politeness. This visit was particularly gratifying, as affording a view of one of the most important features of this great penal establishment.

Around Paramatta and Sydney, another such feature is to be seen in the iron-gangs. These consist of the men who have not been assigned, and likewise of all those who are returned by their masters. They are met with upon the roads, working in pairs, chained together. Their dress is peculiar, and they, in consequence, cannot readily escape detection in case of absconding. On the back of the jacket is marked, in conspicuous letters, "chain-gang." They wear a canvass jacket and trousers, and a jockey-cap. They were a rough-looking set, with bad countenances, and, like all other prisoners, stared us broadly in the face. Sentinels or guards constantly accompanied them.

The English are very partial to this mode of treating criminals, and cannot be persuaded that any better course can be devised; yet it is attended with obvious evils.

For a trifling and first offence, a perpetual brand of infamy is set upon a fellow-mortal, his family, and connexions. The natural consequence has been to foster and keep alive a public opinion which tends to the disorganization of society, and to obliterate all that remains of principle in the criminal.

The convict who has just arrived, is regarded by the others as a simpleton and a mere novice; and they undertake to complete his education.

The exploits and crimes performed and committed by these hardened offenders in Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of Polynesia, exhibit a dark picture; and the annoyance thus inflicted upon their inhabitants would not be borne, had they the strength to resist it. Power is the only right that can be urged by Great Britain as a justification of this infliction, and that it would be useless to question.

The majority of convicts are either assigned servants or ticket-of-leave men, and their condition is not unlike that of the slaves in our Southern States. They form a distinct class, and may be considered as the original groundwork of the colony. At present they constitute about a third of the population, but when transportation ceases, their relative numbers will rapidly decrease.

This colony, take it all in all, is in spite of these drawbacks a noble one, and is a new proof of the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race, and of its enterprise and perseverance in overcoming difficulties.

I understood that Sir George Gipps had determined to adopt Captain Maconochie's system in the management of the road-gangs, and shall therefore proceed to examine it.

Captain Maconochie's argument for the necessity of a change is founded on the admitted fact, that the example of severe suffering on the conviction of crime, has not hitherto been found effective in preventing its recurrence. He maintains that the sole and direct object of secondary punishments should be the reformation of the individual culprit, or at all events his subjugation, and his training to self-command, by the latter of which he may give satisfactory proof that he deserves a restoration to his privileges in society. He does not proscribe punishment, but on the contrary believes it indispensable to induce penitence and submission; he regards it as necessary as a deterring example, and not for a vindictive end.

An entire reform, or a self-control tantamount to it, can, in his opinion, be obtained only by specific punishments for the past, and by a training for the future. To effect this latter he proposes to group prisoners together in associations, made to resemble those of common life as closely as possible, subdividing them into small parties or families, as may be agreed on among themselves, with common interest; that they shall receive wages in the form of marks of commendation, which they may exchange at will for immediate gratifications, but of which a fixed accumulation should be required before receiving freedom. He thus hopes to prepare them for society in society, giving them a field for the exercise and cultivation of social virtues, as well as for the voluntary restraint of vices.

Captain Maconochie deems the union of punishment for the past, with training for the future, as totally incompatible with each other, and, therefore, thinks that the former must in all cases precede the latter, and be effectual of itself. He argues, that success in medical treatment by beginning to administer restoratives before the disease is eradicated, might as well be expected as reform while punishment is undergone; and that it is just as necessary to prepare for society in society, as to train man by a preliminary education to the useful employments of life; that it seems idle to expect that mere theoretical instruction, however strongly enforced by short but severe suffering, should be sufficient to enable persons advanced in life to guide their future conduct, as it would be to hope to teach a trade, or any other practical employment, by abstract rules; and that moral lessons, to be taught profitably, require a field of progressive experimental application just as much as engineering.

On these elementary principles Captain Maconochie founds his plan of convict management, to which he applies the name of "Social System," and trusts for its success to the application of moral force in the place of physical coercion. He considers that hitherto the reform

of culprits has not been thought the principal object in regulating their treatment.

The object of deterring from the commission of crime has been the duty of the law for the protection of society, and the association of prisoners has been deemed morally hurtful to them.

The Social System proposes to change this course to one in fact directly opposite to it. In criminal administration, according to his views, society is at present placed in one scale, and the culprit in the other, and it is not surprising that the weight of the former should predominate.

He proposes, that the nature of the punishment should be severe and short; that it should melt into probation, and this again into entire freedom, by changes as gradual as possible; thus taking nature as the guide, and copying what occurs on any severe misfortune befalling us, at first overwhelming grief, then a retrospective one, which afterwards slowly gives place to hope and encouragement.

To carry this out, it would be necessary to have solitary imprisonment, with moral and religious exhortations inculcated during sequestration from external influences, with permission to work, and instructions in its performance, but without the power of exchanging the proceeds for indulgences; next, separate imprisonment, with the power of exchanging marks of good conduct for gratifications, to be prolonged until the accumulation of a certain number of marks over and above all those exchanged for indulgences, should exhibit the acquisition of habits of self-control.

To this second stage should succeed social labour through the day, with separate confinement at night, and at length a complete admission to a society, in which the convicts should choose their associates, and be mutually responsible for the good behaviour of each other.

In passing through such a course of discipline, both of the ends which have been spoken of will be attained. The guilty will be first punished, and afterwards rendered fit for society by reformation and training, and will be thus restored to that state in which he was before he committed the crime, after he has been well tried and found worthy of being re-established in it.

As far as I could understand, Captain Maconochie was not prepared to prescribe the exact manner in which his views were to be carried out, and did not appear to set much value upon the mode, provided his principles were kept in view. He was of opinion that the principal error in modern penal science is the importance attached to physical arrangement in the construction of prisons.

According to him, the less stress that is set upon them the better,

for it is not the body alone that is to be kept captive, but the will also; and the more care that is taken to guard the former, the less can the latter be attended to.

The peculiar trait in the Social System is, that after punishment every culprit's lot would be in his own hands. His companions would be of his own choice, and the length of his detention and comfort would depend upon the conduct of himself and his associates.

In seeking the reformation of the culprit, the mutual action of companions on each other would be resorted to, and this would be productive of great advantages. No system could be more just; and its language to the criminal would be,—"Having made you pay the penalty for your crime, I now retain you until you are qualified to meet the requisitions of society on your return to it, that you may not fail as you have before done."

The results of this system could not but be far different from the plans in present use, which have reference only to crime and retribution, and may be considered useless in promoting reformation. I understood that Sir George Gipps had already partially and successfully adopted the Social System with the convicts in government employ, by associating them in bands of ten to twenty, and letting them work on the public roads. Some of them were pointed out to me, and in point of appearance were as orderly and cheerful as any free labourers. I was informed that they do more work than when watched by overseers or soldiers.

I saw, however, many iron-gangs, but was informed that they were composed of individuals who had committed offences in the colony. After the commission of several crimes in the colony, they are again transported, to Norfolk Island, where Captain Maconochie is stationed; and it may well excite surprise if he should succeed in reforming these double-refined villains.

Many circumstances have been told me, by those who are well acquainted with the facts, that such is their detestation of Norfolk Island, and their horror of remaining there, that convicts have drawn lots to commit crimes, and even murder, in order to be sent back to Sydney for trial.*

Captain Maconochie's system is looked upon by many as Utopian, and it has excited no little astonishment that any one should conceive the idea of affording to criminals the refined amusements of society, or that books, music, &c., should be furnished them.

I have given this short sketch of the Social System in order to show

* It is the intention of the government to erect on Norfolk Island a penitentiary, on the plan of that at Sing Sing, in the State of New York. The estimated cost was £200,000.

its general plan. For a more full account of it, I would refer to Captain Maconochie's papers, published at different times. I spent several agreeable hours with him; and am satisfied that with the well-educated description of criminals, and with those who may have friends to return to, it will probably answer; but I am disposed to think that the great objection lies in the feelings of society, and its reluctance to readmit its outcasts on any terms, much less place them on a footing of equality.

There are two forms of social management proposed, one by Captain Maconochie, the other by Lord Howick: the former has been sufficiently explained; the latter includes both punishment and training in the insular penitentiaries, from which release may be complete, or merely through the medium of a ticket-of-leave in the colonies.

The latter form I believe is that which has been adopted, and from what I learn, it seems to be succeeding, although I have not been informed that any public account has yet been given of it. The system is about being adopted in Van Diemen's Land, which is a convincing proof that government has become somewhat satisfied with its efficacy; and it is noticed in one of the late Gazettes, that Captain Maconochie had treated his prisoners, on the Queen's birth-day (with the approbation of the government), to a play and punch; which is a proof that some had already reached the probationary state.

The ration of the soldiers in New South Wales consists of one pound of meat, one pound of bread, two-thirds of a pint of rum, and an allowance of five-pence for small stores, consisting of salt, sugar, tea, &c. They receive as pay eight-pence per day, and are obliged to serve twenty years before they can claim their discharge.

The convict gets one pound of bread, one pound and a quarter of meat, and one pint of meal. Indeed, there is very little difference in the condition of a soldier and a convict, and were it not for the name, one would be almost induced to prefer the situation of the latter.

There is a description of convicts, as has been mentioned, known under the title of ticket-of-leave men. These, from good behaviour before the expiration of their term of sentence, are permitted to hire themselves out, upon the employer entering into a stipulation to maintain a strict watch over them. This custom has no doubt been forced upon the community by the want of servants, and the necessity of obtaining them. The action of this part of the system will be shown more clearly by the following anecdote.

One day, passing along George Street with a friend, my attention was called to a fashionable equipage, with a well-dressed man driving it. On my asking to whom it belonged, I was informed that the person

driving it was the owner, and that although a ticket-of-leave man, he was married to a free woman of handsome fortune, living in one of the finest houses in Sydney; that their house was built on the very spot where he stood under the gallows some years since, although through a reprieve, or some accident, he had not been hung; and that it was at any time within the power of the wife to send him off to the whipping-post, and have him severely flogged. There are many convicts who are now the most wealthy people of New South Wales. I do not intend to be understood that they mix at all in the society of the better class; on the contrary, the convicts and their descendants, even to the third and fourth generation, are excluded from it.

Society here is composed of many distinct circles. All those of the first class are entitled to be received at the Government House, or are invited there. This privilege seems at present to be the touchstone of gentility; and if an inquiry is now made of the standing of any one, it is quite sufficient to say he visits at the Government House.

Any connexion with convicts would at once preclude admission to this circle; and so distinctly has this line been drawn, and so closely is it adhered to, that should an officer, or other person, contract marriage ties with any one of the lower classes, he would forthwith be shut out. This state of things naturally leads to many heartburnings among the rising generation, who have every thing to recommend them but a pure descent; whose behaviour is acknowledged by all to be irreproachable, and who among the community stand deservedly very high, some of them occupying posts of high trust and responsibility among men of business, and not a few of them being at the head of large moneyed institutions.

These differences frequently break out when subscription balls are given, and result in challenges being sent to the managers. One occurred on the giving of the St. Patrick's ball. A Mr. D. was admitted as a subscriber by the committee; he afterwards asked for a ticket for a friend of his, which was refused. Objections were then taken to himself, and he was requested to withdraw his name, and receive back his money. This brought forth a challenge, which was disposed of in a summary manner by the committee handing him over to the police, by which he was obliged to apologize to the committee, and bound over to keep the peace. I cannot but believe that this state of society is destined in a very short time to undergo a great change; and many of the inhabitants seem to be of the same opinion, particularly if they obtain a colonial legislature. This it seems almost indispensable they should have, for the wishes and wants of the rising community are too little known and heeded, at the distance of sixteen thousand miles, to

insure good government; and the acts and the varying policy of the mother country are so ill adapted to the state of things here, as to strike the most common observers, and only tend to loosen the ties of affection that bind the colonists to it.

The introduction of free emigration, and the discontinuance of the use of the colony as a penal settlement, must soon produce the necessity of legislative bodies, and the elections will give the wealthy part of the citizens, emancipists and their descendants, a powerful voice in those bodies when constituted, which will finally lead to their amalgamation with the higher classes. I was surprised to find among the emancipists themselves the same distinctions kept up.

The labouring class of free emigrants form another class. They have great difficulties to contend with on their landing. As few of them will consent to serve as domestics in association with ticket-of-leave men or convicts, they find themselves placed in many difficult situations. They are compelled to resort to the public inns kept by these people, who endeavour to take every advantage of them, and cause them to part with what little amount they may have brought with them from the mother country. They soon become destitute, and from disappointment betake themselves to all the vices of the convict class. Some steps have been taken to provide for the emigrants on their first arrival, under the government system; but they have not yet been carried into effect, and it is difficult to enforce them.

There is yet another class, and one, as far as my experience goes, now unknown elsewhere, which sets at defiance both law and regulations. I mean a class known here by the name of "Crimps," who are a pest to the trade of the port, and the destruction of all the sailors who visit it. Their trade or employment may be summed up in a few words: it is to entice or kidnap sailors from their ships, and keep them drunk and concealed in some out-of-the-way place. Whole crews of merchantmen are frequently carried off by these fellows, and they are in consequence at times detained until the master or assignee resorts to the agents of these crimps, who are ready to give them a crew at four or five guineas for each sailor. I was told, a few days after my arrival, that the crimps had determined to get some of the men of the squadron; and they succeeded in enticing away the crew of the tender Flying-Fish and three or four other men belonging to the ships. The vigilance and system of these crimps bid defiance to the laws and police, who although quite aware of the existence of the evil, find it out of their power to put a stop to it. Since my departure, the shipping interests have memorialized the Government and Council, and there is a prospect that this nuisance will be abated.

As respects the higher class of society, it is in all respects the same as is met with in England and America, among well-educated persons. Perhaps as to fashion it is a little more colonial, but not more so than the distance from whence fashions originate would account for. The cordial welcome and hospitality we met with could not be surpassed any where.

The Governor is appointed by letters patent, under the great seal of the United Kingdom; but he acts under the direction of the legislature.

The Legislative Council consists of a number not exceeding fifteen, and not less than ten; the members are appointed by the King, and are all residents within the colony.

The Governor is president of this council, and is entitled to vote as a member upon all questions; when it is equally divided, he has an additional or casting vote. To the Governor and Council is delegated the power to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of the colony, not repugnant to any act, charter, &c., which may have been issued, or to the laws of England; and no law or ordinance can be passed, unless first laid before the Council by the Governor.

The Governor is, by statute, invested with the right of property in the services of offenders or convicts who have been transported, and he may assign this right to others. He is captain-general and governor-in-chief, and has full control over all the military and civil authorities. He is empowered, and required, to administer oaths to the Chief Justice, and the members of the Executive Council; to keep the public seal; and is invested with authority to suspend members of the Executive Council, and to supply their place, as well as to appoint temporary members to fill vacancies.

He appoints all justices of the peace, coroners, constables, and other necessary officers.

He has the power to grant pardons, reprieves, &c., and to remit punishments for offences, treason, or wilful murder, only excepted; for which upon extraordinary occasions, he can reprieve until the pleasure of the crown be known. His power to shorten the time of transportation is limited, by the condition that all instruments in writing for that purpose are to be approved by the crown.

With the advice of the Executive Council, he is empowered to divide the territory, and its dependencies, into districts, counties, towns, &c., to fortify and erect forts, and provide for the defence of the country.

All public moneys are issued for the support of the government by warrant from the Governor, but only for purposes particularly pointed out.

He may give titles to crown lands. He has also power to appoint fairs, marts, markets, ports, harbours, bays, and havens.

The person who succeeds, in case of the death or absence of the Governor, is the Lieutenant-Governor, and next to him, the Commander of the Forces.

The Executive Council consists of four persons holding office in the colony.

1st. The senior officer of the Forces. 2d. The Bishop of Australia. 3d. The Colonial Secretary of New South Wales; and 4th, the Colonial Treasurer: the two latter for the time being. These are appointed by letters patent, under the great seal. It is a council of advice and restraint, and the matters on which they are to be consulted are especially mentioned in their commission.

