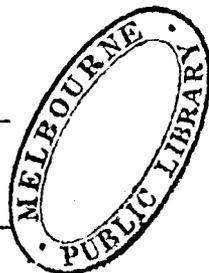


VOYAGE  
OF  
THE FORLORN HOPE,  
AND  
NOTES ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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BY J. P. STOW, Esq., J.P.

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INTRODUCTORY.

THE following narrative, from the pen of Mr. J. P. Stow, will amply repay perusal, constituting (as it does) a simple and truthful report of one of the most daring and perilous boat voyages ever undertaken; and comprising also a considerable amount of information relative to a part of the Australian coast-line hitherto but imperfectly known: Mr. J. P. Stow was not a member of either of the Government Expeditions to Adam Bay, but went out on his own resources to inspect the country, and also as agent for a number of purchasers of land in the Northern Territory. Whilst thus engaged he likewise officiated as Special Correspondent of the *South Australian Advertiser and Chronicle*, in the columns of which papers have appeared the fullest reports that have yet been made public with reference to the affairs of the infant settlement. It is not the purpose of this brief introduction to canvass the merits of Mr. Stow's present report, but rather to introduce to the public both the narrative and its author, leaving the reader to draw his own conclusions. It is, however, necessary to state that the following pages are a sequel to other letters written by Mr. Stow to the journals above named, in which he details what in his judgment constitute the principal causes of failure of the Northern Territory Expedition. That Mr. Stow is perfectly sincere in his representations is demon-

strated by the fact of his having undertaken so desperate a voyage as that of the "Forlorn Hope;" especially considering that (apart from the failure of the attempted settlement) he had every reason for remaining in the new country, and no reason whatever for returning before accomplishing the object of his mission. But, as already stated, the purpose of these sentences is not to vindicate Mr. Stow's opinions, nor to pronounce judgment upon the policy of the Government Resident at Adam Bay. To do justice to this subject would require a volume. It is, however, certain that the extraordinary interest taken in the daring voyage of Mr. Stow and his companions more than justifies the republication of that gentleman's report to the *Advertiser and Chronicle*. The story of the voyage is simply told; nothing is inserted for mere effect; no adventitious aids are brought to bear upon the subject, but on the contrary it is surprising how so remarkable a voyage could be described with so little egotism and in such few words. That Mr. Stow might easily have made much more of the incidents of his romantic journey, every one will perceive, and it is to be hoped that his moderation as the historian of an adventure in which he was a principal actor will not detract from the interest which the public would have felt in the perusal of the story had it been written in more vivid terms.

# VOYAGE OF THE FORLORN HOPE.

My last letter closed on the 5th of May, and I fear its contents were anything but cheering to those interested in the Northern Territory. I am able now to give you news to the morning of the 7th of May, and accounts of the proceedings of the party, of whom I was one, that sailed from Adam Bay in the Forlorn Hope. On the departure of the Bengal, about 50 persons were left in the settlement. Of these, four or five professed to admire the policy of the Government Resident; a few more expressed a determination to remain in the Northern Territory as long as they could get their excellent pay, and about 40 were intending to leave by the first opportunity. It was well known that the time elapsing before the next advices from Adelaide would be wasted, and up to the last moment of our leaving the settlement the Resident's folly, obstinacy, and disobedience of instructions were as conspicuous as ever. The universal depression occasioned by the disappointed hopes and dreary prospects of the settlers and members of the expedition was relieved by the excitement of the two days on which the Forlorn Hope left the Cliffs and the Narrows. The main object of most of the members of the crew of this little craft was, of course, to return to Adelaide; but several, including your correspondent, wished to visit different parts of the coast of our own Territory. After this was effected, we were to proceed to Camden Harbor, and if a vessel was there bound for the Swan, Melbourne, or Adelaide, to sail by her; if not, to continue coasting till we fell in with a vessel, or reached Fremantle, when the voyage of our boat was to end. We thought we should find numerous places of shelter about the coast and among the islands, and found, to our cost, how little we knew of the character of both. It was supposed by most people that we should arrive in Adelaide before the passengers by the Bengal, and had our object been simply to return we should have met the July mail at the Sound, but our examination of the coast occupied some time, to the loss of fair winds. A few, and among them sailors, prognosticated a fatal issue to our voyage; but the unutterable disgust with which we contemplated the prospect of months of forced inactivity, determined us to venture. We purchased the boat on the 4th from the Bengal, and brought her on shore. She was 23½ feet in length, 6 feet across the beam, and two feet deep. She had two masts and spritsails, to which we added a jib. On the 5th we had washboards added to her, and a little docking and tarpaulin on the bows and stern, thus guarding as far as possible against shipping water, and at the same time making lockers for our provisions. On the 6th, at the departure of the Bengal we got our luggage and provisions on board. We had 200 lbs of bread and biscuit, some cheese, 20 6-lb tins of beef, a few medical comforts, some cakes, about 70 gallons of water, and some firewood. We carried as little luggage as possible, and a chest with photographic apparatus belonging to Messrs. Hamilton and Haake.

