

BALLARAT CHRONICLES AND PICTURES.

BY W. B. WITHERS, Author of the "History of Ballarat," "Reminiscences," "Eustace Hopkins," "The Westons," &c., &c.

Matthew Campbell was born in Loch Winnoch, Scotland, on the 14th August, 1820. He served his time as an apprentice to the engineering trade in Paisley, and was engineer on board the Clyde steamers for a time. He then entered into the engineering and iron foundry trade as head of the firm of Campbell, McNab, and Co., Greenock, and did very well; but, taken with the gold fever, he left Scotland in March, 1853, arriving in Geelong in June of that year, and went immediately to Ballarat, where he worked at the diggings about Sailor's Gully, and in October brought Mrs Camp-bell and his son James up to Ballarat. Immediately afterwards he erected a plant for working one of the claims, and was thus, probably, but not quite certainly, as to my knowledge, the first to bring machinery on to the goldfields. He fared ill at mining, and finally went again into his old machinery business. He erected machinery at Red Hill, Gravel Pits, and Catch-me-who-can Company, which latter company nearly ruined him. He erected the first portable engine which was placed alongside the swamp for the purpose of lifting water into a tank to be carted away. This was the first attempt at a steam-aided water supply for Ballarat. In 1858 he went into business in Dana street; was the first captain of the Ballarat West Fire Brigade, captain of the Ballarat Rangers, and a member, and afterwards mayor, of the Ballarat West Council. At the greatest of all the fires in the Main road he worked hard between two lines of fire, was heated to fever pitch, and then caught a cold, which afterwards developed into a tumor of the worst kind. Feeling the need of change, he left Victoria in March, 1864, in the Kent, and on the 18th April, 1865, he died at Rothsay, Scotland. He was twice married, his first wife dying when his son James was only eight days old. His second wife, Mrs Isabella Campbell, known to many old Ballarat folks, died at Mill-port, Scotland, in the year 1873.

⁴ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/209452251>