The Legislative Council consists of fifteen persons, including the Governor, seven of whom hold offices under the government, and during royal pleasure, viz.:

1st. Chief Justice. 2d. Bishop of Australia. 3d. The Commander of the Forces. 4th. The Colonial Secretary. 5th. The Attorney-General. 6th. The Collector of the Customs. 7th. The Auditor-General; with seven others who do not hold offices, but are nominated by the crown.

As is truly said in the colony, they are governed by the royal prerogative, exercised in the person of the Governor.

The rules for his guidance, and that of all colonial officers, are issued by the Secretary of State, and are to be found in a pamphlet form, under the title of "Colonial Rules and Regulations." Great complaints are made in the colony that these are altogether one-sided. In them it is notified that the appointment or term of the Governor's office is limited to a period of six years, from the time of his assumption of his duties; the crown reserving the power of prolonging that period.

The great complaint in the colony is, that the policy of the government at home is always fluctuating with the change of the incumbent who holds the office of Secretary of State. This happens with every change in political parties in the mother country, and the office is often held by persons who have very little knowledge or experience in colonial affairs, and consequently regulations are from time to time issued, and particular orders for the guidance of the Governor are frequently sent him, which leaves him little or no independence in the performance of his duties.

At the distance at which New South Wales is situated, it may readily be conceived what inconvenience is felt by the Governor and

Council in carrying out what they deem best for the interests of the colony. They have no power or control over the revenue, which in reality is under the supervision and direction of the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's treasury.

The Governor is not allowed to expend any sum over £200 for any one service, (unless under very urgent circumstances,) without the previous sanction of the home government; and although at liberty to draw that amount, it is on his own responsibility; he must account for it, and show the absolute necessity for its use.

The estimates for the ensuing year are made in June, and forwarded for approval. The expenditure must be limited by this estimate, and no further disbursements applied for on account of that year, unless under circumstances entirely unforeseen.

The estimate, after undergoing the supervision of the colonial legislative body, must also undergo the scrutiny of the commissioners of the treasury officers, before any instructions are given by the Secretary of State.

The estimates for taxation follow the same course, and the Council has no control over the funds arising from the property or droits of the crown.

The Governor, in transmitting his accounts for audit, sends them accompanied by certified copies of all estimates of expenditures to which the accounts relate, and of all ordinances for the imposition of taxes, with copies of the despatches sent him by the Secretary of State, conveying the sentiments of her Majesty's government upon them; and it is required that full detailed statements of the revenue and expenditures of the colony be published in the Colonial Gazette immediately after the accounts are transmitted.

These are some of the regulations, which will tend to show how great is the authority still retained by the crown, or in reality by the ministers, and how little discretionary power the Governor has. He is required personally to superintend or authorize things of such small concern that it almost approaches the ridiculous; for instance, a wheelbarrow cannot be mended without an order in writing attested by his signature. Such an order may be necessary, but one would think that other persons might be authorized and trusted to perform such acts. The colony is treated as though it were a den of rogues, and required the constant supervision of the ministry at home. I was told that no one could conceive the mass of despatches containing instructions that a single year produced, and these are often found conflicting with those that had gone before, and thus require a reference back to the Secretary of State. The practical inconvenience is apparent, and it is not

surprising that it should excite the ridicule as well as disgust of all thinking men in the colony, to see the attempt to govern the affairs of this rising state by the royal prerogative, exercised by one of her Majesty's principal secretaries of state, in despatches to a governor, whose recommendations are usually adopted, thus making him, at least in part, his own instructer. When the time necessary to pass these communications, which is at least eight months, is considered, there appears great reason for reform, and it is not surprising that the thinking part of the population are very urgent for it.

The high and confidential officer of the crown, which the Governor really is, is looked upon as the mere agent of the ministry at home.

The community do not feel themselves at all protected by the Legislative Council, although they have, apparently, a voice in its proceedings; as its members are composed, to the extent of one half, of persons who do not hold office. In practice, it is not found that this amounts to a check; for on all government questions the members who hold office will be present, and therefore vote in their full strength; while the members of the people, appointed from the most respectable landholders by the crown, do not take sufficient interest in the proceedings to give that punctual attendance that might be required for the interest of those whom they are intended to represent. But even if all were present, the Governor, with his two votes, would always decide the matter in favour of the government; and as before stated, no new law can be considered in council, unless prepared by the Governor, which must effectually prevent any innovations being brought forward by those who represent the interest of the inhabitants of the colony. The only power they have is a negative one: that of entering their protest, and having it sent home for consideration by her Majesty's ministers; but in such case there is little likelihood of its meeting with favour. The official members, on the other hand, are considered as bound to support the Governor or to lose their seats and offices, notwithstanding their oaths faithfully to advise, to the best of their ability and judgment, the government of the colony.

The principal check on the Governor and his Council is the public press, whose conductors are strenuous advocates for reform and colonial rights, and exhibit much ability.

The statute of New South Wales expired in 1839, when it was renewed for a year, and has subsequently been renewed from year to year until the present time (1840). So evident, however, were the defects in the administration, that a clause was added to the act of renewal, declaring that the statute was deemed in many respects

inapplicable to the circumstances of the colony and the wants of the inhabitants.

It was made lawful for the colonial legislature to enact any laws or ordinances, subject to the provisions of the statute, for the better administration of justice, and to define the constitution of the courts of law, equity, and juries. This conclusively proves that great difficulty is experienced in governing these rising colonies, and in giving that attention to their wants that they demand; yet Great Britain still manifests a strong desire to retain her control over these subjects, and does not see the necessity of letting them stand alone, and being allowed to feel that they are able to take care of themselves.*

Petitions have been sent home to Parliament and to the Queen praying for the formation of a new constitution, such as they could place confidence in, and in which the people of the colony might be represented. The model of the constitution that they desire is that of the Canadas, and the expectation is that by the great influx of free emigrants, the day will soon arrive when it will be vouchsafed to them.

From the reports of a committee of the Legislative Council of this colony, it is shown that by offering bounties, immigration may be more economically conducted than by the government system. The report states, that during the year 1838 there arrived in the colony seven thousand one hundred and eighty individuals, (exclusive of convicts,) of whom one thousand six hundred and sixty-two made a claim for bounty. In the latter six months of the year 1839, six thousand arrived. The total arrivals from January, 1837, to the end of September, 1839, were sixteen thousand four hundred: by government ships, eight thousand four hundred and eighty-five; by the aid of bounty, four thousand two hundred and sixty-six; unassisted, three thousand six hundred and forty-nine. The amount of bounty to the four thousand two hundred and sixty-six who were introduced by private enterprise, was sixty-five thousand five hundred and eighty-six pounds,—at the rate of fifteen pounds six shillings each; while the cost of introducing eight thousand seven hundred and twenty-one persons by the government system, was one hundred and sixty-eight thousand seven hundred and seventy-five pounds, showing an increase of cost of thirty-seven thousand six hundred and thirty pounds to the colony by the government system.† This subject engrosses the attention of

* The Legislative Council has agreed to take upon the colony the charge of defraying the expenses of the police and jail out of the revenue. This has also caused much dissatisfaction.

† Many curious developements have taken place relative to the colony of South Australia, which was established upon the principles of self-support, having been carried out; no colony

all, now that the transportation, and consequently the assignment system, is to cease. They are desirous of securing workmen and servants, and every exertion is to be made to that end.

There is now a great influx of all kinds of people into this colony, from the capitalist to the labouring man. The colony offers advantages to all of these, but in a very different proportion. There is no country where provisions and the actual necessaries of life are as high as here, and this particularly affects the poor man, for although he receives high wages his expenses are proportionately great. He will therefore be disappointed, if he calculates upon making great savings. On the other hand, the capitalist may at once enter the market and invest his money profitably, and from all that I could learn, securely. Money, however, according to several intelligent and well-informed persons, commanded more than its value; or, in other words, the rate of interest is too high to be sustained. This was in part attributed to the improvements going on, partly for speculating purposes, but generally as permanent investments, the result of profits in business. Money is in fact the best merchandise to carry to New South Wales.

The poor labouring man, if he be sober and industrious, will soon acquire the means of support for himself and family, but he must carefully avoid the contamination to which he will be subject, and avoid improper associates. There is no place where he will be so much led into temptation as here. For the middle class—those who have a small income and do not work—there is every thing to strive against. Labour is high, and so are the necessaries of life. New South Wales is not a place to economize in. A moderate fortune, unless employed in some lucrative and growing business, will finally involve its owner in difficulties; and if he engage in farming, a few bad seasons (very likely to happen) will completely ruin him. From all the information I could obtain, emigration to New South Wales is attended with risk, unless a person be very prudent and can keep himself within his means. The moment he begins to borrow money, he is sure to get behindhand; for few can stand the payment of an interest of fifteen per cent. The great difficulty with all emigrants seems to be, that as land is very cheap in comparison to what they have been accustomed to, they immediately desire to possess large tracts. This it is necessary to look for, and much time and money

under the British dominions has cost the mother country more, nor has any one been conducted so badly, having cost the government about one million pounds for bounty. Some extraordinary circumstances were related to me of the manner in which the government was defrauded, in spite of their stipulations directly to the contrary.

is spent in wandering about the country in search of what is not very easy of attainment. Another difficulty of the newly-arrived settler consists in getting information concerning the unoccupied territory. No land-office or land-agent is found here for the emigrant to apply to, and he not unfrequently falls into the hands of those who defraud him, or is led astray by the reports of the ignorant or prejudiced, and at last is induced to purchase much more than he requires, and in consequence fails of success. The government lands are disposed of in a different way from what ours are. A certain parish having been surveyed and mapped, is advertised as being open for sale; persons select and make application, and if a less quantity than six hundred and forty acres is desired, he is obliged to state the reasons of his wish to obtain it, and the use to which he purposes to put it: the land is then advertised to be sold on a certain day (of the month), at public auction. If the land offered for sale happen to be in the neighbourhood of some wealthy proprietor, he cannot fail to become informed of it; the section is bid up, and the person may be disappointed in obtaining the allotment selected and advertised by his own desire.

The minimum price must be paid, at any rate: this originally was five shillings an acre; it is now twelve. Ten per cent. must be paid down, and the remainder in one month, or the deposit is forfeited. On payment of the money the title-deed is given, subject to the nominal quit-rent of a peppercorn. Before delivery of the deeds, the law provides that forty shillings shall be paid to the colonial secretary, and five shillings to the register. The crown reserves to itself the right of making roads and bridges, as well as of taking timber, stone, and other materials for making and keeping them in repair; as well as all mines of coal and precious metals. No land within one hundred feet of high-water mark on the sea-coast, harbours, or bays, is to be considered open to purchase, unless for purposes of commerce and navigation.

As respects the discontents arising from what the colonists call the misapplication of the land-fund, her Majesty's ministers have determined that she has a right to alienate the waste lands, and divert the appropriation of the proceeds, and that the doubts raised would, if sustained, be laid aside by a declaratory act of Parliament.

All free persons are admitted as purchasers of land, without any limitation whatever as to quantity.

In order to show that the statement of the extent of crime in the colony, however extraordinary it may appear, is not exaggerated, I will give extracts from the charge of Judge Burton to the jury, at the close of the session of the Supreme Court, in November, 1835, and

afterwards a report by him to the colonial secretary, in 1836. Both of these may be classed as official documents of the highest authority.*

Judge Burton remarked, that "It was now his duty to discharge them (the jury) from any further attendance this session, but before he did so, he must make a few observations, which they ought to carry to their homes, and there give them a calm and serious consideration; his own mind was sufficiently impressed with their importance.

"It had been his lot to preside alternately with his brother judges in that court, he might say, for three years. It was a period at which he might himself well pause and inquire what he had been doing, what had been the effect of his labours, and especially, considering the numbers of capital convictions which had taken place before him, and the number of sentences passed, it was fitting that he should ask himself the question, what has been the effect of those sentences in the way of example?

"He felt they were equally interested in the same questions; he would therefore lay before them the views and conclusions at which his own mind had arrived. He had requested a return to be made out by the chief clerk of the court of all the capital convictions that had taken place during the last three years, and he thought when he stated the number of them, they would feel he was fully justified in the course of observations he was about to make.

"In 1833, there had been one hundred and thirty-five capital convictions, on which sixty-five sentences of death had been passed; forty-five of these capital convictions, and fifteen of these sentences of death, had taken place upon his judicial responsibility.

"In 1834, there were one hundred and forty-eight capital convictions, on eighty-three of which sentence of death had been passed; forty-eight of which convictions, and thirty-six of which sentences, had been before himself.

"In 1835, one hundred and sixteen capital convictions, and seventy-one sentences of death; fifty-six of which had taken place before him, and twenty-eight of which sentences he had passed. In addition to which, there are thirty-three prisoners who have been capitally convicted, waiting sentence, whether death might be recorded, or passed upon them. The number of capital convictions was a feature sufficiently striking in the administration of justice in the colony; for it was to be remarked, that capital punishment had been taken away from several offences, ever since the 1st of August, 1833,—such as forgery, cattle-stealing, stealing in a dwelling-house under the value of five pounds

* See Appendix X. for tabular statements of crime in New South Wales.

(these were fruitful sources of capital conviction in former times); so that those which had taken place since that time, were all of crimes of violence: murder, rape, robbery, burglary, maliciously stabbing, shooting, and wounding, and offences of similar character.

"The calendar for the present sessions presents the following facts, and had been furnished him by the crown solicitor:

"'There had been convicted of murder, two; stabbing with intent, &c., shooting at, with intent to kill, cutting and maiming, assault, with intent to do bodily harm, six; manslaughter, two; arson, one; piracy and burglary, eight; house-breaking, ten; highway robbery, seven; receiving, one; forgery, two; larceny on the high seas, one; larceny, four; cattle-stealing, one; piracy only, one; robbery, eight;—total, fifty-four.

"The prisoners in jail on the 18th of November, 1835, untried, were seventy-four, from various causes of delay; they were, however, neither unknown nor unheeded. With respect to the causes of this state of crime, he had formed his own conclusions, and begged them to weigh and examine them, and judge for themselves; he thought the number of capital convictions alone, enough to point his own and their attention to it, as an indication of the state of the country as to crime.

"He did not think it necessary to mention the number of convictions before the Supreme Court, during the same period, for offences not capital. He would, however, briefly refer to them, and to all offences which were tried before the several Courts of Quarter Sessions throughout the colony, in the exercise of their summary jurisdiction, and by juries; the mass of offences which were summarily disposed of by the magistrates; and, added to all those, the numerous undiscovered crimes, which every man who had heard him, and to whom the report of his words should come, would at once admit to have occurred within his own circle of knowledge. There the picture presented to their minds would be one of the most painful reflection. It would appear to one that could look down upon the community, that the main business of us all was the commission of crime, or the punishment of it; as if the whole colony was in motion towards the several courts of justice; and the most painful reflection of all must be that so many capital sentences, and the execution of them, had not had the effect of preventing crime, by way of example.

"In his opinion, one grand cause of such a state of things was the overwhelming defect in the religious principles of the community; a principle, which he considered as the polar star, to guide a man in all his conduct, and without which none other would prevent him from crime.

"But that he might not be said to make so grave a charge upon light foundation, he would instance the crimes of violence, the murders, manslaughters, in drunken revels, the perjuries, the false witnessing, from motives of reward or revenge, which in the proceedings before him had been brought to light. There were some indeed of so atrocious a character which had occurred before him, that he would briefly instance some of them, which the time that had elapsed might have caused to pass away from their memory.

"The case of Mullany and his wife, who were convicted of stealing from the person of Patrick Sherry, by administering to him some deleterious drug, which for a time deprived him of sense, and perhaps only the quantity prevented his losing his life. The case of Armstrong, the overseer, who was acquitted upon a false charge, brought against him by a convict under his superintendence, of shooting him with intent to murder.