In the course of the afternoon all preparations were completed, and the people of Adam Bay collected to bid us farewell. We met in the Government bakehouse, when various toasts were proposed, including "A Safe and Successful Trip," "Our next Meeting," "The Great Work of Exploration" was received and responded to with considerable merriment. About 18 officers and men were accompanying their comrades for some distance in the Bengal—every one remaining in camp, except the Resident and two or three others, accompanied us to the shore. We walked along the cliffs to the landing-place of the Bengal. Here was the boat close in shore, and tide nearly at the full. We proceeded to unfurl our flag, every one showing the most breathless interest in the ceremony. No one knew what standard we intended to hoist—whether it would be the red rag of rebellion, or "the flag that braved a thousand years"—whether it would exhibit simply the name of our vessel, or an anathema upon the government of Palmerston. When it was unfolded, and the freemen of Alexandria read the motto, now become historical "*Fins coronat opus*," their feelings found vent in a wild and instantaneous burst of applause. Cheer after cheer rent the air, rebounded from rock and wood, was borne upon the breeze, and echoed along the shore. When, from pure exhaustion, the display of enthusiasm had a little abated, a few enquiring minds sought for an explanation of

the motto. Various replies were given to enquiries, the most common being of a very general kind, as "Oh, something about Flaniss." One gentleman of whose attainments as a Latinist I had previously been unaware, informed those assembled that the English of the sentence was "Finnis corroborores to his opponents." More toasts, expressed in nervous English, were then proposed and drank, and we took a hearty farewell of our friends. The boat, with all canvas set and colors flying, sailed slowly away, amidst vociferous cheering; the free translator, exhausted by his emotions, sunk upon the sand, and feebly waving his hand, cried "Hooray," while a jolly tar rushed along the beach screaming nautical advice, which he accompanied with the wildest gesticulations and the most extravagant contortions of limb and feature. Gently we moved away; the cheering subsided; the hats were replaced upon their respective craniums; the Clifflites, including the jolly tar and the free translator, wended their way up the banks, and we steered for the mouth of the river, feeling that we had taken leave of Escape Cliffs and our fellow-sufferers. It became dark before we had proceeded far up the Adelaide, and the tide was against us. We were obliged to pull up under the banks, and land about three-quarters of a mile from the camp of the survey parties engaged in laying out South Palmerston. We were expected, but it being nearly 10 p.m., all hands had gone to their rest, and our first cooey not being answered, those of our party who possessed pleasing voices treated them to imitations of the melodies of many animals, wild and domestic, besides various unearthly yells and cries, till at last they were made aware that somebody was coming, and responded in an appropriate manner. By the time we reached the camp all were aroused, and we spent several hours discussing the affairs of the settlement. Those remaining looked forward with loathing to the months that must pass away before they could be relieved from the reign of idleness. Some would gladly have joined us had we room for them. Nearly all at this camp intended leaving by October at latest, should opportunity offer. At 10 a.m. on the 7th we went on board, and I may as well give here the passenger-list:—J. P. Stow, Arthur Hamilton, and Wm. McMillin (Surveyors), John White and James Davis (seamen), and Chas. Haake, and Francis Edwards, men of the survey parties. Messrs. Hamilton and McMillin were to determine our course, and John White, an experienced boatman, who had been in the pilot service in Victoria, and was well-known at Port Adelaide, was to have the management of the boat. Francis Davis was also an able seaman. We had maps from Melbourne, tracings from the charts of the Captain of the Bengal, two sextants, and several pocket compasses. We took leave of our fellow-victims on the banks of the Adelaide, and on pushing off were encouraged on our way by great and continued cheering, while parting volleys were fired from carbines and revolvers. Some of the camp, including G. McMillin, C. Hulls, W. Stow, and others, accompanied us for some distance in a dingy. They hoisted a blanket for a sail, but not being able to steer very close to the wind, we took them in tow, and sailed down the river against the tide, through the mouth, and for some miles towards Point Charles, across the Bay, leaving the Beatrice and the Cliffs far to the right. Soon we approached the open sea, and it was necessary for the dingy to return. What a parting that was on the waters of Adam Bay between friends and brothers!—some embarked on an adventure full of novelty, and not destitute of peril; others doomed to months of weariness and monotony. After the shaking of hands, the interchange of good wishes, and the hoisting of the blanket-sail, the two crews, with their mud-soiled garments, long beards, and faces flushed with emotion, cheering and waving their hats, formed a scene that must be forever photographed upon the memory. How, as the boats increased the distance between them, those British hurrahs sounded across the water!—and as a last form of farewell, revolvers were fired, and we felt that we had commenced our voyage, and left Adam Bay with its horrors and absurdities, its bitter recollections and pleasant reminiscences, its strifes and friendships, behind us.

