

COST OF LIVING IN THE EARLY DAYS:

An Adelaide firm, writing to Messrs. J. G. Marzetti & Co., wine, spirit, beer, and cider merchants, London, in 1833, stated:—"A large quantity of your beer has been held here for some time, and is now selling at 6/9 per dozen. The principal articles on demand are provisions of all kinds and articles of general consumption, viz., (wholesale prices):—Candles, 3/ per lb.; butter, 3/ per lb.; hams, 2/6 per lb.; bacon, 1/9 per lb.; cheese, 2/3 per lb. Bread is 10d. the 2 lb. loaf, and meat is 8d. per lb. Tea, sugar, rice, oatmeal, pearl barley, split peas, sago, and, indeed, everything that can be eaten command prices fearful to contemplate. Except for these articles trade is very dull, and it is very doubtful if we have enough flour to keep us until harvest. Labor is very abundant, but wages bear no proportion to the price of provisions. Our foreman, to whom we give £3 a week, says that instead of saying 20/ a week, as he could last year, he is now spending a pound a week more than he receives. Our new gold diggings are not turning out much gold, but the season is not favorable for digging. The crops to the present time are splendid, and we have nearly 40,000 acres under cultivation in excess of last year. We think October will find us in a flourishing state, and indeed we require some change, for we are most of us living like the Arctic bears, upon former accumulations."