"The case of Cowan and his wife, who were acquitted of the murder of a man named Kerr, embodies in itself a picture of those evils with which the colony is visited. A person of the name of Campbell, and the deceased Kerr, lived near Liverpool, and kept an unlicensed still, and a house to which the gangs of prisoners in this neighbourhood resorted for drink, and they were cattle-stealers. On a Sunday evening this house was visited by a constable from Liverpool, who arrived about eight o'clock, and found the parties, as he expressed it, 'beastly drunk,' and the two prisoners of the crown in the same state; this was the last time Kerr was seen alive by any respectable person.

"Information was given the next day, by two of Cowan's servants, to the magistrates of Liverpool, against him, for cattle-stealing, and it was proved that their having done so was known to Peter Montgomery, a convict, employed as overseer at the Liverpool Hospital, in the afternoon of the same day, and that he had visited Cowan afterwards, and understood from expressions made by Cowan, during his intoxication, that he expected Kerr would give evidence against him. Kerr was murdered by some one on that night, and his body was afterwards found at fifty rods' distance, but the blood was traced to within seventeen yards of Cowan's door.

"Campbell had given a statement before the magistrates, which, if he had adhered to on the trial, would have brought home the guilt of that murder to both the prisoners; but he recanted the whole of his previous statement, and they were acquitted.

"It appeared in evidence, that Campbell had been forwarded from Liverpool to Sydney, handcuffed with Cowan, and was confined in

the same jail-yard with him. It further appeared, (and it deserves mention as an instance of retributive justice, as well as showing the character of the case,) that another dead man was found in the same place three months before, and upon that occasion a coroner's jury had acquitted the prisoner Cowan, upon the evidence of the man Kerr; and this deposition of Kerr's after his death, was given in the court, on evidence in favour of the same prisoner, when Cowan was subsequently tried, and was the main ground of his acquittal.

"In another case, an old man was acquitted of maliciously shooting at a servant in his employment, and the means taken to procure that acquittal, was a charge of felony set up against the principal witness.

"These, and many other instances still more disgusting, had brought him to the conclusion, that there was an overwhelming defect of religious principle in this colony. There was a great deficiency of religious instruction and instructers.

"He had visited the penal settlement, where he saw them herding together without any chance of improvement. A man who had been brought before him for sentence, observed, in a manner which drew tears from his eyes, and wrung his heart, 'That let a man be what he will, when he comes here, he is soon as bad as the rest; a man's heart is taken from him, and there is given to him the heart of a beast.'

"He felt bound to say, that masters of convicts were not sufficiently attentive to the morals of their men. It had been proved before him, that highly respectable persons near a church in the same town, not only neglected to oblige them to attend the worship, but actually suffered them to spend the Lord's day amidst scenes of drunkenness and debauchery. It had been further proved, that the Lord's day, by some masters, was made a day of labour, some other day being allowed to them as an equivalent. He was sorry to add, that many of the worst crimes which had been brought under his notice, were committed on the Lord's day, and he was led to apprehend that there was a very general disregard and desecration of it.

"He had been induced, by what had been proved before him in that court, gravely to consider the question of convicts working out of irons, and felt convinced that it was one of the most fruitful sources of crime to be found in the colony. He had before him a return, from which it appeared that the number of convicts at this time employed upon the roads, is two thousand two hundred and forty; of whom one thousand one hundred and four are out of irons. And when they (the jury) considered who these men were, and what they had been; that they left their huts in any number, armed or unarmed, as they pleased; from the evidence he possessed respecting the conduct of these road-

parties of the colony, it would appear that those establishments were like bee-hives, the inhabitants busily pouring in and out; but with this difference: the one works by day, the other by night; the one goes forth to industry, the other to plunder.

"To the careless or worse than careless conduct of the overseers, he did attribute a vast proportion of the burglaries and robberies that were committed in the country districts. It had been proved in a recent case that a party of these men had committed a robbery, under such circumstances of aggravation, that sentence of death had been passed upon four of them.

"The settlers themselves were to blame for many of the crimes committed by convicts belonging to road-parties. It appears they have frequently employed these men, in their leisure hours, or on a Sunday, paying them for their labours in money, which was spent in drink, and so prepared them for crime; and it also appeared that after using their services in harvest, they remunerated them for their services, by granting passes for several days more than was necessary for them to return to their gangs, during which time the whole country they passed through is laid under contribution by their depredations.

"Another source of crime was the occupation of the waste lands of the colony by unauthorized and improper persons, both bond and free, who, commencing with nothing, or a very small capital, soon after acquire a degree of wealth, which must lead every reasonable man to the conclusion that they do not get it honestly.

"The congregation of large numbers of convict servants in the town of Sydney, to which were to be attributed the vast proportion of the burglaries and robberies committed there, the master allowing the convict servants to wander about when and where they please after his work is done.

"The allowing improper persons to have licensed public houses. It had been proved that a great many robberies had been committed at such places, many of the proprietors of these low houses being not far removed from the class of life in which the prisoners were themselves placed.

"Another cause, which comes home to all, is the almost total want of the superintendence of masters over their assigned servants. It had been proved to him that many of the robberies which had been committed are attributed to this alone; also, that convicts, six or seven in number, armed with muskets, and masked, had committed various robberies on their adjoining neighbours. One of them attempted a robbery in the middle of the day, on a Sunday, on the high-

road from Sydney to Paramatta, armed with a musket, another person being in his company; and very many robberies were committed through convict servants being left too much at liberty to roam where they pleased, during the hours of night."

In Judge Burton's report to the colonial secretary, as to whether juries in the colony have answered the ends of justice, he gives a full account of the jury system, its formation, &c., some passages of which I shall also quote, as it will tend to show the manner in which the law is administered in the colony, and the difficulties encountered in the proper punishment of crime.

"In civil cases, such as form the ordinary business of the court, the matters in dispute are so simple as to afford but little field for any undue bias on either side.

"It is only in cases occurring between the government and an individual, or involving some point of political or party feeling, that any trial can be had of the principles of the jurymen, and happily there have been no instances of any such during the time (the last three years) that jury trial has been established.

"In criminal cases, there is a greater and more constant ground for apprehension of improper influences, and undue bias upon the minds of the jurymen. The prisoners for trial before the court, are chiefly of a class transported hither for crimes committed out of the colony; and persons of the same condition, and others very low in respectability and character, and frequently allied to them, are qualified, according to colonial law, to serve as jurymen.

"The qualifications are, a clear income, arising out of lands, houses, or other real estate, of at least thirty pounds per annum, or a clear personal estate of three hundred pounds.

"The disqualifications as they now stand are: 'Every man not a natural-born subject of the king, and every man who hath been or shall be attainted of any treason or felony, or convicted of any crime, (unless he shall have received for such crime a free pardon, or shall be within the benefit and protection of some act of Parliament, having force and effect of a pardon under the great seal,) or, secondly, if any person who, either while serving under any sentence passed upon him in any part of the British dominions, or after the expiration or remission of such sentence, shall have been convicted of any treason, felony, or other infamous offence.' "

Respecting the qualifications arising from property, Judge Burton says, "The possession of such an amount as is specified in the act affords no criterion in the colony, where property is notoriously accumulated by every variety of dishonest means. It may be a test of

respectability and trustworthiness in a community differently constituted, but wholly fails in a community like this, lacking honesty, but abounding in property. In consequence of this qualification being requisite, many honest and respectable persons in the community, very proper to serve on juries, are excluded.

"Within this range are included a class of persons in the colony who have been transported hither for offences committed out of the colony. They are qualified to act as jurymen under the Local Act, without any proof being required that they had regained that good repute which they once lost, and the mere circumstance of their having served the period of their several sentences, does not establish that fact.

"There are others who, possessing the qualifications in property, have arrived in the colony as free emigrants, the near relatives of transported persons, under such circumstances as justly to lead to the suspicion of an undue bias existing in any case affecting them, and who have connexions in England, not unlikely to follow them to the colonies, possessing ready means of importing into this country property dishonestly acquired, and who speedily accumulate wealth by that and other dishonest means. There is no provision for guarding the administration of justice against the predominance of such persons upon the jury-list. The effect of the colonial law in practice has been, that juries actually empannelled under it have been frequently formed of very improper persons."

From the data submitted with Judge Burton's report, he says, "It appears that a party accused, inclined to exercise his right of peremptory challenge, might insure a large predominance of convicted persons on the jury, inasmuch as the law allows in cases of felony the peremptory challenge of twenty in number, and if a prisoner has professional assistance in his defence, this right of challenge is fully exercised. In one instance I knew gentlemen of high character and respectability thus peremptorily rejected on the part of the prisoner. I took the liberty of asking some of them afterwards if the prisoner was known to them, and was answered that he was not. The conclusion in my own mind was, that they were challenged on account of their respectability. In another case before me, every person of apparent respectability who was called, was peremptorily challenged on the part of the prisoner, which the crown officer observing, challenged all the others, and the case remained over in default of jurors. In both cases the accused had professional assistance.

"Again, the jurors are placed alphabetically on the list, and are summoned in that order; the relatives of convicted persons, qualified, and bearing the same name, are sure to be on the same panel with

them. A party may be well informed beforehand, who will be summoned on his jury. An opportunity thus offers for the exertion of improper influence.

"A large proportion of those who have appeared and served are publicans, as many in some cases as eight out of twenty-nine, three having been convicted persons; in other cases, ten out of thirty-one, five having been also convicted persons; and again, eleven out of thirty-five, four of them convicted persons.

"Respecting the large proportion of this class of persons on the jury panels, and the state of crime, and the causes of it, I addressed a letter to his Excellency the Governor, and I now repeat, that the evils arising from the very great number of licensed houses for the sale of ardent spirits, are not restricted to the stimulus which they give to the commission of crime, and concealment of it which they afford, but I have found a very great proportion out of the panel of jurymen before the Supreme Court (who actually attend), to be holders of licensed public houses, frequently very low in respectability, to whose houses, prosecutors, and parties accused, on bail, and their witnesses, bond and free, resort for the purpose of drinking, during the period of time they are in attendance on court; and a reasonable fear is thus excited for the purity of the administration of justice, which I have had occasion as a judge to see realized.

"Upon reference to the jury-list of 1835, I have found that the number to be summoned from criminal issues before the Supreme Court is nine hundred and fifty three, of whom two hundred and three are publicans and innkeepers. The proportion of those who actually serve, far exceeds that number; and in June, 1835, no less a number than two hundred and twenty-four licenses were granted for public houses in the town of Sydney alone. Few of them do not possess the necessary qualifications, and many are highly respectable persons; but the proportion which they bear to the whole is small."

The keepers of the low public houses in Sydney, are chiefly persons who have been transported to this colony, or are married to convicts, and many of them are notorious drunkards, obscure persons, fighters, gamblers, receivers of stolen goods, harbourers of thieves, and the most depraved of both sexes; they exist upon the vices of the lower orders, and inasmuch as there are no licensed pawnbrokers in Sydney, they act as such, but not as occurs in other countries, upon occasion of some temporary pressure on the poor, for some necessary of life, but for intoxicating liquor.

There is a great unwillingness on the part of respectable persons to appear and serve on juries, arising from a natural repugnance to asso-

ciation and confinement in the jury-room with disreputable persons. Judge Burton goes on to give many instances of the behaviour of the jury in their room, and their determination to acquit; stating, that he had been informed by a respectable inhabitant of Sydney, on whose veracity he could fully rely, that upon one occasion, when a prisoner was on trial for cattle-stealing, he was defended by one of the practitioners of the court, when, during the progress of the trial, a juryman leaned over him towards the practitioner, calling him by name, and said, "It's all right, we'll acquit him." When the prisoner was called on for his defence, the practitioner advised him to say nothing, and call no witnesses, which course was adopted; and he was acquitted.

It is proper to state that the other judges think that the jury trials have met with the success reasonably to be expected, and that matters will grow daily better as the free emigrants arrive and are qualified. From what I understood from gentlemen of the legal profession, there has some improvement taken place since the year 1836.

The courts still adhere to the use of wigs and gowns, and the opinion seems to be that such appendages cannot be dispensed with without injuring their respectability and solemnity in the eyes of the people.

Under the additional clause, amendments have been made by the Legislative Council in the laws regulating trials, and they have also abolished military juries.

Education in the colony of late years has claimed some portion of the attention of the government, which has made allowances to the different sects of Christians for the maintenance of schools. I was obligingly provided with the school return for the year 1838, by William Lithgow, Esquire. This will be found in Appendix XII.

It appears that the whole number educated is only six thousand and thirty-seven, and that the expense incurred by government is twelve thousand four hundred and twenty-six pounds, or upwards of two pounds per head. The number of children attending schools is to the aggregate of population as about one to twenty, which is the same as in 1836. In the return above mentioned, it will be found that there are seventy-six schools, of different denominations; three colleges, and sixty-seven private schools: showing an increase more than fourfold during the last five years. Several attempts have been made to establish the Irish national school system, or a general system of education, but thus far, without success. The chief opposition to this has been from the Church of England.

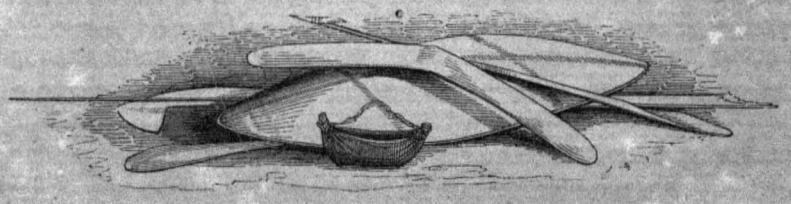
Among the colleges, two are under the guidance of the Church of England, viz.: King's College or School, at Paramatta, and Sydney

College. The third, called the Australian College, was established by the Reverend Dr. Lang. Of this institution that gentleman is the principal. The college edifices consist of four large buildings, for the accommodation of the professors and their families, with recitation-rooms in each, besides apartments for the students. The expenses, including board, are about forty pounds per annum. The charge at Sydney College is about ten pounds more. Of the latter college, Sir John Jamison is the president. It is in a great measure under the control of the Bishop and Episcopal laity of Sydney. An examination was witnessed at the latter institution, and was thought very creditable to the students. Medals were awarded and appropriate remarks made by the Bishop.

The system of giving to the clergy an allowance from the government, for their support, is the fertile cause of dissension in this community. Many hard thoughts, and harsh expressions, are occasionally felt and uttered, by one sect against the others, in the contest for the stipend distributed among the several denominations. An act was passed in 1836, which appears as liberal as could be expected. The amount appropriated annually is about twenty thousand pounds, of which about three-fourths go to the Episcopal Church, and the remainder is divided among other sects, Roman Catholics included. Regrets were occasionally heard, (perhaps to flatter us,) that the voluntary system of supporting the clergy had not been introduced. It will be well to remark, before quitting the subject, that in all other matters appertaining to the general good and benefit of the community, there appeared a co-operation highly commendable.

The Australian colony was erected into an Episcopal See in 1836, and Archdeacon Broughton was consecrated as the first Bishop. To his lordship we are indebted for many kind attentions, and the lively interest he took in our proceedings.

The exertions that the colonial government and private individuals appear to be making to afford religious instruction, cannot but bring about, in a few years, a very desirable and necessary reform among the lower classes of this colony, of which the facts previously exhibited in the account of the country fully establish the necessity.



NATIVE WEAPONS AND SHIELD.

CHAPTER VIII.

CONTENTS.