We passed the Vernon Islands early in the afternoon, taking the inner channel, and going over shoals. Good winds most of the day. After sundown weather looked threatening, and we had a stiff breeze; but about seven

p.m. the weather cleared, and the wind abated. We had pleasant breezes most of the night. How beautiful when the moon rose, and spread its silvery light upon the calm water. We became deliciously sentimental. The everlasting ocean could never really become monotonous; one could never tire of gazing upon its broad expanse and watching it in its various moods. Waking and sleeping, in dreams and reverie, the first night passed away.

At daylight on the 5th saw the mainland, and during the day sailed over a reef marked on our chart, and passed the entrance of Port Paterson, coast low and dreary. Native fires all along the coast. At about 8 p.m. were stopped by reefs, and turned to the west, when we were again stopped and anchored. At 11 a.m. on the 9th, at low water, found ourselves surrounded by reefs, and were thankful for our escape from shipwreck. At high water the reefs were all out of sight, and we sailed pleasantly enough for three or four hours, when the wind shifted, and we went to seaward till the sea became so rough that we tacked to the east and ran in shore, anchoring about 11 a.m., two miles from a sandy beach, free from breakers. Heavy rain and wind. Remained at anchor till the morning of the 10th. We had a rough sea and high wind with a good deal of rain. We were saturated with rain and spray, and some of our bread was injured. An uncomfortable night, but all slept a good deal—some soundly. At 7.30 steered for the mainland. At 3.30 Cape Blaze bore S.W., distant about eight miles, and a fine range of hills—I should say 40 miles distant S.E. half E. Sailing very near the coast. Plenty of fish, and among them kangaroo fish, so called from the fact that they leap along the surface of the water on their tails. Heard snipe and plover on shore; sandflies visited us from the land. At 5 p.m. sighted the peak of Peron Island. The sea became rough, and not knowing the passage into Anson Bay, where we intended to call, we made for the shore, and anchored at 10 p.m., about two miles from the land, in six fathoms water. During the night the wind was cold and violent, with a rough sea. Our anchor being light, we drifted eight or ten miles to the N.W. At sunrise, on the 11th, we were out of sight of Peron Island, but we soon sighted it. The peak of the island first becomes visible, appearing like a solitary rock, but soon the rest of the island shows itself, and afterwards the smaller island. Winds light and variable, sometimes dying away altogether. There being a dead calm, anchored about 8 p.m. Numerous fires on the island and along the coast. Heard natives cooeying and wild dogs howling.

12th. Weighed anchor at midnight, and commenced tacking through the inner channel into Anson Bay. At 11 a.m., there being a strong tide against us, and the wind dying away, we anchored in three and a half fathoms. Cliff Head in sight S.E. by E., and land just visible to the east. During the afternoon we drifted slowly in with the tide, having scarcely a breath of wind to assist us. Range of hills, bearing E.N.E. from the south end of the smaller Peron Island, and a round hill bearing E.S.E. The wind ceasing, and a strong tide setting against us, we anchored at 8 p.m. in six fathoms.

