

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue for 2025 of the *Australasian Journal of Victorian Studies*. A smaller one this time, but offering varied and substantial content. It features an article by Lancy Thomas Kurakar on what is Thomas Hardy's last and possibly most puzzling novel, *Jude the Obscure*, focussing on the understudied topic of the behaviour of strange child 'Little Father Time'. What follows is David M. Fahey's fascinating account of a forgotten woman historian of the late Victorian period, Bertha Meriton Cordery, later Gardiner: what were the implications of her marriage to prominent male historian, Samuel Rawson Gardiner? And thirdly, Alfred R. Bunn undertakes an exploration which is textual, but also based on real-life exploration by himself and others – investigating what may have happened to New Zealand's famous Pink and White Terraces near Rotorua, in the volcanic eruption of 1886.

We also have reviews on a range of topics from poetry and fiction, including the 'novel poem' and translations of *Jane Eyre*; the world of Temperance periodicals; the resistance of some 'New Women' to female solidarity; Australian colonial settlers' creation of monuments. I would like to thank in particular the new Reviews Editor for this issue, Helen Blythe, who has been very active and efficient.

Joanne Wilkes
Editor
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