JAUNT TO PARAMATTA — DESCRIPTION OF THAT PLACE — OBSERVATORY — GOVERNMENT-HOUSE, AND FARM—VISIT OF NATURALISTS TO ILLAWARRA—WOOLONGONG—VEGETATION OF ILLAWARRA—LAKE ILLAWARRA—JAUNT OF MESSRS. HALE AND AGATE TO HUNTER'S RIVER — TOWN OF NEWCASTLE — COAL MINES — CONVICT MARRIAGES—CONVICT STOCKADE—NATIVES—JOURNEY TO LAKE MACQUARIE — MR. THRELKELD—MACQUARIE LAKE—CONVICT SERVANTS—M'GILL, THE NATIVE—SHEEP-SHEARING—VISIT TO PEUEN BEUEN—BANKS OF HUNTER RIVER—MR. HALE'S JOURNEY TO WELLINGTON VALLEY — MAIL CARRIAGE — POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT — PENRITH—BLUE MOUNTAINS — MOUNT VICTORIA—VALLEY OF CLWYD—BATHURST — LAKES—BUSH-RANGERS — WELLINGTON — NATIVE CHILDREN — MR. WATSON—SHEEP-SHEARING—PROFITS OF SHEEP-FARMS—FLOODS OF THE MACQUARIE—POPULATION OF THE WEST—NATIVE LANGUAGES — MR. PEALE'S JOURNEY — CLIFTON — CAPTAIN M'ARTHUR — HE INTRODUCES THE FINE-WOOL SHEEP—LIVERPOOL—DAM IN COOK'S RIVER — NEPEAN RIVER — WALLABIES — STEATHARA—BIRDS—DECREASE OF NATIVE ANIMALS—VISIT TO NEWINGTON—SALT-WORKS—PREVALENCE OF SALT IN AUSTRALIA—DECREASE OF LAKES—ANCIENT FLOODS — DESCRIPTION OF FISSURES—EARTHQUAKES—BURNING MOUNTAIN—TRADE OF NEW SOUTH WALES—FISHERIES—BANKS — EXPORTS — DEPOTS FOR GRAIN — COLONY AT SWAN RIVER — SOUTH AUSTRALIA — FÊTE AT FORT MACQUARIE — SURPRISE OF THE COLONISTS AT OUR WANT OF PREPARATION—STATE OF THE PEACOCK—ARRIVAL OF H. B. M. SHIP DRUID—SEASON OF OUR VISIT—FACILITIES FOR OUTFITS AT SYDNEY—KINDNESS AND HOSPITALITY OF CITIZENS — CHRISTMAS DINNER — DEPARTURE OF THE SQUADRON — DESERTERS FOUND ON BOARD.

Drawn by A.T. Agate. J.A. Pelph. Sc.

FOREST LILLIWARRA. N.S.W.

CHAPTER VIII.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

1839.

My own time was so completely occupied during the stay of the squadron at Sydney, as to prevent my making any excursions in the colony, with the exception of a brief visit to Paramatta, by invitation of his Excellency the Governor.

The distance of Paramatta from Sydney is fifteen miles. There are two methods of going to it from Sydney: by a carriage on a good macadamized road, or by a steamer up the Paramatta river. The latter is the most agreeable mode, and the scenery on the banks of the river is fine. The whole distance abounds in positions which would furnish beautiful sites for villas upon the bays, inlets, and headlands. Should the progress of the colony in wealth and population continue, these sites will doubtless be occupied ere long with handsome residences.

The passage by steamer to Paramatta occupies about two hours; here the river becomes narrow, and a mile higher up the stream the tide ceases to flow, and farther navigation ceases.

The town of Paramatta is situated about a mile from the steamboat landing. Although regularly laid out, it has a straggling air, each house having a large space enclosed as a garden, and the attempt at regularity rather injures its appearance by giving it a look of stiffness. It has, and I suppose deserves, the reputation of being a dull place. It is built principally on a single street, about a mile long, at the head of which, on an eminence, is situated the Government-House, where his Excellency the Governor resides during the summer season.

The Paramatta Observatory, established by Sir Thomas Brisbane, is a small building, with several good instruments by Jones, Ramsden,

and Troughton; but I regretted to see the dilapidated state it was in. Mr. Dunlap, the present incumbent, obligingly showed me the instruments, and I passed an agreeable morning with him. He is allowed a small salary, but I understood that no allowance was made for repairs of the building, &c.

Paramatta contains some public buildings and works, among which are the female penitentiary or factory, which has already been described, a stone court-house, barracks, and a fine stone bridge over the Paramatta river. I feel greatly indebted to Sir George and Lady Gipps, with whom I passed two days, for the kindness and attention they showed me.

Previous to Sir George Gipps's going to New South Wales, he had been in Canada, and on his return had paid a short visit to the United States. It afforded me pleasure to find the liberal views and feelings he evinced towards our country. It is needless to say that at the Government-House my time passed agreeably, and that I sensibly felt the exchange of such agreeable society for the routine of my duties on shipboard. Here, also, I had the pleasure of meeting several agreeable people.

The houses of Paramatta are generally no more than two stories high, and are built of sandstone. The town contains several churches. The Government-House is a commodious, unpretending two-story building. The grounds are extensive, but not remarkable for beauty. A farm is attached to the domain, where many government cattle are kept, and there are numerous outbuildings and dairies. The ground had a familiar look to me, for the grass was burnt up, and reminded me of my home at Washington during the heat of summer. It was, therefore, an unfavourable time to see its beauties. I understood that this place was laid out as an experimental farm; but this plan, I should suppose, is now laid aside, for the people of the colony are abundantly able to take care of themselves.

A telegraph is placed in a conspicuous position within a short walk of the house, which communicates with Sydney, and was formerly in constant use. It is now in contemplation to remove it, as it is no more needed, which is a farther proof of the advancement of this colony towards a well-regulated government.

There are also schools at Paramatta under the direction of the resident chaplain.

Several of the gentlemen who were left at Sydney, visited the Illawarra district, which has already been more than once spoken of. They made the passage from Sydney to Woolongong in a steamer. Owing to the steamer not being well-adapted for a sea-voyage, much incon-

venience, delay, and disappointment occur on this route, although upon the whole it facilitates the intercommunication between this district and the city. Woolongong, the port at which the steamer stops, is a small thriving town, and will be the principal one of this district. It has no natural harbour, but one is now under construction, at the expense of government, by excavating the solid rock (limestone), for the accommodation of steamers and small vessels: a large number of convicts were at work upon it. The port will never be fully protected until the proposed pier or breakwater is built, for during half the year, the sea makes it dangerous to lie at anchor in the roadstead, notwithstanding the strong moorings which have been laid down. It will also be very difficult to enter the basin in bad weather, until such a breakwater is in existence to protect it. The basin, when completed, will contain about half a dozen vessels. The construction of the breakwater is carried on at the same time as that of the basin, and the stone excavated from the one is used in the construction of the other. Both were to have been finished in 1842.

The district of Illawarra is held by a few persons, who have large grants of land. The roads are constructed and kept in order at the expense of the government. When one of the residents was asked whether the road was a public one, he answered, it was a "government road."

The convict population, including ticket-of-leave holders, in this district bears a proportion to the free as one to three. Of the remaining two-thirds, more than one-half are emancipists and expirées. The proportion of women to men is also about one to three.

For the hospitable reception given them by Mr. Plunket, the Attorney-General of the colony, our gentlemen are under great obligation. He happened to be spending some time at his farm, near Woolongong. This contains about two hundred acres, and is exceedingly pretty. The residence of Mr. Plunket is a neat cottage, built after the manner of the settlers, and is well adapted to the country. It is surrounded by the most luxuriant foliage, nearly all of which has a tropical character, and includes palms, cabbage-trees, and several varieties of tree-ferns, all growing to a great height.

A drive through the woods, accompanied by the ladies of the family, afforded many opportunities of making collections, and getting information.

Some idea may be formed of the advancement of this district, and the rise in the value of property, from the fact that Mr. Plunket sold his farm for fourteen thousand pounds, which, but two years before, he had bought for seven hundred.

Dr. Osborne, R. N., has a farm likewise, near Lake Illawarra, which is now divided by a narrow sand-beach from the sea. This lake is shallow, and is about six miles long, by four miles wide. It contains a great quantity of fish, principally mullet.* Large quantities of shells are to be seen on its banks. These are burnt into lime, which is used both for building and as manure. On the borders of the lake reside several fishermen, and it is a general resort for the natives. Mullet, caught in large quantities, are salted and dried.

Daisy Bank, the seat of Dr. Osborne, is about ten miles from Woolongong. Here also our gentlemen met with that kind hospitality which reigns throughout this country. This part of the district is nearly all brought into cultivation. The mountain scenery is fine, and a few very large trees are conspicuous objects in it. The side of the mountain affords a good field for making botanical collections, as it is not easily accessible to cattle. A large accession was made to our collection of seeds. The woods were alive with birds, among which were the white cockatoo, which collects in flocks, and does infinite mischief to the wheat-fields. They are difficult to approach in consequence of the good look-out kept by the old birds. The small species of the kangaroo, called the wallaby, is found here, as are large black and diamond snakes, lizards, black and white cockatoos, and sand-leeches. The latter is much dreaded, as its bite is venomous, and produces ulcers. It is very troublesome, crawling up and attaching itself to the flesh, where it gloats upon the blood, and not unfrequently bursts from repletien.

This district is level, and was thought to resemble some parts of our own country, after the harvest was gathered in. Silicified wood is very common in Illawarra, and many stumps of it are seen in passing along the road. In some of them the texture of the wood is well preserved; and so natural is their aspect, that at first sight they appear as if they were now standing where they had originally grown. The diameter of some of them is about two and a half feet, and the whole mass is completely petrified. They are quite black, except where bleached by exposure.

The Illawarra district extends from Woolongong to Shoalhaven, and is the most interesting portion of Australia to visit. In this small compass is found some of the most remarkable of the sandstone scenery, and there is also an opportunity of viewing a basaltic formation, which is no where else to be found in the colony.

Kiama is remarkable for the number of deep and wild caverns,

* One of our gentlemen was assured by the fishermen that there were thirteen kinds of fish in Illawarra Lake.

through which the sea forces a passage to the distance of one hundred yards or more, sweeping along at a furious rate; and when the noise of its progress has nearly died away, loud thunderings are heard rushing through its vaults. The Blow-Hole of Kiama Point is already a place of some celebrity, and it merits to be so. A subterranean passage of about twenty feet broad by eighteen high, receives the advancing wave, which passes quietly along for two hundred feet. It then meets a basaltic wall, against which it dashes with a sullen roar, and passes upwards through a narrow opening above, rising at times to a height of one hundred feet, throwing off innumerable jets in all directions, and which fall around in ever-changing forms.

Some of the basaltic scenery about Kiama, will bear comparison with the far-famed Giant's Causeway, and the rocks of Staffa, if it does not surpass them, united as it is with the luxuriant and splendid forests of palms, tree-ferns, and the woody creepers of the tropics.

About Shoalhaven is one of the largest and finest farming and grazing districts in the colony. Its scenery is extremely picturesque, particularly when viewed from the summit of Coolomgata. The broad Shoalhaven river is seen to the southward, flowing through rich meadows and farms, enclosing a delta; while the deep and sinuous bays with which the coast is indented, and which enclose innumerable islets, appear like a crowded cluster of lakes.

To the north, a wide verdant plain extends to a mountain bluff, called Broughton's Head. Through this the Broughton river winds, and beyond it is seen the Illawarra mountain range.

On a wide platform around Woolongong Point, are to be seen at high-water mark, globular concretions, that resemble cannon-balls in appearance. They vary in size, from one inch to four in diameter, and are very compact and tough. They generally contain some foreign body, and in about a third of them, Mr. Dana found a single fossil shell in a beautiful state of preservation. For a full detail of the geological structure of this district, which is exceedingly interesting, I must refer to the Geological Report.

Mr. Hale and Mr. Agate made a jaunt to the Hunter river, and thence to Lake Macquarie, to the establishment of Mr. Threlkeld, the missionary employed among the aborigines.

The passage to Hunter river, a distance of eighty miles to the north of Sydney, is made in a steamer. The boat was small and ill-adapted for the sea.

Leaving Sydney just before dark, they reached Newcastle, at the mouth of the Hunter river, about noon the next day. They, however, had a head wind and much sea to contend against.

Among other accidents, the shipping of a sea caused much fright among the women on board, and threw one poor girl into hysterics. They were all glad to pass within the island of Nobboy, off the mouth of Hunter river, and to get on shore at Newcastle.

The town of Newcastle is a small village of seventy or eighty houses, built on the side of a hill; it contains two taverns and several grog-shops, a jail, convict stockade, hospital, court-house, and a venerable old-looking church. On one of the neighbouring hills is a flag-staff, and on another a windmill. The business of a coal-mine and that of the building of a breakwater for the protection of the harbour, give the place an air of life and animation.

Our travellers put up at Rowell's "Commercial Hotel;" and on proceeding to make inquiries relative to the mode of reaching Mr. Threlkeld's, they were referred to Dr. Brook, the surgeon of the hospital, and a friend of Mr. Threlkeld. He offered them every attention, and advised them to wait for Mr. Threlkeld's conveyance. This delay gave them an opportunity of seeing something of the place, and the natives, as well as to make drawings. The view of the surrounding country from the windmill was extensive, overlooking the town; the Hunter river was seen winding through a well-wooded country, rising occasionally into low hills. At a bend of the river the steamer was seen aground, on her way to Maitland, about twenty-five miles farther up the river. The coast trended to the north, and was visible as far as Port Stephens, about fifty miles distant.

There are two coal-pits, one on the hill, the other in the valley. The former is the older, and has been worked about eight years. Both are the property of the Australian Agricultural Company, and are under the direction of Mr. James Steel. The coal is first seen along the cliffs, forming black horizontal strata, separated by sandstone and clay shale, from twenty feet to forty feet in thickness. They formerly quarried it from the cliff, but the greater part of the coal is now obtained by mining.

From the older coal-pit they have excavated an area of twenty-four acres. The shafts are carried down about one hundred feet, to the fifth or lowermost coal-seam, which is about sixty feet below the level of the sea. The coal is at first taken out in small narrow areas, the passages in which are but four feet high, leaving about as much standing as is removed, the roof above being of fragile shale, and requiring propping every three or four feet. The work is all performed by convicts, who, after digging the coal out, take it in small carriages on railways, which pass to the shaft, where it is raised by steam-power. The lower bed only is considered sufficiently extensive

and pure to pay for its exploration, and is about three feet thick. The coal is pure, except a layer of one and a half inches of bluish sandstone. It is bituminous, and burns readily, with abundance of flame, somewhat like kennel coal. It is compact, though less so than the best Pittsburg and Liverpool, and is of fair quality, although sometimes impregnated with clay, which causes it to leave a large quantity of ashes.

Pyrites is occasionally disseminated in masses through it. Coal abounds throughout the valley of the Hunter, appearing at the surface in many places.

The average quantity of coal produced is sixty tons a day, which is piled up near the mouth of the pit, and thence sent to the pier on a railway, where it is shipped to Sydney, Van Diemen's Land, and even to the Cape of Good Hope.

The new shaft in the valley is only sixty feet deep, the difference of the two being in the height of the hill.

Dr. Brook was formerly superintendent of this station, and gave a droll account of the summary manner in which marriages were concluded with the female convicts. If he saw a man who had just come in from the country with a clean shirt on, he was sure he had come for a wife, and the event always justified his surmise. The man usually intimated his wish with a modest sheepish grin. The fair frail candidates for matrimony were paraded for his inspection, and if he found one whose looks pleased him, he put the plain question at once, "Will you have me?" He was seldom answered in the negative, for marriage liberates the lady from the restraint she was under. The banns were then announced by the parson for three Sundays, when the lucky swain returned to claim his bride.

From the known licentious and unruly character of the female convicts, it is not to be supposed that these marriages can be very fruitful of happiness; but as both parties had been felons, they are probably as well matched as could be expected.

The greatest difficulty the superintendent of a station has to contend with, is the management of the female convicts.

Captain Furlong, commandant of the garrison, was kind enough to show the convict stockade; it encloses a prison for the convicts, and a guard-house for the soldiers. The convicts all belong to the iron-gang, composed here, as at Sydney, of those who have been guilty of some crime in the colony. They were kept constantly in irons, and are employed on the public works. They eat and sleep in the same apartments, and their bed is a blanket on the floor; to guard two hundred convicts, there are seventy soldiers stationed here.

