

EAE 0422 A	Sujet Jury	Sujet Candidat		Code Sujet	CLG 20
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Your main commentary should be focused on *-ing forms*. Other topics may also be addressed.

5 I can scarcely fancy anything more enjoyable to a mind at
 ease with itself than a spring ride through the Australian bush, if
 one is disposed to think he can do without any disturbing influence
 whatever from the outer world, for to a man accustomed to the
 sights and sounds of nature around him there is nothing distracting
 10 in the warble of the magpie or tinkle of the 'bell bird'. The little
 lizards that sit here and there upon logs and stumps, and look at
 the passer-by with their heads on one side, and such a funny air of
 knowing stupidity in their small eyes, are such everyday affairs to
 an old colonist that they scarcely attract any notice from him, and
 15 even should a monstrous iguana dart across his path and rail his
 four feet length up a neighbouring tree, it is not a matter of much
 curiosity to him; and a good horseman, with an easy going nag
 under him, and plenty of time to journey at leisure though the
 park-like bush of Australia, has, to my notion, as good an
 20 opportunity of enjoying the Italians' *dolce far niente* as any fellow
 can have who does not regularly lie down to it.

25 Something like all this was coming home to me as I slowly
 rode through the forest of stringy bark, box, peppermint, and other
 trees that creep close up to the bold ranges which divide as it were
 into two equal portions the district of Kooama. I had passed fifteen
 miles of bush and plain without seeing a face or a roof, and now,
 having but a mile or two before making the station to which I was
 bound, I loosened the reins and let my horse take his own time.
 30 While, however, I thoroughly enjoyed the calm tranquillity of
 nature so unbroken around me, and felt the soothing influence
 more or less inseparable from such scenes, I cannot exactly say
 that my mind was enjoying the same 'sweetness of doing nothing'
 as my body. My brain was busily at work, full of professional case,
 on the investigation of which I was proceeding; still, thoughts of
 this kind cannot be said to trouble the mind, being as enjoyable to
 us, I dare say, as the pursuit of game to the hunter, of the search
 for gold to the miner.

35 The facts of the case were shortly these: A young
 photographic enthusiast, in search of colonial scenery upon which
 to employ his art, had taken a room in a public house at the
 township of Kooama, in which he had arranged his photographic
 apparatus, and where he had perfected the views taken in trips to
 40 all the places within twenty or thirty miles that were likely to repay
 the trouble. The young fellow, who was a gentlemanly and
 exceedingly handsome youth of barely twenty years of age,
 became a general favourite at Kooama, his kindness to the
 children, especially in that out of the way township, endearing him
 to all the parents.

45 Well, one day this young artist, whose name was Edward
 Willis, left Kooama, and returned no more. For a day or two the
 landlord of the house where he had put up thought but little of his
 absence, as he had upon more than one occasion before spent the
 night away on his excursions; but day after day passed, and they
 50 began to think it singular. He had himself expressed an intention of
 visiting some of the ranges to which I have alluded in search of
 some bolder 'bits' of scenery that he had yet acquired; but
 otherwise they had not the slightest clue to guide them in any
 attempted search for the missing youth. His decision to leave
 55 Kooama, if he had made one, must have been sudden, as nothing
 was removed from his room. Camera, chemicals, plates, and all the
 paraphernalia of a photographer's handicraft, were still scattered
 about just as he had left them. A week passed away – a fortnight –
 consumed in guesses and wonders, and then came a letter from his
 60 mother in Adelaide to the landlord, inquiring the son's
 whereabouts, as they were getting uneasy at not hearing from so
 regular a correspondent.