13th.—Weighed anchor at sundown; foul wind, but tide in our favor. Anchored about four miles south-west from Cliff Head. Deep water near shore; six fathoms one-third of a mile distant, and three fathoms close to the beach. The bottom was a kind of quicksand, with barnacles underneath. Landed with firearms, food, &c., and enjoyed a good feed and a pot of tea—the first we had been able to indulge in since leaving Adam Bay. There were a few mangroves about, and a few acacias, like those in Victoria. Some of the party, including myself, started for a walk inland. We went about five miles westward. Saw a red wallaby, and shot a pheasant and some plover. Swamps, salt and fresh, close to the beach. Followed a salt swamp some distance; then finding it difficult walking, turned into the forest. The soil was much like that at Adam Bay, but with less ironstone pebbles. A great deal was a light sand, of a yellow and sometimes a darker color. The grass not so tall as at Escape Cliffs, but as worthless and very rank. Much of it bran in the leaf, with saw edges. The timber a good deal like that at Adam Bay, but of a more useful character. There were forests of paper-bark trees and box; stringybark, bastard gum, and a kind of ironbark abounded. The trees were of small circumference, few exceeding two feet. Some ran 30 or 40 feet without branches. The best specimens were stringybark and bastard-gum. The timber was generally sound, judging from its appearance, the absence of dead branches, and the small quantity of hollow logs on the ground. So far as we walked we could see no change in the character of the country. We saw a great many honey-suckles. Anthills of great size were plentiful, varying in height from 10 feet to upwards of 20 feet. We noticed one 17 feet, and another 22 feet in height. Some were upwards of 20 feet in circumference. They were of different styles of architecture—all corrugated, the ridges sometimes conical at both ends; some ended in a peak like a church spire, and some were castellated. Returning we went N. to an opening in the timber, and found ourselves at the head of a large fresh swamp running towards the sea. It was drying up—moist to the feet, but without surface water. On the north side paperbark, and many sorts of trees on the south side.

Had there been any of those fine gum-trees Mr. Earl speaks of as likely to form an article of export from Anson Bay, we should have found it on this swamp, but large gums will not grow in such a soil as that at Anson Bay. It is true we only landed on one side of Cliff Head, but all the coast was low and presented the same appearance. Turned from the swamp into the timber to the left, found the grass dreadfully rank and tangled, and fatiguing to walk through. Reached the beach some time after dark. Our boat had been moved according to arrangement to Cliff Head, and we were glad to make the fire and refresh ourselves with the bushman's beverage and stimulant—tea, not desisting the grosser viands of tinned beef and bread. Night, beautifully calm, but cold. I was glad of two blankets, and could have borne a third.

14th.—Breakfasted on grilled pheasant and plover—good eating, the former delicious. Between our camp and the point of the Cliffs a creek—deep at high water—joins the sea, and runs S.W. parallel with the beach. Some of us followed it for about three miles to the head, crossed dry-foot, and found abundance of fresh water in swamps. Followed the mangrove creek back for some distance, then turned inland to a large plain two or three miles square. Shot some teal, snipe, and plover in fresh swamps. Paperbark all round the plain. Returned to coast, crossing the creek at low water. Fresh water close to it in swamps. Walked about two miles along Cliff Head. Found the cliff at its highest point about 100 feet, though it appears much lower viewed from the Bay. It is composed of red sandstone, very much disintegrated, conglomerate ironstone, and red earth above all. The ground does not slope inland. Near the edge the trees were small, young box, and gum, and stunted palms. One hundred yards back the timber was large, and much of it straight-stemmed; all beyond a dense forest. All along the base of Cliff Head is a smooth sandy beach, with scarcely a sign of rock, but at high water the sea touches the cliffs. We had a very fine view of Peron Island and the Bay—a fine open harbor. The air is clear and bracing. There is no doubt this is a healthy spot. We have seen no sign of high land, except the range mentioned on the 12th; that is visible from most parts of the Bay, and some hills bearing S. by E. that we suppose to be the Barthelemy. There are cliffs about six miles from Cliff Head to the S.W., and more nearer to Cape Ford. All the land about Anson Bay is low and worthless. There is no lime or building stone, and, as far as we could see, no permanent surface water. There were numbers of natives about, as we could tell by their fires, tracks, &c., but none showed themselves. Probably they had heard of the killing of one of their color at Chambers Bay, and the report of our guns prevented them from coming near us. Their wurlays were of the rudest kind, and we saw no canoes or rafts. We found some large worn-out ba-kets. Emu and dingo tracks plentiful. Took in water, and prepared to start in the evening, but the tide did not reach the boat, which had been brought ashore for the purpose of making a few additions and alterations.