At Dr. Brook's they had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Dawson, the first agent of the Australian Land Company, and the founder of Port Stephens, who is well acquainted with this colony, and has published a popular work in relation to it. He of course possessed much information, and among other opinions seemed to entertain the idea that no free colony can succeed, and that in all cases the first settlers of a new country ought to have the use of slave labour, in order to be successful. He argued that these only had realized fortunes; where they had been left to their own resources they had generally failed, and left it to their successors to reap the advantages of their labour. As evidence of this opinion he contrasted the settlements of New South Wales and Swan River. At the latter establishment it is well known that the first settlers have lost almost every thing, and have struggled with every difficulty, and that they now desire to have the advantages of convict labour. This remark, however, is not true as respects South Australia; and its general accuracy would undoubtedly much depend upon the location.

In their walks they came across a group of several blacks (natives) seated around a small fire; they were pointed out as the remnant of the tribes which about forty years ago wandered in freedom over the plains of the Hunter and around the borders of Lake Macquarie. Their appearance was wretched in the extreme: emaciated limbs, shapeless bodies, immense heads, deep-set glaring eyes, thickly-matted hair, and the whole begrimed with dirt and red paint, gave them an aspect hardly human. The dress (if such it could be called) of the women, was a loose ragged gown, and of the men, a strip of blanket wrapped round the middle, or a pair of tattered pantaloons, which but half performed their office.

Mr. Threlkeld's conveyance did not arrive, and not being able to get another, they determined to walk to Lake Macquarie, and for this purpose they resorted to the natives as guides, and by a great deal of coaxing and promises of bull (grog), their natural repugnance to make an exertion was overcome. An evidence of the pride which characterizes these natives was shown in this interview. One of them, whose *sobriquet* was Big-headed Blackboy, was stretched out before the fire, and no answer could be obtained from him but a drawling repetition, in grunts of displeasure, of "Bel (not) me want to go." After promises and expostulations enough to overcome all patience, Mr. Hale, tired of his obstinacy and stupidity, touched him slightly with his foot, telling him to get up and listen. He immediately arose, and seizing his spear, which was lying near him, turned his side towards Mr. Hale, and stood looking at him askance, with an expres-

sion of demoniac malice, as though he would have run him through with pleasure; but he did not speak a word in reply to all that was said to him.

Friday, 13th December, the morning being chilly, the blacks, who are very susceptible to cold, did not make their appearance till some hours after sunrise. At half-past eight our travellers set out in company with a troop of natives, headed by the two whom they had hired. The first of these was named *Jemmy*, the best-natured and most intelligent of all; the other was Big-headed Blackboy, who had got over his sulks. Jemmy refused to start until he had received a couple of shillings, which he forthwith converted into a loaf of bread and a bottle of grog. When about a mile from the town he asked permission to take a drink; and a cup of bark was produced from a thicket where it had been hidden, whereupon the contents of the bottle as well as the loaf were shared out among the troop. The two guides took no more than an equal portion; for, according to the custom of the natives, all share alike. The cup was made of a piece of the bark of the ti tree, which resembles that of the birch, about a foot square. The ends were folded in and tied together, to form a cavity of trough-like shape. Such cups are called by them taudé. The path or cart-road they followed, passed through a hilly country covered with forests. The gum trees were the most prevalent, and many of them were of great size, growing close together without any underwood.

The gum tree, of which there are many kinds, is peculiar to New Holland. It has an inner bark of about an inch thick, enclosed by an outer one which is quite thin. The latter is shed every year, which gives their trunks and branches a peculiar appearance of many colours, from pure white, through all the shades of yellow, olive, and red, to a deep brown. These colours, showing through the green foliage, produce a very striking effect on a stranger, and the contrast is heightened by an occasional sight of a black and withered trunk, from which the bark had been stripped by the natives to make canoes, or by settlers to roof their houses.

Ten miles brought them to Lake Macquarie, but on the opposite side to Mr. Threlkeld's house, and they found themselves disappointed in finding a canoe, which they were assured would be met with at a settler's on the banks of the lake. They were thus obliged to walk ten miles further. The guides were here again taken with sullenness, and refused to proceed. They were proof against all promises and abuse, and kept replying, "Me marry (very) tired, bel (not) me want to go." Through the kindness of Mr. Warren, the settler referred to, this obstacle was overcome, by his offering to send his son as guide,

with a horse to carry the portmanteau. This offer was thankfully accepted.

After proceeding a few miles they came upon a little encampment of natives, crouching around fires in front of their huts, which were as rude as possible, made of a few pieces of bark laid against a stump and covered with bushes; they barely sufficed as a screen to keep off the wind. One of the women was quite good-looking, with large black eyes, white teeth, and small features. She was better dressed, too, than any of the others, and the pretty half-caste child that was clinging to her skirts, made it sufficiently evident in what manner her finery had been obtained. As a part of the lake was said to be fordable, it was determined to take advantage of it, in order to shorten the route. One mounted the horse to pass over. Whilst they were proceeding quietly along, the horse suddenly reared and plunged, relieving himself of his rider and load, which were thrown into water two feet deep, without any further injury than a good ducking, and the disparagement of the wardrobe. It was found that the horse had trodden upon a stingray, which fully accounted for his sudden gambols. It was sunset when they arrived at Mr. Threlkeld's station, which at first sight appeared like a comfortable farm-house, such as is often seen in our western country. Mr. Threlkeld was found busy attending to his cattle, and gave them a warm and friendly reception, which made them at once feel at home.

As Mr. Threlkeld has occupied a conspicuous place in this colony, it may be well to give a short sketch of his labours in the missionary field, in order to show the progress he has made, and the difficulties he has had to contend with. I do this more readily from the feeling that great injustice has been done him, and that he has suffered much contumely and persecution from those who were too prone to listen to the scandalous reports of interested individuals.

Mr. Threlkeld left England in 1814, as a missionary to the Society Islands; he resided with Mr. Williams, at Raiatea, until 1824, when the death of his wife determined him to pay a visit to England. About this time the inspectors of missionaries, Messrs. Tyerman and Bennet, arrived at the islands, and he took passage with them to Sydney. On their arrival at Sydney, these gentlemen, supposing that a favourable opportunity offered to establish a mission among the Australian aborigines, requested him to take charge of it, which he consented to do. Moreton Bay was at first proposed as the location, but it was afterwards changed to Lake Macquarie, the latter place being a favourite resort of the natives. Ten thousand acres were granted by government to the Missionary Society, in trust for the natives. The

establishment was accordingly begun on this lake, on the opposite side to that now occupied by Mr. Threlkeld, who at once planned his station on the only footing by which he thought a reasonable chance of success would be insured, that of a farming establishment, extensive enough to give employment to the natives, and induce them to settle. Their number, as is usually the case, had been greatly overrated; he soon, however, collected about fifty around him, and began to employ them in felling trees, turning up the ground, and building; at the same time labouring with them himself, in order to obtain such a knowledge of their character, language, habits, &c., as might enable him to become useful on the great subjects of his mission.

The expense of forming such an establishment was far greater than had been anticipated, but was indispensable in a country like New South Wales, where all the necessaries of life, at the commencement of a settlement, have to be purchased. Added to this are the droughts to which they are subject, and the expenses of transportation.

In consequence of the demands made upon them, the directors of the Society became alarmed, and after reproving him severely for his extravagance, finally dishonoured one of his drafts, and refused to pay it until compelled by a lawsuit. This, of course, broke his connexion with the Society, as Mr. Threlkeld was naturally indignant at the undeserved disgrace to which they had subjected him.

The directors offered to pay his passage to England, but this he refused, having determined to carry on the work by his own unassisted efforts.

That he might be independent of any funds of the Society, and to prevent its being said that he had derived any profit from them, he removed in 1828 to the opposite side of the lake, a position far less advantageous.

After struggling for two years to conduct the mission and maintain his large family, he received a stipend of one hundred and fifty pounds from the government, with the assignment of four convicts. With this assistance he has been able to provide for his family, and devote himself to the instruction of the aborigines; but he has found his means inadequate to keep a number employed about his station, in such a manner as to overcome their natural tendency to a wandering life.

The consequence was, that the blacks, from the attraction held out to them of indulging in drunkenness and other vices, left his neighbourhood to frequent the towns, where they had been rapidly diminishing in number.

Mr. Threlkeld did not find the natives deficient in intelligence; but he has not been able to overcome their aversion to a fixed residence.

In proof of this, they abandoned comfortable and substantial huts, which he built for them, after a few days' residence, on the plea that they were infested with vermin.

Frequently, they would all quit him to attend some meeting of their tribe, for war, hunting, or some religious ceremony, and stay away for months.

He laboured in vain against these disadvantages, and it is not difficult to perceive how impossible, under such circumstances, it would be to meet with success in teaching and converting a set of savages, so wedded to their usages.

Mr. Threlkeld's labours have, however, been turned to some advantage. He has published a grammar, and translated several of the books of the New Testament. His influence has been productive of a better tone of feeling between the blacks and the settlers than prevails elsewhere, and has prevented those outrages which have occurred in other parts of the country. He has been able to render essential service as an interpreter, both to the natives and government, in the courts.

A circumstance occurred about two years ago, which was the means of setting Mr. Threlkeld's whole conduct in its true light before the public.

The Rev. Dr. Lang, a minister of considerable notoriety in New South Wales, established a newspaper, which was in the habit of holding up and assailing all the abuses in the colony. Among others, he attacked Mr. Threlkeld, accusing him of malversation, unfaithfulness, and incapacity in his trust, and in a style of gross abuse, seconded by vulgar doggerel, gave grounds to the belief that he was actuated by any other than a proper zeal in the cause of missions. After great forbearance, Mr. Threlkeld wrote him a letter of remonstrance, which was at once published in the newspaper, accompanied with insulting comments. Mr. Threlkeld then instituted an action for libel, and obtained a verdict in his favour, which, although the damages were only nominal, is an uncommon thing in New South Wales, when a libel case is submitted to a jury. In the progress of the trial, the merits and sacrifices of the missionary were made apparent, and the faithfulness and diligence with which he had laboured, under so many disadvantages, became well known, for ever silencing the aspersions of his enemies. He had, in consequence, the satisfaction, not long since, of receiving a letter from the directors of the London Missionary Society, expressing their regret that they should have been led into such unjust suspicions and misplaced severity towards him.

Macquarie Lake communicates with the sea by a narrow inlet. Its shape is irregular, having several long narrow bays extending into the

land, and from this cause it is in reality much more extensive than it appears. The soil around is sterile, and its principal ingredient is sandstone. The lake is surrounded by the sombre green of the gum trees, and the landscape is uninviting.

Many ant-hills were passed, each appearing to contain a numerous colony of different species of ants. They are of various colours, red, black, gray, and yellow, and of all sizes, from that of minute animalculæ, to that of a wasp. Most of them were said to give poisonous bites, and those of the largest kinds had visible stings. Most of the snakes, small as well as large, are venomous to a high degree.

Mr. Threlkeld, like many others in the colony, had convict servants assigned for the use of the station. It is thought almost impossible for a settler to manage his affairs without them, and it is somewhat curious to see a clergyman associated and in daily intercourse with thieves and abandoned felons. There is scarcely a person in comfortable circumstances, who has not derived much of his fortune from their exertions, although not without suffering very much from the constant vexations attendant on such aid. Mr. Threlkeld had hired a family of emigrants as intermediate assistants, but he was doubtful if he had benefited himself by it.

The difference between the two kinds of servants is great. The convict, on the one hand, is obliged to do the work his master appoints, and in the exact manner he directs; but the master suffers from his vices and dishonesty; and on the other hand, the emigrant is under all his English prejudices: self-willed, and conscious of his superiority over the other servants, he will not be driven, and is hardly to be coaxed into adopting the necessary alterations which the difference of soil and climate requires. Both try, in no small degree, the temper of a settler in New South Wales.

At Mr. Threlkeld's, Mr. Hale saw M'Gill, who was reputed to be one of the most intelligent natives; and his portrait was taken by Mr. Agate. His physiognomy was much more agreeable than that of the other blacks, being less strongly marked with the peculiarities of his race. He was about the middle size, of a dark chocolate colour, with fine glossy black hair and whiskers, a good forehead, eyes not deeply set, a nose that might be described as aquiline, although depressed and broad at the base. It was very evident that M'Gill was accustomed to teach his native language, for when he was asked the name of any thing, he pronounced the word very distinctly, syllable by syllable, so that it was impossible to mistake it. Though acquainted with the doctrines of Christianity, and all the comforts and advantages of civilization, it was impossible for him to overcome his attachment to the

customs of his people, and he is always a prominent leader in the corrobories and other assemblies.

M'GILL.

Mr. Threlkeld has a son, who is also engaged in missionary labours near Darling river, about three hundred miles in the interior, and who understands the language. A boy was sent down by the son for the father to take charge of. There was no difference perceived between him and the natives of the Hunter river.

NEW HOLLAND BOY.

Inquiries for their implements of the chase and warfare, caused M'Gill, King Ben, and Shingleman, to set to work to furbish up their

arms, including spears, shields, boomerengs, clubs, &c. The natives are seldom seen without arms, for they have not only to fear attacks from other tribes, but assaults from their own. This not unfrequently happens; and it is not long since the brother of King Ben was speared while asleep, for some private grudge, by Dismal; and it is said that Big-headed Blackboy, who has already been introduced to the reader, has committed several murders, and not long since burnt his mother nearly to death, in revenge for the loss of his brother, who died whilst under her care. This was not because he had any suspicions of unfair conduct, but simply from one of the unaccountable customs or superstitions of these people, which holds the nearest relative of a person accountable for his death, if it takes place under his care.

From the destructive influence of their own vices, and those of the community, these blacks are rapidly dying off. As an instance of this, Mr. Threlkeld mentioned that a tribe which occasionally visited the lake, and consisted at the time of his arrival of sixty, is now reduced, after a lapse of fifteen years, to twenty, only five of whom are females.

During our travellers' stay, two natives of some note arrived: King Ben and King Shingleman. The natives had no distinctions of rank among themselves, but when a native had performed any great service for one of the settlers, he was rewarded by giving him a large oval brass plate, with his royal title inscribed thereon. At first the natives were greatly pleased and proud of this mark of distinction, but as is the case every where, when the novelty was over, and these honorary medals became common, they began to hold them in disrepute, and now prefer the hard silver.

Sheep-shearing is performed in the neighbourhood of Lake Macquarie by men who make it their business. This operation was witnessed by some of our party, and was thought to be performed in a slovenly manner. It generally takes place in November and December.

Some others of our gentlemen paid a visit to Peuen Beuen, the seat of Mr. Stevens, near the head waters of the Hunter river. The route was by steamboat to Newcastle and thence to Maitland. The river at Newcastle is about one-third of a mile across, and the distance to Maitland, by water, about thirty miles, although it is only about twenty miles by land. The tide reaches Maitland, where the water is found to be brackish.

The banks of the river are extended flats. This is one of the principal agricultural districts of the colony, the soil enjoying the advantages of being naturally irrigated; but on the other hand, the crops are liable to destruction from heavy floods. These floods fre-

quently occur, when there has been no sign of bad weather on the coast; but storms of rain occur seventy or eighty miles in the interior, which raise the streams thirty or forty feet, doing great damage.

On the way up the Hunter, a steamboat was seen building. The best ship-timber is said to be the flooded gum tree. The steamboat stopped at Green Hill, and they rode to Maitland, about three miles. Maitland is a widely-scattered village, with many neat dwellings, stores, and shops, &c., built of brick and other materials, and much better than could have been anticipated. Near Harper's Hill, a place noted for the fossils which have been found there, a chain-gang was seen at work on the road, with their attendant guard. They were generally young and hearty-looking men.

