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​ROCKLEY. [ from your correspondent]

*Taking the Vale road from Bathurst as far as Mr Butler's (the Hen and Chickens), and continuing your journey through the meandering swamp and over the Mountain run for about eleven miles farther, you arrive at Mr. Ingram's well known hospitality, at Fosters Valley ; journeying hence for about another four miles, and just as you are about to descend a rather steep hill, the eye is attracted by the sight of the pretty little Wesleyan chapel, of the small, but rather picturesque township of Rockley. Every step now in your further descent opens to you a fairer view of its various buildings ; the mill, now near its completion, is next to tha chapel, the most attractive feature there. The New Inn too, with the adjoining store, being as they are, on a line with Mr. Budden's residence, and other range of buildings, together with the forge, give the whole the appearance of a bustling, busy, little street, crowded as it generally is by vehicles of every description, from the dog-cart to the bullock dray. Passing these then, you reach Mr. Levey's neat cottages, one of which is at present the temporary national school-house. On the bill, and near to the chapel, you find another public-house. Again descending the hill, and near to the creek is the old established Rockley Inn, and again farther on, and on the opposite side of the creek, ia Mr. Quinn's neat building intended, I believe originally, for a licensed house, but why a license has not been obtained, to me, seems a mystery. It is also contemplated building, and that too, immediately, I believe, a Roman Catholic chapel, and school house, with a residence for the master ; when these two structures are erected, the whole township must have a very pretty appearance. But the great desideratum, and one that is universally acknowledged to be such, is the police-office, with its concomitants, a magistrate and staff. True, the commissioner appointed for the Tuena and Native Dog Creek, .and other diggings in that locality, bolds now a monthly court at his present residence ; but it must be borne in mind that his residence is some four miles from the  township, and Mr. Keightley has his time so fully occupied, that I believe he deems it necessary to remain at the Camp night and day, with but very few exceptions, and those too, on Government duty. So that in the event of any disturbances taking place in Rockley-and several cases have happened lately, some even in the very day time, one of which will be brought into the Bathurst court shortly, I repeat in the event of any disturbance, and while a messenger is despatched to him, the delinquent or delinquents may be on the other side of the Isabella, or on the Abercrombie Mountains. Now, had the commissioner and staff but been stationed at Rockley, a desirable end would have been at once accomplished, in that, in the very fact of having placed there, with mounted men at his command, it would in itself have been a check to suspicious characters, for though the whole staff might by chance be absent on the diggings, yet no one could tell how soon they might return ; and again, men aware that there were reasons why they might be suspected, or in other words that they were under the ban, would of themselves avoid the  township altogether.*

*​It appears that the Government objected to toe expense "they would have to incur in building a police office. This they will have to do some time or other and it seems to me that this present saving savours something of the "penny wise and pound foolish" system-for, in the meantime, I hear they are paying – 60 pound per annum for the use of temporary barracks, so that in a very few years' the sum thus expended would have in the first onset built the whole, and would have been Government property. I believe the inhabitants think of again petitioning in the matter, but in the event of the Government not being able to comply with their wish, I would suggest that they should appoint a stipendiary magistrate (such as they have in Tasmania) with two or three constables or inspectors in private clothes; the latter to be stationed in the township, with a lock up, io. The former might be chosen from the gentlemen in the immediate district and one there is, 1 know, - living very near, and in every way adapted for such an office, both by birth and education. This would meet the emergency of the ease, for daily proofs could almost be placed before the Government in the shape of fences being set fire to, &s.; and to show the necessity of some such measure being adopted, I need only add that father's of families are now fearful of leaving their homes for their usual avocations abroad, lest in their absence their wives and children should be insulted, by the many scoundrels who are now prowling about the suburbs of the township. One instance of cowardly ruffiinism I could here record, but as, happily, anything serious was prevented by the timely arrival of some neighbours, I will not now bring the party's name into print.*