15th.—At dawn, cut mangrove levers and rollers, and after a little labor launched the boat. We had lost no time, as not a breath of air stirred through the night. As we started, a fine S.E. breeze set in and carried us past Cape Ford by 11 a.m., and so ended our visit to Anson Bay. A little beyond Cape Ford the coast looks like that at Wallaroo, short sloping beach, then grass flats, behind that small bushy timber. After this is passed, we approach Cape Dombey; this is generally sandy soil, with occasionally cliffs. We noticed fires along the coast.

16th.—Light winds most of last night. Shortly after daylight saw the Barthelemy Hills. Calms and light winds all day till about 4.50 p.m. Steered for what looked like an opening in the light, between Cape Dombey and Cape Hay. On approaching, found this appearance of an opening which we hoped would prove to be a river, was occasioned by a break in the line of bushes that grew along the coast. This spot is left blank in the Admiralty charts. There are red cliffs to the S.S.E., the Barthelemy Hills bear N.E. by E. high land in the distance, N.E. and E. half N. About dark, we anchored in one and a half fathoms at the sandy beach. There was a large mangrove creek close to us on our right. Just before dark, saw large flights of cockatoos. During the night heard birds and the howl of the dingo on shore. Mosquitoes troublesome the early part of the night, but they died or became torpid as the cold increased.

17th.—At sunrise noticed other mangrove creeks in the distance on each side of us. Landed, walking through soft mud, and afterwards got the boat on hard sand. Numerous tracks of natives and dingoes on the beach. At breakfast a dingo made its appearance, and we thought of shooting it, till it was suggested that it belonged to the natives. It made cautious approaches, now and then lying down, and watching us. It had a cord round its neck. It took no notice of the report of firearms. At last it sniffed food, and its advance became very rapid till we threw it some meat. After testing this it cut off a plate and then from our hands, and finally showed its gratitude and the delicacy of its habits by cleaning all our dishes and cooking utensils, and remained at our fire all day. At about 8 a.m. Mr. McNeill, White, Davis, and I started for the south point of the range south of the Barthelemy. We steered

east, and at starting crossed and founded a number of salt creeks, about which were numerous tracks of natives. We saw fishing weirs across the creeks, with small openings, and near them matings or nets with which, we suppose, the natives closed them as they wished. After getting clear of the creeks and mangroves we came to a hard plain, with grass and rushes, the grass waxy, but better than we had seen on the coast before. Much of the plain had been burnt. Before us was the range trending from S. to N., or N.W., the Barthelemy Hills to the north of the end of the range, and other hills beyond in the same direction. We had a beautiful south-east breeze; the day was mild, and altogether like a May day in South Australia. We walked on briskly, elated with the idea of soon being on high hills, and having a view of good country. About two miles from the sea we came to a fresh swamp, and walking through it soon came to another, and then found the swamps continuous. We walked two miles through water, and then turned northward to some distant timber, hoping to find there dry land that would lead to the Barthelemy Hills, whence we hoped we could travel along the range and return by a different route. When we reached the first clump of timber we found it a mere island in the midst of the swamp. One of the party dropped into a hole up to his shoulders in mud and water, and was rapidly disappearing when he was pulled out. After this we found the water invariably deeper when we came to timber, which was principally paperbark. We waded through rushes and reeds or small bamboo till our party began to separate. We then went for a considerable distance through tall flags, several feet over our heads, till the water reached to our waists, and deepened so rapidly that in a few steps we should have been reduced to the necessity of swimming, so we reluctantly returned, seeing water in every direction. Logs were floating about, and leeches abounded. I have no doubt we were on the edges of a lake, and that the water we walked through contracted as the dry season advanced. We had a view of at least 10 square miles of swamp. By degrees our party reunited; we had all been severely bitten by a kind of wasp, and our clothes were torn and hung about us in shreds. On our return we shot a number of small plover and a swamp bird nearly as large as a turkey. There was a large kind of pigeon here, but it was very shy. Roaming in search of game we saw many camping-grounds of natives, and on the beach tracks that had been made during the day. I wished to try and reach Barthelemy Hills by a different route on the morrow; but the party would not agree to this, so at 9 p.m. we got the boat off and set sail. The sea on this coast is very phosphorescent—at Cape Dombey peculiarly so. As the wave spread along the shore it appeared like a sheet of blue flame. Each man standing in the water was surrounded by a halo of light; and when the boat moved she left in her wake a pathway of pale fire, shooting out myriads of blue sparks. Wind gentle till midnight, when it freshened up from the S.E.