Some natives were passed who were quite naked, but they did not attempt to approach. There are no wild tribes in this vicinity. These poor creatures are becoming rapidly exterminated by the whites, who are not over-scrupulous as to the means. The natives have now and then committed a murder, but in general they are more sinned against than sinning. It is remarkable that they do not complain of their lands being taken from them, but confine their lamentations to the destruction of the kangaroos by the whites; and they think it very hard that they should be punished for killing the white man's kangaroo, (a sheep or a bullock.)

Mr. Hale made a journey to the Wellington Valley, about two hundred and thirty miles to the northwest of Sydney, and on the frontiers of the colony. It was first occupied, seventeen years ago, as a military post, when several small brick buildings were erected, and some of the land, which is considered the most fertile in the colony, brought into cultivation. It was afterwards converted into a penal station, for a description of convicts called "Specials," or such as were superior in education and social rank.

In 1832, it was granted by government to the Church Missionary Society, in trust for the aborigines, with an annuity of five hundred pounds, in part as the support of a mission establishment on the grant; and ever since, there have been two ministers of the Society resident at the place, employed in endeavouring to convert and civilize the natives.

The only conveyance is the mails, unless a vehicle is purchased, the outlay for which would be about four hundred dollars. The mail was taken in preference to this mode, both as avoiding cost and as less liable to the dangers of journeying alone. On account of the numerous Bush-rangers and runaway convicts, travelling in New South Wales is not considered safe.

The mail leaves Sydney once a week for Wellington Valley. There is some difficulty in procuring a seat, and the fare is thirty-two dollars and fifty cents; a very exorbitant charge considering the mode of conveyance, which was a two-wheeled vehicle, with seats for five persons. It had no top, and was in all respects a very uncomfortable conveyance. Formerly more commodious coaches were employed; but the government, finding that the contractors, in their anxiety to obtain passengers, were accustomed to delay the mail, ordered that none but two-wheeled vehicles should be used. The party left Sydney about 5 P. M. Three miles from town is an inn at which the mail-carts from all parts of the country meet, so as to enter the city in company at 8 A. M. For every minute of delay after this hour, the penalty of a shilling is exacted.

The post-office department is now under excellent regulations; the number of miles of mail route travelled in the colony is nearly three hundred thousand, and the gross revenue amounts to eight thousand three hundred and ninety pounds, being two thousand pounds more than the expenditure. The rate of postage is high, especially on ship-letters. The post was established in 1828, and at the end of the first year only eight post-offices were opened. In 1839, there were forty, showing the great increase of population and business.

The route towards Wellington Valley lay through Paramatta; and about 11 P. M. Penrith, thirty-six miles from Sydney, and on the Nepean, was reached. The mail left Penrith at four o'clock in the morning, and crossed the river on a raft. The Nepean, on its course towards the sea, assumes the name of Hawkesbury, and becomes the largest stream in the eastern part of the colony. At Penrith it is about one hundred and fifty yards wide, and forms the eastern boundary of the Emu Plains,—an interval of level ground, five or six miles broad, between the river and the Blue Mountains.

These mountains are the dividing range between the lands of the coast and the interior, and were, for many years after the establishment of the colony, considered as impassable, although many unsuccessful attempts to cross them were made previous to the administration of Governor Macquarie. During his administration, he sent out many expeditions by land and sea, and in 1814, a passage was effected, and the plains of Bathurst were discovered.

On reaching this part of the country, one is no longer surprised that these mountains were considered impassable. The barrier consists of a broad belt of mountainous country, about fifty miles in width, and varying in height from one thousand to three thousand five hundred feet, according to Mitchell. The route which was followed through

them was about eighty miles in length, and for the whole distance there were not more than five or six miles of level, and those are chiefly due to the planning of the engineers. The road is constantly ascending or descending, and on every side, as far as the view extends, is a succession of mountain ridges, their summits rising in detached peaks, and their declivities terminating in narrow and deep gorges. Their sides are sometimes clothed with a scanty growth of dark evergreens, but in very many places presented only bare and rugged masses of brown sandstone rock. The whole scene for the first forty miles, is wild, dismal, and monotonous beyond description. In the latter part of the route through the mountains, the scenery begins to improve, and finally becomes very striking, the sandstone being succeeded by trap and granite. The descent of Mount Victoria is celebrated for its beauty throughout the colony. This road was laid out by Major Mitchell, the Surveyor-General of the colony, and by him the mountain was named. The descent of this mountain is more than a mile in length, and in some parts is inclined at an angle of five degrees. The road is cut in the solid rock, it is hard, smooth, and accurately graduated, and notwithstanding its great angle of declivity, heavily laden teams ascend with less difficulty than would be supposed. At the foot, the road is carried along a high embankment or viaduct, which has been thrown across a deep chasm, and the river flowing on either side is fine. On the left is a wide deep gorge, encircled by high and naked precipices topped with the sombre hue of the gum trees; on the right, an open valley, with a rivulet winding through it, sloping gently towards the northeast, gives a totally different current to the feelings. Governor Macquarie has named this the Vale of Clwyd, after a similar scene in Wales.

A little beyond this descent is the Weatherboard Inn, the land about which is, according to Major Mitchell, the only spot among the mountains fit for cultivation. He mentions, in order to show the difficulties the surveyors had to encounter, that one of them, a Mr. Dixon, penetrated the valley of the Grose, which, until then, had not been visited, where he was lost for four days, having been bewildered by the intricate character of the valleys; and when he finally emerged from them, he, in his official letter, "thanked God he had found his way out of them."

Shortly after leaving the inn, two small rivulets are passed, pursuing opposite directions. One of them falls into Cox's river, a branch of the Hawkesbury; the other, the Fish river, discharges into the Macquarie. Not far distant is Mount Lambie, the last and highest eminence of the range, from whose summit the lighthouse of Port Jackson is visible, at a distance of sixty miles. The road passes within a few

yards of this place, and it was here that Major Mitchell encamped when he was employed in laying down his plans for the construction of it across the whole range. This road will compare advantageously with almost any work of the kind in any country; and this and other public improvements are frequently adduced as the benefits conferred upon the colony by convict labour. There can be but little doubt that the colonial government has many facilities to carry forward improvements, but I very much question, if all things were taken into the calculation, that it would be found to result in so great a difference as is generally supposed.

After leaving the mountains, the road leads for several miles through an undulating country, covered with an open forest of stunted gum trees, and then comes in sight of the plains of Bathurst. These are of moderate extent, being little more than the valley through which the river Macquarie finds a channel. In the month of December there was no flowing stream, and the river, which at some seasons is a broad and powerful current, consisted merely of a string of pools.

The appearance of the town of Bathurst disappoints. It consists of a few hundred houses, scattered in detached groups over the plain. The absence of trees and cultivation serves to increase the want of interest in the landscape. The town-plot was first laid out on the eastern side of the river, but after several houses had been erected, it was removed to the opposite bank, a circumstance which accounts for the dispersed appearance of the village. Most of the wealthy inhabitants have their dwellings two or three miles removed from the town, among the low hills in the neighbourhood; from which circumstance, the importance of the place and the extent of the settlement is not at first apparent.

The low bottom-land in which Bathurst stands is believed from various indications to have been at no distant period a lake. At the time of its discovery it was little better than a marsh, and the Macquarie was flowing in a deep and strong current nearly on a level with its banks, and was navigable for large boats. The plain was covered with long prairie grass, which led to the belief that it was of inexhaustible fertility; but the general opinion of the intelligent residents is, that for the last twenty years the country west of the Blue Mountains has been gradually drying up. Lakes which, when first discovered, were extensive sheets of water, deep enough to float a seventy-four, are now inconsiderable ponds; swamps have been converted into dry pasture-lands; and there is hardly a river which now continues running throughout the year. It is remarkable, that in these lakes and ponds, which have become dry, there are found the stumps

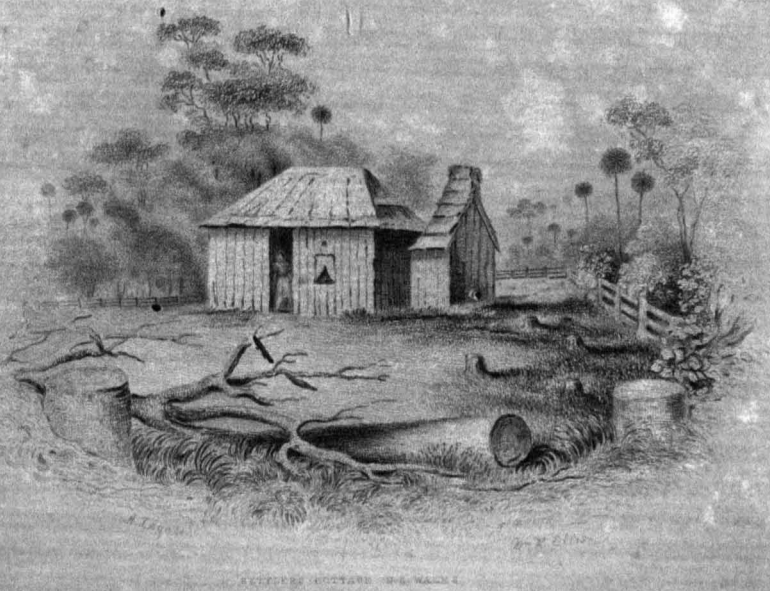
of large trees, showing conclusively that these places must have been dry at some former period, and that they had continued so for a long time, giving rise to the opinion that the country must be subject to long periodical alterations of climate.

On the morning of the 16th, Mr. Hale started in the mail-cart for Wellington. For the first twenty miles the road was a mere cart-track, through a piece of hilly country called "the Rocks," which is a repetition of the Blue Mountains on a smaller scale. Beyond, there is a succession of valleys, bounded by ranges of low hills, and covered with open woods, like a continuous orchard. This kind of country continues to Wellington Valley, and for the distance of a hundred miles beyond, when it gradually subsides into a level plain, in which many exploring parties have continued their progress for weeks, without meeting any elevation deserving the name of mountain. These plains stretch away towards the interior of the continent, but of their extent in that direction nothing certain is yet known.

Twenty miles from Bathurst brought them to an inn kept by a man named Luck, which had been, about six weeks before, the scene of a tragical incident. During the absence of the landlord, a party of Bush-rangers entered the house at night, and began to plunder. Although they had taken the precaution to disguise themselves with masks of black crape, the landlady recognised one of them, and was so imprudent as to threaten him with the consequences of his crime, whereupon the robber without hesitation drew his pistol, and shot her dead on the spot. What will add to the illustration of the state of society here, is the fact that the murdered woman, though living with Luck as his wife, was not married to him. The laxity of morals which prevails throughout the interior among the lower orders, can hardly be exaggerated.

The next public house to Luck's was a low tavern, in which it was not unusual for stockmen, sheep-shearers, wagon-drivers, &c., to meet and spend a week in drunkenness and debauchery, dissipating, not unfrequently, the earnings of a year, amounting to twenty or thirty pounds. Another inn was kept by the brother of the proprietor, he having committed some crime for which he had been transported to Norfolk Island. The last of the public houses was kept by a native of the colony, and was the best met with. This was another instance of the good character and general deportment, and temperate habits of this class, who in spite of their unhappy parentage, evil example, and inauspicious connexions, offer a remarkable example of the improvement which education, when aided by a change of condition, may effect in a single generation.

The stopping-places for the next two days were the huts of stockmen, and dwellings of settlers, all of which resembled each other in their construction. The sides were made of slabs of wood placed upright in the earth, and were sometimes fastened to a frame; the roof was composed of strips of the bark of the gum tree. In the better sort of houses there were chimneys of brick, and glazed windows; but these were comparatively few; and in the others an elevated hearth of clay, in a recess of the hut, supplied the former, the smoke escaping through the roof. A cupboard, a camp bedstead, a rude table, with a few stools, supplied the want of furniture. In houses of this description, were living gentlemen of education and refined habits, who were submitting to a few years of hardship and banishment from social life, in hopes of realizing rapid fortunes.



On the 18th, Wellington Valley was reached. It is a beautiful plain, about four miles square, bounded by low hills, and watered in seasons of freshet by the Bell river, which winds through it, and falls into the Macquarie about two miles below the station. During the season of Mr. Hale's visit the channel was dry.

The buildings at Wellington consist of a dozen small brick houses, erected formerly as barracks for soldiers, and having undergone some slight alteration and repair, they are now inhabited by the missiona-

ries and a police magistrate. The former are three in number, two clergymen and an agriculturist. They have under instruction forty men, women, and children, but the wandering and capricious habits of these aborigines render it impossible to keep the adults with them. Mr. Watson, the eldest of the missionaries, has now with him fifteen children, whom he does not allow to leave his house, and is endeavouring to teach them the habits of Europeans, and the English language. He considers them as equal to white children in docility and intelligence, and several of them had made as much proficiency in the various branches of education, as could be expected at their age. They could read and write with facility, and solve questions in elementary arithmetic. They had a natural aptitude for music, and they joined with much harmony in singing common English tunes.

Mr. Hale was greatly indebted to the chief missionary, Mr. Watson, for his hospitality and the aid he furnished in his researches into the language, manners, and customs of the natives.

While at Wellington, he passed a few days at the station of W. O. Raymond, Esq., one of the magistrates of the colony, who is owner of a large stock of cattle and sheep. His house is situated on the Macquarie, and here an opportunity presented itself of seeing the operation of washing and shearing the sheep. This took place at the time of their visit, and was, on account of the lateness of the season, about a month later than usual.

The sheep were plunged and held in a tub of hot water, until their fleeces were thoroughly soaked; they were then taken out and made to swim about in one of the deep pools of the Macquarie, for half an hour; after this they were held under the spout of a pump, where they were rubbed, combed, and rinsed, until their wool was considered sufficiently clean.

The sheep are shorn when dry, and the fleeces assorted according to their fineness, in lots, which are afterwards packed in bales of from two to three hundred pounds: these are then compressed by a lever-press.

The average weight of a fleece is about two and a half pounds. Mr. Raymond calculates the cost of transportation to Sydney at about two pence per pound, and the average price of the wool there is eighteen pence per pound. The freight to England is one and a half pence; and there it has to compete with fine wools from other countries. As to the question whether this can be done profitably, there is a considerable difference of opinion between well-informed persons in the colony. According to some, it can be afforded even at a much lower rate, but in this estimate the labour of those who are employed as shepherds is no doubt calculated as being that of convicts, and it

may be questionable whether, when this source of labour fails, the price will be a remunerating one.

The flocks of sheep kept near Wellington are pastured beyond the legal limits, which is a meridian line, in the neighbourhood of that place. Beyond this line the government refuses to make any grants of land; but any respectable inhabitant, on the payment of ten pounds, may obtain a license to pasture his flocks beyond this artificial boundary.

Each flock consists of from five hundred to a thousand sheep, and is under the care of a single shepherd. There are usually two flocks to each station, where a servant is employed as hut-keeper. The cost of these when convicts, is no more than their food and clothing, which is, however, rendered greater than would at first seem probable, by the necessity of bringing even flour from Sydney.

The land and labour may, however, be put down at an expense merely nominal, for the increase of the flocks at present more than counterbalances this item; but this advantage will cease when the assigned convicts are withdrawn from the colony; the wages of a hired servant will then amount to from seventeen to twenty pounds a year, exclusive of his clothing and food.

The cost of a sheep varies much in different parts of the colony; the average price is from three shillings to one pound, so that the outlay for the smallest flock would be from seventy-five to five hundred pounds. Comparing this with the price of wool, (eighteen pence per pound,) an estimate may be formed of the probable profits.

The climate seems peculiarly well adapted to a fine-woolled sheep, and it is calculated that the flocks double themselves in three or four years. In 1807, the quantity of wool exported was not more than two hundred and forty-five pounds, in 1838 and 1839 it exceeded five millions of pounds. With these facts, the rapid accumulation of fortunes in New South Wales will no longer be a mystery.

It is said that the owners of stock have already pushed their stations one hundred and twenty miles beyond the boundary, and the only impediment to their farther extension seems to be the scarcity of water, of which the more remote country is almost destitute.

