

Immigration

Mr Jordan was sent to England by the Queensland Government in 1858–60 to lecture on the advantages of immigration. His talks were entertaining but not based on reality. From Paterson's Old Bush Songs and set to 'Sing A Song of Sixpence.'

Now Jor - dan's land of prom - ise is the bur - den of my song.

Per - haps you've heard him lec - - ture, and blow a - bout it strong;

To hear him talk you'd think it was a heav - en here on earth,

But list - en and I'll tell you now the plain un - varn - ished truth.

Here mutton, beef, and damper are all you'll get to eat,
From Monday morn till Sunday night, all through the blessed week.
And if the flour-bag is short, then mutton, beef, and tea
Will be your lot, and like it or not, 'twill have to do, you'll see.

Here snakes and all vile reptiles crawl around you as you walk,
But these you never hear about in Mr. Jordan's talk;
Mosquitoes, too, and sandflies, they will tease you all the night,
And until you get quite colonized you'll be a pretty sight.

Here are boundless plains where it seldom rains, and you'll maybe die of thirst;
But should you so dispose your bones, you'll scarcely be the first,
For there's many a strong and stalwart man come out to make his pile,
Who never leaves the fatal shore of this accursed isle.

To sum it up in few short words, the place is only fit
For those who were sent out here, for from this they cannot flit.
But any other men who come a living here to try
Will vegetate a little while, and then lie down and die.