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*Now, whether Rockley will become one of the most stirring and flourishing little towns of any in the Western District, depends very much upon the spirit and enterprise of its present inhabitants, and the various settlers in its immediate vicinity. As yet all movements for its improvement have generally rested with but a very few, and at this time one of the leaders of these few has left here for Bathurst.  Mr. Levey, from his long residence in the neighbourhood as proprietor of the Rockley Inn, was well adapted to advise for the good and prosperity of the district, and was particularly anxious in promoting prospecting funds, &c. for further developing the gold-fields. He is still zealous for the good of the neighbourhood, and holding as he does a large Inn in Bathurst, may be of the greatest service in matters connected with it, in as much as, that when meetings are held in Rockley (and I believe one will be held very shortly, for the raising a large prospecting fund, for, the farther prospecting ground in the immediate, vicinity of the Native Dog, as well as ground near to Rockley itself), corresponding meeting can be held in his Inn in Bathurst, for I hold, that the merchants, storekeepers, and publicans of Bathurst, are equally interested in the discovery of large gold field there, as are any of the people of Rockley, for this reason, that Bathurst is the only market from which the diggers and .?ft others can get their stores; for unlike the Turon and other diggings in that locality, where they can get their goods from Sydney, the people on this side must procure theirs from Bathurst, either directly or indirectly.*

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*I have stated above that Mr. Levey has left for Bathurst, and that much depends upon the spirit and enterprise of its present inhabitants as to the future prosperity of the township. Now I am happy in being enabled to state that a real impetus seems to have been given to the feet of two gentlemen of well known business habits having lately settled there. The one a  Mr  Murphy, has succeeded Mr. Levey in the proprietorship of the Rockley Inn - and what I have heard and seen of him  I can make no doubt but - that the name  so long attached to the house, as being one of the best conducted hostelries, in every sense of the word, in the district of Bathurst, will not lose its good name by the exchange of-proprietorship. Mr. Murphy seems in every way calculated for the business, and I make no doubt but that in a very few year he will be …to realise a handsome independence . The other, a Mr. Butler, fame speaks highly, of. He, I believe, occupies the house lately held by Mr. Richard Aldred the site of which is admirably adapted for such a business, situated as it is in the very entrance of the township from Bathurst, and immediately on the roadside. The two gentleman, in fact, seem well adapted for the line of commerce each has chosen, blending, as they, appear to do the vuaviter in modo, with the Fortitude in re, necessary to the success as well of those who embark in public business, as to the statesman.*

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*I have been particular in my description of this township as I hold it to be of no minor importance that it is situated on the border of one immense goldfield, and that hundreds of persons are passing , through it weekly to the source of their labours, either to the Campbells River, or to the Native Dog Creek diggings. I repeat, one gold-field ; and I am in a position to state that, even in Pepper's Creek, close to the township, a person of the name of Thomas Christopher obtained a prospect so good that he gave it is intention to form a-party to work the creek, and had be been allowed to have done so, I have little doubt but a great quantity of gold might have been taken out of it . This part of it I believe belongs to Mr Steele, : proprietor, of the estate of Rockley, from which as at the township derives its  name. I perfectly coincide with him in his reasons for not allowing diggers on this portion of his property ; but there are other creeks on on this land that give every indication of holding payable gold. One in particular I think would prove rich- on that portion of the estate nearer to Summerhill, and which joins Campbell's River somewhere near. Mr. Crack's farm. On this side Campbell's River, with the exception of large parties of Chinese, who rent whole paddocks off Mr. M'Phillamy, close to the river, and who bye the bye, are doing well, very little ground has been prospected, and there are many very likely spots between the township and Charlton. On the other side of, the river, and between it and the main ridge, there have been diggings for the last four years, an immense quantity of gold having, from time to time, been taken from it, first by Europeans, and afterwards by Chinese, and still there are Chinese working there now. Could but Mr. Lawson be induced to open his ground adjoining these diggings, hundreds of Europeans who know the locale would come, I believe from every part of the colony to work it, such faith they have in it as a goldfield. Now. with reference to this part of the gold-field, all the available ground near to the river, with the above exception, has been well worke. Persons desirous of finding payable gold here, must work the ridges and dry gullies and creeks, but probably they would have deep sinking. Yet depend upon it, they would eventually be well paid for their trouble. Unfortunately, most of the Europeans who have come here lately, have come from the Lambing Flat, and without means, so that they have had to look for present subsistence in shallow sinking ; but it seems Port Philippians or Californian dirges, to the number of two or three hundred were to come here, depend upon it a large gold-field would soon be opened up on this side the main ridge, for when so large a quantity of fine gold has been taken for so long a time from the river, and flat near to the river, it may, I think, be safely inferred that there must be some larger gold on the higher ground, sloping so gradually, as it does towards this river.*

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*With your permission I will continue this subject in my next, as well as fully that of the Native Dog Creek, and the Church and Orphan School Lands.*