching on both sides of the line;
Now on past Diggers Rest we fly
Under a burning summer sky

O'er Keilor Plains with many sheep
Feeding around but scarce a peep
Of anything beside me obtain
But sky o'erhead; beneath the plain

On both sides stretching far away
It ends at last, we reach Footscray
A minute's stay then on we're borne
With lightning speed to North Melbourne

Melbourne comes next, here I remain
Almost five hours, until the train
Which must convey me further on,
Shall start, Newmarket, Essendon

We soon have passed; Broadmeadows too;
And Craigieburn; these towns are new
To me, so at them all I look
The next we reach is Donnybrook

Beveridge soon in sight appears,
Is past, the train now Wallan nears
Wandong and Kilmore; at the last
We wait to take a short repast

Broadford and Tallarook are passed
And Seymour we have reached at last
The train speeds o'er the Goulburn hill
and Avenel we soon shall near

Then Longwood with its willow, said
To have grown o'er Napoleon's head
Euroa now in distance seen
Surrounded by hills dark and green

Known in Victorian History,
The scene of the Bank Robbery
Darkness creeps on the sun is down,
Before we stop at Violet Town

Benalla next and here we cross
The Broken River, and our course
Towards dull Glenrowan now we wend
Is Wangaratta, where I end

My journey on that line, and make
My way another seat to take,
Thankful my journey's almost done,
At Tarrawingee, Everton

Short stops are made, small towns are passed
and hilly Beechworth reached at last