The country about Wellington becomes almost impassable during heavy rains, for the waters are then so much swelled as to put a stop to travelling. Mr. Hale was detained a week from this cause; and at Wellington, the Macquarie, which was before only a string of pools, became a large river, flowing with a rapid current; yet at a distance of twenty miles farther down, it had ceased to flow, thus exhibiting the phenomenon of a large stream losing itself. This remarkable cir-

cumstance is usually ascribed to the many dry pools it has to fill on its route, each of which must be overflowing before there can be any farther current; but this is hardly sufficient to account for the almost sudden disappearance of a body of water sixty feet wide and two feet deep, flowing at the rate of three or four miles per hour. It would seem more probable that water may make its way into some of the vast caverns that are known to exist in this limestone region.

The population beyond the Blue Mountains amounts to ten thousand, and it is supposed that there is little room for its farther increase, as all the stations capable of supporting flocks are now occupied, and as there is little or no chance for the extension of husbandry. Wellington Valley, although it was considered when first discovered, as fitted to be the granary of the district, has disappointed all such expectations; and out of seven harvests which have occurred since the missionaries commenced operations in it, six have wholly or partially failed.

According to Mr. Hale, the number of languages in Australia has been greatly exaggerated, and so far from every tribe having, as has been asserted, a separate language, it appears that within the colony, or from Port Macquarie on the north to Port Philip on the south, and extending one hundred miles beyond Wellington to the west, comprising one-tenth of the whole continent, only six, or at most, eight dialects are spoken, and that these are so similar in words and grammatical construction as to place their identity of origin beyond a doubt. From some vocabularies of the language spoken at Swan river, it appears that this similarity of words extends over the entire breadth of the continent. On the other hand, at Port Essington and Melville Island, on the northern coast, though the distance is not so great, the dialect is represented as quite different, notwithstanding the physical characteristics, habits, and customs, are said to be similar to those of the other aborigines. It is not believed, however, that the difference is as great as has been represented, and farther researches, it is thought, will prove the accounts of it to have been exaggerated. The language differs radically from that of the Malay tribes, being highly artificial in its construction, abounding in consonanted sounds, and remarkable for the number and variety of its grammatical inflexions. The verbal modifications are as numerous and comprehensive as in the American languages, but the manner of inflecting is different: the root or radical verb (which is usually a monosyllable) is placed first, and to this the various inflexions or modifying syllables are attached, until they protract the word to an extraordinary length. Thus, in the word Būmarœ, I strike, (Bū or Būm being the root.) Then comes bumal-guaim, I have struck; bumal-gurani, I struck yesterday; bumal

girri, I shall strike; bumalugidyillinga, I strike myself; bumallanna, we two strike each other; bumalalinga, I strike again; bumalmamblina, I permit to strike again; bumabumara, I continue striking; bumalngarriawagirri, I shall strike to-morrow; and finally, bumalbumalalimambilngarriawagirri, I shall permit to continue striking again to-morrow. Those who are desirous of farther information, relative to this language, are referred to the results of the Philological department.

Mr. Peale made a journey into the interior, in the direction of Argyle, passing through Liverpool, and visiting Camden, Clifton, and Strathara. The last two were the country-seats of gentlemen. Clifton is the residence of James M'Arthur, Esq., who possesses a large estate in its neighbourhood. Mr. M'Arthur, father of the present owner, was the first who introduced sheep into this country. The facts connected with this transaction, as related to me at Sydney, are as follows: Captain M'Arthur, about the year 1797, had procured three rams and five ewes from Captain Kent, R. N., who brought them from the Cape of Good Hope. They were of Spanish blood, and had been sent out by the Dutch government to that colony. Captain M'Arthur soon found by experience, that his ideas as to the fitness of the country for the support of this animal, had not been too extravagant.

In 1803, he visited England, and there made a statement, which was communicated to the government, a copy of which will be found in Appendix XXIII.

In consequence of this statement, Captain M'Arthur's plans were investigated by a committee of the Privy Council—at whose meetings he was present—and were recommended to be adopted. Some sheep were supplied from the flock of George III., and with them he embarked shortly for New South Wales, on board the "Argo," which vessel was so named by himself in reference to the freight she bore.

The government having granted him a large tract of land, in what was termed in the colony the Cow Pastures, he, in gratitude for the assistance he had received, named it Camden, after the distinguished nobleman who had befriended him, and who was then presiding over the Colonial Department. This is now a princely estate, with a magnificent mansion and grounds. The land attached to it contains thirty thousand acres on the Upham river. About the lawns of this mansion, magnolias and other trees of North America flourish by the side of the Acacia pendula, &c., and plants indigenous to the Australian mountains. In the garden are found figs, peaches, pears, plums, and small fruits in the greatest profusion and of the finest quality, besides

mulberries, grapes, pine-apples, oranges, &c., growing in the open air. The grounds are in beautiful order, and their reputation deservedly great in the colony.

Liverpool is a small town in this neighbourhood, fifteen miles from Paramatta, to the westward. The government has here a large hospital under the direction of Dr. Hill, to whose kindness and attention Mr. Peale was much indebted. This institution is open to the disabled and sick of all nations; is a large building, and admirably kept.

We are sorry that as much cannot be said for the "Wheelwright Arms," at Liverpool, and other hotels in Campbelltown: a larger supply of spiders, flies, and bed-bugs is seldom seen, than that with which the bed-rooms swarm.

In the neighbourhood of Liverpool, a dam is in progress at the head of the tide-water of Cook's river, which empties into Botany Bay. This is a noble work, and is intended for the purpose of giving Sydney a supply of water, of which it is much in want. The work is performed entirely at the expense of government, and the water is led for a long distance by tunnel.

While at Clifton, Mr. Peale made an excursion along the meandering course of the Nepean river. He was much surprised at the productions of the soil, although these were apparently every where deficient of moisture; and also at the singular notes of the birds, particularly the quaint and varied jargon of the Dacelo gigantea, called in the country, the "Laughing Jackass." This is an instance of the ridiculous misapplication of names in this country; for, besides belonging to a different class of the animal kingdom, its notes have little or no resemblance to the braying of an ass, and it feeds upon a very different kind of food, viz.: lizards and serpents. The bird is common in this part of the country, but peculiar to New South Wales.

There are many native magpies, which have somewhat the appearance of a crow. This bird frequents the neighbourhood of houses, and its loud and crow-like note is the matin-call of the country residents. In spite of its hoarse croak, it was spoken of by some as a fine singing bird.

The wallaby, the smallest species of kangaroo, is common here, as well as numerous opossums. On reaching the Wallondilly river, the party stopped to hunt the Ornithorhynchus, which once abounded there, and succeeded in obtaining specimens, although with much difficulty. Proceeding on, they reached Strathara, the seat of Achlan M'Alister, Esquire, to whose kind attentions the whole squadron are much indebted.

His property contains about sixteen thousand acres of the most fertile land in the colony. The soil is composed of decomposed trap rock, and has the appearance of a rich chocolate-coloured mould, which retains the moisture well. The timber which grows upon it is closer and heavier than in the sandstone districts: it is principally Eucalyptus of several species. The grass is thinly spread over the ground, and the cattle and sheep require a great range. One sheep to an acre is the allotment, and even in this proportion they suffer in dry seasons. There are no running streams of water on this estate; but, as has been remarked, the pools are numerous, a most happy circumstance for the country, for from these alone can the cattle be supplied. Argyle is the only place where springs were seen in this part of the country, and they are scanty. The crops of wheat were unusually good, but they were the first that had been collected for three years.

The variety of birds seen here, and the brilliancy of their plumage, are characteristic of Australia. All the birds are remarkable for the closeness of their plumage, and the neatness of their form; many of the species are peculiar to Australia, and are more nearly allied to those of the western part of the Indian Archipelago than of any other region. Even this analogy is extremely limited. Many of the Australian species are said to be confined to peculiar districts, which they only leave on emergency, from want of food, &c.

Mr. Coxen, near Peuen Beuen, informed our gentlemen that several birds had made their appearance around his dwelling that season, that were not known within a hundred miles of his place before. From the little that is known of the ornithology of the rest of New Holland, it seems that the same general character prevails throughout the whole continent, and there are grounds for believing that there is a complete diversity in the species from those of New Guinea. As an instance of this, it may be stated that none of the paradise-birds, so common in the islands to the north, have been found in Australia; and what appears to add strength to this opinion, is the fact that the land birds of Norfolk Island are all known to be peculiar.

The number of parrots that are seen is very great. They usually occupy the tops of trees, and are remarkable for the rapidity of their flight, particularly a green species, little larger than a humming-bird, with which the trees occasionally swarm. Other birds, hardly known to the ornithologist, are also numerous; but Mr. Gould, who is eminent in that department of natural history, is now engaged in making collections, and will probably, ere long, give a full account of the habits and economy of the Australian birds.

The Australian wood-pecker is the famous bill-bird whose note is

always hailed with joy by the traveller in these arid regions, as a sign of the vicinity of water. The sound resembles the click of a stone-hammer, and the effect of the united notes of several, is similar to the frog concerts of our springs. According to Mr. Coxen, each bird utters a single note.

It was remarked that the native animals of Australia are fast disappearing. The kangaroo, once so numerous, is now seldom seen; but the native dog still commits ravages among the sheep.* Some of the animals which have become rare are preserved in the Sydney Museum; among these are the woombat (Cheropus), and the Ornithorhynchus, in relation to which so many questions have been raised. Snakes of many kinds still abound, even in the immediate vicinity of Sydney, whose bite is said to be fatal, and which is of course much dreaded. The stories that are related of such poisonous bites, and the dread of them that animals show, make those who wander through the paths extremely cautious, particularly as their small size and grassy colour render them difficult to be seen.

Among the distinguished gentlemen of the colony, to whose hospitality our naturalists were indebted, is John Blaxland, Esq., who resides at Newington, on the river, near Paramatta. The ladies of his family are in possession of a handsome hortus siccus of native plants, collected and prepared by themselves.

A part of this gentleman's estate consists of extensive salt-works, formed by drawing the tide-water from the river into ponds. In these it is evaporated as much as possible by the heat of the sun, and is afterwards boiled. The quantity of salt made at these works during the preceding year (1838) was one thousand tons. About seventy assigned servants (convicts) are employed in the manufacture.

The water of the ocean is far from being the only source of this necessary of life in Australia. Salt springs are abundant, and almost all the wells, particularly those of the sandstone region, are said to afford only brackish water. The small streamlets, and in dry seasons even the rivers, are found to be salt; and there is hardly a traveller or navigator, but has given an account of his disappointment in finding salt water, when every indication gave the promise of fresh.

Major Mitchell attributes the occasional saltness of the Darling river, to salt springs, or to its passing through beds of rock salt. This river, as has been stated, has no tributary for more than six hundred miles, and has at times little or no current; and it is where the stream has no sensible motion, that the saltness is most marked. The salt

* The natives had never attempted to domesticate the dog, and all of the species found, when the country was colonized, were wild.

appears to cover but a small area at any one place, and it has been observed that within short distances of each other, fresh and salt rivulets may be seen, pursuing the same direction, and each retaining its character throughout its whole course.

The lakes in the eastern section of Australia are also nearly all either salt or brackish. Lake George, situated beyond Goulburn, near the source of the Yass river, which empties into the Morrumbidgee, is the largest of these lakes. It is at present only five or six miles in length, by about four in width, although according to unquestionable authority, it was, within twelve or fourteen years, sixteen miles long by twelve wide. Lake Bathurst, which is not far distant from Lake George, has also undergone a similar diminution. In the latter lake there are to be seen stumps of trees, which prove, that although within a few years a considerable lake, and at present decreasing in its extent, it had at a former, and that at no remote epoch, been a marsh, if not actually dry land. Should its present diminution continue, which must take place if the seasons of drought are not interrupted, it will in a few years be again dry land.*

The facts observed at these lakes prove in the most conclusive manner the very great irregularity in the climate of New South Wales. It would appear from them, that, however great the floods now occasionally experienced are considered, those that have occurred must have exceeded them, and filled the basins of these lakes, to such a depth, that within the fifty years that they have been known, the excess of evaporation has not been sufficient to restore them to their pristine state.

In conformity with the condition of these lakes, many places now dry are pointed out, where, within the memory of the settlers, lakes or ponds existed; and near the course of streams, grass is to be seen attached to the trunks of trees thirty feet above the present level of the water, which must have been lodged there by very great floods.

The great and important changes that floods of such extent and destructive force must produce on the face of the country, may be imagined, and particularly when like New South Wales it is principally composed of soft sandstone. To such causes may be ascribed the numerous coves of the harbours and bays, and the deep ravines which often break the monotony of the table-land. In relation to the bays

* In the basins of the salt lakes of the interior, plants which grow on the shores of the ocean are found in abundance; as for instance the Salsola. These lakes even exceed in saltness the waters of the ocean; those brought by Major Mitchell, and analyzed, contained one hundred and thirteen grains of dry salt in three ounces of water; the specific gravity of the water was from 1·0386 to 1·0553.

and coves, Major Mitchell remarks, that they generally have a direction either from north-northeast to south-southwest, or from west-northwest to east-southeast. Our geologist observed a coincidence of the fissures of the sandstone rock with the same points of the compass. This double and intersecting direction of the fissures, gives to portions of the rock which are bare, the appearance of an artificial pavement of enormous blocks. This appearance is well marked, and can be readily observed in the variegated layers of the sandstone cliffs near the Heads of Port Jackson.

Earthquakes are occasionally felt in New South Wales. The recorded accounts of these are necessarily imperfect; they, however, show that within the last fifty years, six are known to have occurred, viz., on the 22d of January, 1785, the 17th January, 1801, the 7th May, 1804, the 24th September, 1806, the 28th November, 1823, and the 2d August, 1837. That of 28th November, 1823, was also felt at Laurie's Town, Van Diemen's Land.

As far as could be learnt, these earthquakes did no material damage. It may, however, be inferred from the nature of the country, that violent commotions have taken place in former times. Major Mitchell has stated, and the fact was confirmed by the personal examination of our geologist, Mr. Dana, that an alteration in the relative level of the sea is abundantly evident on the cliffs of the coast.

The Burning Mountain of Wingen is something analogous to a crater, which it was not in the power of any of our parties to reach. According to Major Mitchell, it appears to be the same kind of phenomenon as that described by Professor Buckland and Mr. De la Beche, caused by the action of rain-water on iron pyrites, which sets fire to the bituminous shale. The combustion of Wingen extends over an area of about two miles in extent, and occurs near the summit of a group of hills, forming part of a low chain which divides the valley of Kingdom Ponds from that of Page's river. Blue smoke ascends from rents and cracks; the breadth of the widest of which measures about three feet. A red heat appears at the depth of about four fathoms, and no marks of any extensive change appear on the surface near these burning fissures, although the growth of large trees in old cracks on the opposite slope where ignition had ceased, shows that this fire had continued for a very considerable time. The height of this crater is about fifteen hundred feet above the level of the sea.

The trade of Australia is greatly on the increase. Nearly all of it centres in Sydney; and this will account for the rapid rise of that city, which not only has the finest port, but the most central position as respects the east coast. By a reference to the official documents in

the Appendix, from XIV. to XX., the rapid increase of the commerce of Sydney will be seen; but they give only an imperfect idea of the life and animation that this port exhibits, or of the bustle attendant on the receiving of produce and forwarding of supplies to the interior, on the arrival of emigrants. The warehouses, and all works connected with this trade, are of a durable description. The number of vessels that entered Port Jackson in 1826, was sixty-two, and their tonnage seventeen thousand one hundred and seventy-eight tons; in 1840 they had increased to seven hundred and nine, and the tonnage to one hundred and seventy-eight thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight tons. The value of imports in 1826 was sixty thousand pounds; in 1840, it had increased to three millions fourteen thousand one hundred and eighty-nine pounds. That of exports, in 1826, was one hundred and six thousand six hundred pounds; in 1840, they amounted to one million three hundred and ninety-nine thousand six hundred and ninety-two pounds.

