
Community voices – transcript – D 4302/2 L

Carl Gustav Schedlich.

Extract from his memoirs describing his disappointment upon landing at Port Adelaide in December 1846. He refers to Herr Linger, who was the composer of Song of Australia.

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Port Adelaide was a queer place at that time but, at any rate, we got better water and fresh beef and mutton, which was a treat after living on bad salt beef, stinking water and hard ships biscuits which had to be soaked to enable us to eat them. The day after we arrived a terrible storm happened and the street from the Port to Adelaide was almost impassable. Gerke, Rodemann and I went in a two wheeled vehicle to Adelaide and near the half way house the wheel took it in its head to come off and we all were lodged in the mud. After the wheel was restored to its legitimate place we went on and to some extent recovered in the half-way house where some brandy we bought brought us into a better spirit.

But speak of Adelaide. o Holy Moses. After Dresden. Friend Sobels told us (he had been up the day before us) that the shops were equal to the shops in Dresden. o, Imagination. Adelaide was a perfect mud hole. We went into the Royal Admiral, had some dinner (English) and then to the Exchange which then was exactly the same as it is now and then we found Mr. Petit (who visited us at the port the day before) as bar-keeper. We received on board a lot of visitors, Consul Stakemann, Francis Dutton, Doct Hubbe, Buttner, Heuzenroeder etc. etc. All my grand ideas were vanished. After coming from a place where we enjoyed perfect liberties in social life we found a priest-ridden narrow-minded community. Not a sign of intellect or refinement, the country nearly bankrupt; the only industry was the grand Burra Burra copper mine. The only community where you could have intercourse with intelligent people was the German coffee Pohlmanns* at Rundle Street where well educated Germans formed a kind of club and where, under the leadership of Herr Linger* you could hear some good singing. I was introduced to Herr Linger and to my great joy was informed by him that he was a pupil of Reissiger (first Kapellmeister in Dresden after Carl Maria von Weber). ...