18th.—At daylight out of sight of land, going across Cambridge Gulf, with a high sea. Rough all day.

19th.—About two hours before daylight saw land. Passed Cape Bernier, and sailed along the coast. About Cape Londonderry it is a fine bold coast—high cliffs and sometimes ranges of hills coming to the water's edge, with mountainous country in the background. All on land looked dry, and had that desolate appearance Australian coast generally wears in the summer season. Passed Cape Bougainville, and in the evening, as the navigation looked dangerous from the number of islands and breakers, we tried to find shelter under an island about 12 miles from the Cape, but got on a reef with less than three feet of water on it. As we were endeavoring to get clear of this danger a heavy breaker came rolling on. The boat answered her helm beautifully, went head on, and rode buoyantly over the surf. We then headreached N.E., keeping a watch. After standing out for some miles the water suddenly became smooth, and we struck on rock. Soon after we saw breakers all around and land at no great distance. Bump, bump, grind, grind, went our poor boat on the rocks; we tried hard to get her off, but she continued to catch on the reef. Our situation was now critical. We were a dozen miles from the mainland with no chance of escape in case of shipwreck, which seemed inevitable, for the soft wood of which our little vessel was made could not long stand such severe usage. We believed our voyage of life was about to end with that of the Forlorn Hope, and it seemed that the motto on our flag would have a mournful significance. At last we got clear, and sailed back towards the island we had left in the evening, and anchored in two fathoms.

20th.—A heavy sea broke our rudder this morning, and we anchored and repaired it. Sailed in various directions, trying to avoid the numerous reefs and shoals, till at last we resolved to go eastward till we got outside them, and then still work round all these dangers—making a detour of 80 or 90 miles. The wind being against us, we ran down to the eastern side of Vansittart Bay, and found safe anchorage off a sandspit, at five fathoms, about half a mile from the land.

21st.—Got under sail at daylight; but as everything foretold rough weather we sought shelter, and anchored in four fathoms at Troughton Island, a quarter of

a mile from the shore. We had a fine view from here. To the west, the Cape—a round hill with a spit of land running out; to the south, the shores of Vansittart Bay, Troughton Island, curving round, and partly obstructing the view; and behind all, in the distance, on the mainland, high ranges, and an immense quantity of smoke ascending from them. The island opposite to us had about 30 feet elevation, and the ground sloped away on either side. Some of the reefs about the shore presented the appearance of artificial walls, steep and regular. Landed and walked about the island. Near the shore, sandhills and grassy flats; inland, open forest. All the timber was stunted, including ironbark, paperbark, bastard gum, palms, and different kinds of tropical trees. Crossed a large hollow with better grass than I had seen in North Australia, and found the ground rose inland. Found large blocks of freestone. Soil sandy—in places covered thickly with ironstone. Found a native well, hardly dry, old camping places, with bones and shells of fish and turtle, wurelys of the shape of beehives, with semiconical entrances, and spears. Some of the spears were simply wooden, others partly wood, partly bamboo. One had a simple point, another a chisel point of quartz; others had knobs of wood of the shape of a tooth, fastened on to them, which fitted in to them as in a socket, and was fixed with glue or gum. There were cockatoos and pigeons on the island.

22nd.—Started at daylight with a gentle breeze, smooth sea, and balmy weather, steering north till towards evening, when we ran west about 15 miles.

