‘A Visit to the Northern Goldfields’, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1859-60, by ‘Our Special Reporter’.

Although the author of this series of articles, as well as the series entitled ‘A Visit to the Southern Goldfields’ was unknown, it had been suspected that they were written by the author of the extensive ‘A Visit to the Western Goldfields’ series.

Research conducted at the CLLC, University of Newcastle showed that it was highly probable that all three series of articles were written by Frederick Dalton[[1]](#footnote-1).

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| **No.** | **Date** | **Page** | **Subject – first line** |
| I | November 26 | 3 | “On the Way to the Northern Goldfields”: by boat to Newcastle, changed boats to Clarence River, Lawrence, Tenterfield road, Tabulam; Clarence – “rivals the Mississippi in its volume”. |
| II | December 13 | 2 | Tabulam, comments on roads, New Rush, Clarence Inn (had been here before) |
| III | December 26 | 3 | Fairfield, Tooloom, McLeod’s Creek; Tenterfield? Written at Fairfield, December 14. |
| IV | January 5 | 3 | South-west from Clarence Inn, Timbarra Creek, McLeod’s Creek |
| V | January 19 | 3 | Plateau that is the source of McLeod’s and Sandy Creeks, Timbarra |
| VI | January 21 | 7 | Clarke’s Inn, Appletree Flat, Gough’s Creek, then not clear. “We have already traced McLeod’s Creek for about seven miles …” |
| VII | February 27 | 8 | General social comments, Pretty Gully; written Fairfield, January 30. |
| VIII | March 2 | 3 | Fairfield Inn, travelling north, comment on environment and geology, Gerard range, Emu Creek, Pretty Gully, following Tooloom. |
| IX | March 3 | 5 | Pretty Gully, Toloom, Cataract River, Clarence River, social comment, Eight Mile Rush |
| X | March 5 | 3 | Eight Mile Rush, Lower Tooloom, Wilson’s Creek, Frazer’s Creek. |
| XI | March 8 | 3 | Tooloom, Mount Lindsay, Richmond River, Wyangard Station, Casino (complaints about American cedar timber), back to Tooloom, Tabulum |
| XII | March 14 | 3 | Barney Downs, Tenterfield, southern road, Bolivia Station, Dundee (on the Severn). |
| XIII | March 21 | 2 | From Dundee, following Severn, Wellingrove, Waterloo Plains, Beardy Plains, Blairhill Station. Near Ben Lomond, Oban. |
| XIV | March 23 | 3 | Mount Mitchell, Sarah River, accompanied by “a Swede en route for the Snowy”, overnight in the bush, Nowlan’s Crown, Hall’s Station, Paddy’s Creek. |
| XV\* | April 9 | 2 | Southern limits of the Clarence Basin, Oban, Paddy’s Land, Cameron’s Creek, agricultural comments, Bel Blair, Malpas. “But let us return to our wanderings, amidst the ways of the mountains”. |
| XVI | April 23 | 3 | Armidale, social comments; On Sunday, “Here, for one day in the week, vice cowered and slunk into the wilderness”. |
| XVII | April 30 | 3 | “The Southern mail-road from Armidale,” Uralla, Mount Mutton, Mactaggart’s Rush. |
| XVIII | May 14 | 5 | Going north-east, Sawpit Gully, Sydney Flat, Mount Jones. |
| XIX | May 16 | 2 | Head of the Uralla River, Uralla, social comment. |
| XX | May 17 | 5 | Country drained by the Uralla, social comment, Uralla, Champion’s Flat, Mount Jones, Hamburgh Company underground mine. |
| XXI | May 25 | 3 | Near Mount Jones, Sydney Flat, Tipperary Creek, Kentucky Creek, Wallaby Rocks, Sebastopol Point, Maitland Point. |

\* Incorrectly numbered in the *Herald* as XIV.

1. Peter Crabb, Alexis Antonia and Hugh Craig. "Who Wrote 'A Visit to the Western Goldfields'? Using Computers to Analyse Language in Historical Research." *History Australia,*  | Volume 11 | Number 3 | December 2014

Brendan Dalton, Alexis Antonia, Peter Crabb & Hugh Craig (2016) Identifying another goldfields reporter: Frederick Dalton (1815–80), *History Australia*, 13:4, 557-574 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)