It will also be seen that in the return of vessels built and registered in 1822, there were but three, of only one hundred and sixty-three tons; in 1840, one hundred and eleven vessels, the amount of whose tonnage was thirteen thousand three hundred and forty-nine tons.

But the most remarkable increase is in the exportation of wool, which in 1822 was only one hundred and seventy-two thousand eight hundred and eighty pounds, while in 1840 it amounted to eight millions six hundred and ten thousand seven hundred and seventy-five pounds. This is not the only instance, for a greater or less increase has occurred in all the productions of the colony. The quantity of timber exported forms also no inconsiderable item. The returns are referred to as showing it, in Appendix XXII.

The fisheries begin to claim attention, and in particular the whale-fishery, as it requires comparatively a small capital, and the returns are quickly realized. The operations of this fishery are conducted with great success, a ready market being found at Sydney, and the great saving by arriving on and returning from their cruising-grounds without loss of time, adds greatly to their gains. They are, however, not as adroit in the pursuit of these treasures as our own countrymen; their vessels are sailed at greater expense, and the officers and crews less enterprising. The value of this trade and its yearly increase is exhibited in the official returns, by which it appears that in 1830, fifty-nine thousand four hundred and seventy-one pounds were derived from it, while in 1840 it amounted to two hundred and twenty-four thousand one hundred and forty-four pounds. I heard many complaints that our whalers were in the habit of taking whales and

obtained much of their oil in the bays on the western coast of New Holland; and the remark was made, that if the colonists were not brought into collision with the Yankees, they would succeed well enough. This, I suppose, may be considered as complimentary to the energy and skill of this enterprising portion of our citizens. The whales are reported to be fast leaving their old haunts, in consequence of being disturbed in their calving season, and the places where they used to abound are now only the resort of a few. It is, therefore, supposed they are abandoning the waters of New Holland for other seas, where they are less disturbed.

There is now a large export of salted provisions from the colony, which are well prepared, and there is a considerable trade with the Mauritius and the Cape of Good Hope; the former supplying sugar, &c., in return for the cattle and produce of the dairy; while from the latter wine is imported in considerable quantities, and other spirits to a large amount, as has been already noticed.

The declared value of exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures to New South Wales, for the year ending January 5th, 1840, was one million four hundred and forty thousand four hundred and forty pounds; and of foreign and colonial produce, two hundred and eighty-nine thousand and seventy-two pounds. In return for which the colony sent back, in 1839, six millions eight hundred and ninety-four thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight pounds of wool, besides twenty-three thousand barrels of oil.

The number of vessels employed with passengers was four hundred and sixteen, measuring forty-eight thousand nine hundred and eleven tons.

The export of wool during 1840 was nearly one million pounds of wool more; the increase in the number of sheep in the colony during late years has been very great. In 1796, eight years after the colony was established, they numbered one thousand five hundred and thirty-one; in 1805, six thousand seven hundred and fifty-seven; in 1821, one hundred and twenty thousand; and in 1839, three millions.

There will also be found in Appendix XIV., an official abstract, showing the assets, liabilities, capital, and profits of the banks of the colony, by which it appears that the rate of interest derived from investment amounts to eleven and a half per cent. for the year 1841. Business is almost done entirely on credit, and large discounts are made by the banks for the accommodation of merchants.

The seal-fishery on this coast was formerly very successful; but in consequence of the immense numbers that were destroyed without regard to season, they have been almost exterminated, or driven to

new haunts. The seal-fishery, which has heretofore yielded so large an amount of wealth, will soon be at an end in this quarter of the world.

It frequently happens that owing to the failure of the harvests, the colony is under great distress for provisions, Government is erecting deposits for grain, in order to obviate this difficulty; one of which is on an island in the harbour of Port Jackson. Heretofore, on a failure of the crops, large quantities of flour have been imported from France and America, and many cargoes of wheat and rice from India.

The commerce with the United States is very limited, and confined as yet to a single house, in Salem, Massachusetts, which has a few vessels employed in bringing out flour, tobacco, furniture, ice, &c. In exchange, wool and hides have been taken to the United States. This trade has hitherto been profitable; but the uncertainty of crops, and consequent fluctuation in the market, would, with competition, render it of no great advantage.

The Library, and Sydney Museum are creditable institutions, particularly the latter, which contains a large and interesting collection of native productions. It has only been established a few years. There is a reading-room attached to the Library, in which are to be found all the pamphlets and periodicals published in Sydney, and many of those of Europe. Soon after our arrival, we received an invitation to visit these institutions at all times; a privilege which afforded us much pleasure and instruction, and for which we are greatly indebted to the committee and the librarian.

Great Britain has three other colonies in Australia, at Swan river, on the west coast, South Australia on the south, and North Australia on the north coast. The former is considered, in the colony of New South Wales, as a bad speculation, and it is alleged that it needs the aid of convicts or slaves for its advancement. It is believed that all the first settlers, if not completely ruined, have been struggling with difficulties, and its growth, even should it continue, will be slow and precarious.

Orders were received from the home department to raise the minimum price of land; but it being left optional with the Governor, he had declined doing it, under the plea that if individuals would sell land for two shillings and sixpence, it was idle to raise that of government to twelve shillings, particularly as the price allowed to individuals for surrendering their lands was but one shilling and sixpence. This step, of raising the minimum price of crown lands, I was informed, had given much dissatisfaction, and was generally believed to have originated in the desire to force colonization to South Australia, which

has lately increased in an extraordinary degree; in 1836, its population was only two hundred, and in 1839, eight thousand two hundred and fifty, principally owing to the encouragement held out by the funds derived from the sale of lands. Adelaide and Port Lincoln are the two principal points, and the latter, according to the accounts of those interested, "has every advantage under the sun!"

The journey over land from Yass to Adelaide, it is said, can be performed with cattle and sheep in sixty days. The schemers here are as eager and enthusiastic for improvements as with us, and among them much stress is laid upon the difficulties of inland transportation, to overcome which, as the country is too thinly settled for railroads, the introduction of camels from Africa has been proposed; and it is believed that the country is well adapted to them.

The population of New South Wales, by the census of 1841, including 26,967 convicts, was 130,856. A very minute table of the census of the above year will be found in Appendix XIII.

I was not able to obtain any accurate statistical returns of the three other colonies; both North and South Australia are rapidly increasing, particularly the latter: fifteen thousand is believed to be the total amount of their population and that of West Australia.

To return again to the squadron and our occupations. By the 18th December, I had finished my observatory duties, and feeling deeply sensible of the great kindness and attention we had received from not only the Governor, military, and civil officers, but from all the society, I gave a lunch at Fort Macquarie previous to delivering it up, and had the honour of entertaining those who had received us so warmly. Although the weather was unpropitious, many of our friends presented themselves; the affair passed off in great good-fellowship, and we had the satisfaction of seeing our guests retire apparently gratified. Owing to the weather, the number of ladies was not so great as we had hoped, but there were enough to add dancing to the other amusements of the occasion. Many patriotic toasts were exchanged, and an effect seldom witnessed produced on the company by the picture drawn by the Polish Count Strezleski, (well known in our country,) of the reception his destitute countrymen had met with on our shores, and the liberality of our government in providing for them. Those who heard his statement will not soon forget the thrill it produced.

During our stay at Port Jackson, our vessels were much visited by all classes; and a great many inquiries made respecting our accommodations, &c. All seemed disappointed at not being able to see the same complete outfits in our vessels as they had seen described in the published accounts of those of the English expedition commanded by

Captain James Ross. They inquired, whether we had compartments in our ships to prevent us from sinking? How we intended to keep ourselves warm? What kind of antiscorbutic we were to use? and where were our great ice-saws? To all of these questions I was obliged to answer, to their great apparent surprise, that we had none, and to agree with them that we were unwise to attempt such service in ordinary cruising vessels; but we had been ordered to go, and that was enough! and go we should. This want of preparation certainly did not add to the character for wisdom of our government, with this community; but they saw us all cheerful, young, and healthy, and gave us the character, that I found our countrymen generally bear, of recklessness of life and limb. The tender Flying-Fish excited their astonishment more than the ships, from her smallness and peculiar rig; and, altogether, as a gentleman told me, most of our visiters considered us doomed to be frozen to death. I did not anticipate such a fate, although I must confess I felt the chances were much against us, in case we were compelled to winter within the Antarctic. From every calculation, we could not stow quite twelve months' provision, even upon short allowance; our fuel was inadequate to last us more than seven months, and the means of protecting ourselves in the ships for winter quarters, were any thing but sufficient. My mind naturally suffered a great deal of anxiety on all these points, and I felt myself not a little depressed by it, particularly when I considered the state of the Peacock. The carpenter of that ship, shortly after our arrival at Sydney, had reported to her commander, Captain Hudson, that the whole of her upper-works were rotten, and required a survey. The vessel was quietly examined into without holding one, and her state was found even worse than represented. I had many long consultations with Captain Hudson, and found it was impossible to put upon her the necessary repairs, without her giving up the southern cruise. We made up our minds that it was absolutely necessary for the credit of the Expedition and the country for her to perform it; for we were well satisfied that improper imputations and motives, would be ascribed to us, if she did not, and was detained undergoing repairs, in a state of inactivity, during the season for operations in the high southern latitudes. The necessity I felt of subjecting so many lives in so unworthy a ship, caused me great anxiety during the whole cruise. The official papers forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy, upon this subject, will be found in Appendix XXI.

All the vessels underwent the necessary repairs of calking, &c., and the Flying-Fish was furnished with two new masts of the Kaurie pine of New Zealand, some feet shorter and larger in diameter than her former ones.

A few days before our departure, the British frigate Druid, Lord John Russel, commander, arrived from England, with Captain Hobson, R. N., the new Governor (under the name of consul) for New Zealand. He was accompanied by a large retinue, and also had all kinds of facilities for his permanent and comfortable establishment there, among which was a house in frame.

The season of our visit to Sydney, was that of their summer, (December,) and it was somewhat difficult for us to realize the luxuriance of vegetation about us. We could hardly become familiar with windows and doors entirely open at Christmas time. Although it was properly the out-of-town season, we found much gaiety existing, and we have great pleasure in acknowledging the attentions and civilities extended to us during the whole of our stay.

The facilities for outfits here are such as are not to be found elsewhere in the Pacific. The mechanics are good, but as artisans are scarce their wages are exorbitant, and the employer is, for the most part, compelled to put up with their demands. From our experience, we inferred they are not to be depended on, and require to be well watched to obtain the requisite quantity of labour from them. Their rations of grog were always a stipulation made by them, and had to be complied with.

During our stay here, our men behaved well. They all received leave in their turn to visit the shore, and I felt gratified in not having a single case reported to me of bad behaviour on shore.

As our departure drew near, one and all of us felt and expressed regret at leaving such kind friends. In very many places and families, we had found ourselves at home, and were always received with that kindness that showed us we were welcome. The seasons, with many other things, may be reversed, yet the hospitality of old England is found here as warm and fresh as ever it was in the parent land. It would be impossible to mention all those to whom we feel indebted for various kindnesses and attentions, or even to cite those from whom the Expedition received many accessions to its collections. Notwithstanding I have mentioned many things that have struck us as requiring great reform, yet the whole impression left on my mind is, that it is a glorious colony, which the mother country, and the whole Anglo-Saxon race, may well be proud of, and that it ought to claim much more attention than it apparently does, from the home government.

After writing our farewell letters, we took our Christmas dinner with many of our friends, and on the morning of the 26th December, at six o'clock—the very day that had been set apart for my departure, before sailing from the United States—we weighed our anchors and stood down the bay. The day was fine, the breeze light and contrary,

and we did not get to sea till the afternoon. When we were about passing the Heads, our worthy consul and some others of our countrymen took their leave, and by way of dispelling the gloom that was naturally felt at parting, and to show the good wishes entertained for their welfare, we gave them at parting several hearty cheers, and then bore away on our course.

It falling calm, the Vincennes and tender were obliged to anchor between the Heads. The Peacock and Porpoise succeeded in getting outside, and when the tide made, we weighed and stood after them. On getting to sea, although every search had been previously made by the master-at-arms, I learned that there were two strangers on board, who had contrived to evade his watchfulness, and on beating to quarters, and mustering the crew, they were among the forthcoming. Their appearance was any thing but convict-like; but I felt after all the attentions heaped upon us, it was seemingly but an ungrateful return, to appear to have committed an infraction of their laws, and this after I had received intimation that an attempt would be made, through us, to effect desertion among the troops. From their appearance and carriage I thought they showed the drill of soldiers, and at once told them and the assembled crew, that they were mistaken if they expected to be harboured as such, and that on my return from the south, I should send them back to Sydney to be delivered over. I then entered them on the rolls for provisions only, until I ascertained whether they were entitled to receive compensation; and after telling the men they must look forward to a hard and dangerous cruise, and saying a few words relative to what was expected of them by the country and myself, I enjoined upon them the necessity of economy in their food and clothing, in aiding me in my endeavours to promote their health and comfort. We then piped down, and set about preparing the ship for the Antarctic cruise, the events of which will be detailed in the following chapters.

DAISY BANK.

CHAPTER IX.

CONTENTS.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS—PROCEEDINGS OF THE SQUADRON TO THE SECOND OF JANUARY—SEPARATION OF THE FLYING-FISH AND PEACOCK—FIRST ICEBERG SEEN—FALL IN WITH THE ICY BARRIER—PORPOISE LOST SIGHT OF—PROCEEDINGS OF THE PEACOCK FROM THE THIRD OF JANUARY—HER VISIT TO MACQUARIE'S ISLAND—FIRST ICEBERG SEEN BY HER—SHE FALLS IN WITH THE ICY BARRIER—PROCEEDINGS OF THE PORPOISE—SEA-ELEPHANTS SEEN AND TAKEN—LAND SEEN FROM ALL THE VESSELS—PROCEEDINGS OF THE VINCENNES FROM THE SIXTEENTH OF JANUARY—SHE ENTERS A DEEP BAY IN THE BARRIER—PEACOCK AND PORPOISE SEEN—PEACOCK SPOKEN—LAND DISTINCTLY SEEN FROM THE VINCENNES AND PEACOCK—FIGHT BETWEEN A WHALE AND KILLER, SEEN FROM THE PEACOCK—PROCEEDINGS OF THE PEACOCK—SOUNDINGS OBTAINED BY HER—HER PERILOUS SITUATION AND PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE—HER CRIPPLED CONDITION—CAPTAIN HUDSON RESOLVES TO RETURN—HIS ADMIRABLE CONDUCT, AND THAT OF HIS OFFICERS AND CREW.

CHAPTER IX.

ANTARCTIC CRUISE.

1840.

The subjects of which I am about to treat in the following chapters are exclusively nautical. I shall therefore adopt in treating them more of the form of a log-book, and follow the daily order of their occurrence with more strictness than I have hitherto considered necessary. This will be done in order to illustrate more fully the nature of the remote regions we traversed, and for the purpose of giving a more exact relation of the incidents of this part of our cruise,—incidents that I cannot but hope have made this part of our labours particularly interesting to all of our countrymen who possess a feeling of national pride.

The credit of these discoveries has been claimed on the part of one foreign nation, and their extent, nay, actual existence, called into question by another; both having rival expeditions abroad, one at the same time, the other the year succeeding.

Each of these nations, with what intent I shall not stop to inquire, has seemed disposed to rob us of the honour by underrating the importance of their own researches, and would restrict the Antarctic land to the small parts they respectively saw. However willing I might be in a private capacity to avoid contesting their statements, and let truth make its own way, I feel it due to the honour of our flag to make a proper assertion of the priority of the claim of the American Expedition, and of the greater extent of its discoveries and researches.

That land does exist within the Antarctic Circle is now confirmed by the united testimony of both French and English navigators. D'Urville, the celebrated French navigator, within a few days after land was seen by the three vessels of our squadron, reports that his