23rd.—After a fine night's run we struck at 3 a.m. on a reef. Got the boat off, and anchored till daylight in seven and a half fathoms water. At dawn were close to three remarkable rocks. All the forenoon among shoals and reefs. Tacked in all directions, and at length, to simplify matters, sailed over a shoal. Rowed a great deal. Plenty of turtles and fish about. Heavy dew at night. Quantities of porpoises. General course, S.W.

24th.—Passed islands marked on the charts as south of Caslin Islands. Passing islands all day. Course, S.W. by W.

25th.—Still passing islands, principally on our left. Course, S.W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W.

26th.—To the west we saw a large reef, with sandspit jutting out, and prominent rocks sticking up. Passed between the reef and the islands. Sailed by a large breaker of rocks, smooth and regular—Islets formed of boulders of rock of many shapes, columnar, square, smooth, and fretted. The base and walls of some islets were of dark rock, surmounted by piles of what appeared to be a white freestone. There seemed on this part of our course an unbroken continuity of islands, till at last we saw lofty ranges on the mainland beyond, and Mount Trafalgar. Still islands, islands, islands. After leaving Cape Bougainville we passed at least 500, of every shape, size, and appearance. Some several miles in extent; others are mere detached rocks; some have stunted vegetation; others look quite bare; some look like detached portions of hilly ranges; some conical; some round or oval, and flat topped; some slope to the water's edge; some are bold and cliffy; some smooth; some diversified with sandhills; some are rugged and uneven, with large rocks piled together in a wild and fantastic manner; some exhibit a sandy beach; others are guarded by barriers of reefs. Infinitely varied as these islands are—wild and picturesque, grand sometimes almost to sublimity—there is about them all an air of dreariness and gloom. No sign of life appears on their surface; scarcely even a sea bird hovers on their shores. They seem abandoned by Nature to complete and everlasting desolation. The barrenness and silence were more depressing to us from the circumstances of our position. We had thought to find shelter among so many isles, safe anchorages, when the storms rose and the sea raged, but the islands were more inhospitable than the wide ocean. There was deep fathomless water up to their shores, except where we were on treacherous reefs. Whatever wind blew we were compelled to drift, and were often forced out of our way by furious currents and eddies. It was a relief from weariness, anxiety, and danger, when we escaped from these Archipelago. We tried to get into Camden Harbor through Rogers's Straits, but failed, being puzzled by islands, and baffled by breakers and eddies.

27th.—At 3 a.m. we steered for an opening among the islands to the S.W., and got among more currents, eddies, and reefs, the sea boiling like a cauldron. Got bottom at two and a-half fathoms on a reef, and pushing over worked out to sea. About 1 p.m. were between Augustus and Byam Martin Islands, and sailed for several hours, when the wind died away and we drifted back some miles. At 6.30 took to the oars, and the tide running in our favor made good progress till midnight, when the tide changing and a smart breeze springing up in our favor, we managed barely to hold our own till dawn. We had passed Byam Martin Island, and were steering E.S.E. for the entrance to Camden Harbor or as that part of it is called on the charts, Brecknock Harbor.

28th.—Foul winds. Kept tacking till we were obliged to seek for anchorage, and found it on an island south of

Augustus Island. The summit of the island was grassy, and a number of diminutive palms were growing. The rocks were a kind of slate. Saw two kites, and regarded them with ravenous eyes, for our provisions were nearly exhausted, being reduced to tea, sugar, and a packet of maizena. In the evening we sailed to another island, and anchored under a ridge of dark rock, in eight fathoms, with soft bottom. We had had little rest for four days and nights—what with watching and rowing—and it was a delightful relief to find ourselves in a harbor of refuge where we could sleep in security.

29th. Felt at daylight considerably uncomfortable. Our provisions were out; we had been trying to catch fish, but although there were shoals they would not bite. There was no appearance of game on shore, and no sign of a settlement. The appearance and the bearings of the coast, islands, and channels were so utterly different from the description on any chart, that we had the greatest difficulty in determining which way to steer for the harbor, and some of our party became thoroughly sceptical as to its existence. At last we rowed through a narrow and tortuous passage between islands, and soon, to our great relief, we saw a boat in the distance. On coming alongside we found a Surveyor (Mr. Cowle) and party. They had a remarkably dull and despondent look that rather surprised us, expecting to meet every one looking happy in so thriving a settlement as we supposed Camden Harbor to be. We soon heard the worst news. The sheep were nearly all dead, and the whole settlement was a failure. After exchanging information respecting our rival settlements, we endeavored to proceed up the Bay, while Mr. Cowle pursued the important duty of surveying the harbor. The tide was flowing, but, coming from Rogers's Straits, was against us, and we had to wait at anchor and go in with the ebb. As we sailed up the harbor, we saw the wreck of the ship *Calliance* that had struck on a reef outside, and afterwards sunk at the landing-place about half-a-mile distant. To the left on a red cliff, with range in the background, was the Government camp. On landing, the Government Resident, Mr. Sholl, received us kindly and cordially. Messrs. Hamilton, McMin, and your correspondent became his guests, while every attention was paid to the wants of our comrades. We remained five days at this unfortunate settlement, and gained ample information respecting its history, and the character of the land in its vicinity. The harbor is most beautiful. It stretches to the west for eight miles to where it is entered by three channels coming through reefs and islands. It is bounded on the south by the high rugged hills of the mainland; the loftiest eminence being Mount Lookover; on all sides are bights and inlets, while high rounded islands complete the picture. The rise and fall of tide is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and at low water islands and forests of mangroves are made visible that were out of sight a few hours before. The country was wild and rugged. Dark and irregularly shaped hills that seemed to be composed of masses of loose rocks. Stones everywhere; but upon every spot of soft ground, and among the rocks, there was a luxuriant growth of rank grass. Some of it was kangaroo grass, but in quality utterly different to that of the southern colonies. Far away were bold mountains and ranges, and leading to them a succession of hill and valley, but all of the same stony character. The trees were scarce and stunted, the most remarkable being the baobab, or gouty stemmed tree. The specimens of this tree I saw were about 8 or 10 feet in the stem, large at the base, bulging out in the middle, and contracting at the top of the trunk; then throwing out short gnarled branches, disproportionately small in circumference. The bark was very white, and the wood pale-colored. One of these trees was 26 feet in girth. There are a number of species of indigenous fruits and vegetables. I gathered several pods of beans a mile or so from the camp. They are about the size of our most common culinary species, and are eaten by both blacks and whites. I also saw melons about the size of a large walnut, and very fair eating. Water is readily obtained by sinking at shallow depths, and there are plenty of permanent springs and streams at no great distance. The most common rocks are sandstone, ironstone, basalt, and quartz. I saw quartz reefs to the south of the Government camp. I found a piece of lead on the surface, and saw specimens of copper from Augustus Island. The air during our stay was remarkably clear, and in the morning quite bracing. We visited the settlers, who were encamped about two miles from the Government camp. They were all ruined, and intending to leave by the first opportunity. They gave dreadful accounts of the weather at the time of their arrival. There had been several deaths from sun-stroke; in one case a man was picked up dead in the bush; in another a settler returned, after spending a day on shore, to the vessel by which he had arrived, and expired in a few minutes. It must be remembered that in these cases of *coup de soleil* the parties had not landed many days, and probably did not take the precautions necessary to guard themselves from the effects of a vertical sun. The effect of the heat upon the sheep probably exceeded anything of the kind ever before witnessed. Their feet seemed burned with walking on the stones. All night they were in agony; their panting almost amounted to roaring. The extraordinary heat was probably increased to a great extent

by the refraction from the rocks. At this time there was little grass, but when it did grow, and even after it had arrived at maturity, it was worthless. The few sheep that were left fed on it greedily till their stomachs were enormously distended, but they still fell off in condition. I saw the locks at grass, and never upon the worst run after the worst drought in South Australia, have I seen such wretched objects. They did not weigh more than 18 pounds, and the sight of one killed and dressed I shall not readily forget. The Government sheep, however, had not lost condition to any great extent, so that there was probably something in the management; but the fact that they had not improved was sufficient to condemn the country. The settlers' horses had to be fed with corn and bran, although they did no work, and the grass was abundant. The Government horses were low in condition. They had done some exploring, but certainly in South Australia horses would do three times the work and look in fair order. A more unfit spot for stock of any description could not be found anywhere. There is probably good country inland, but too far off, and the route too impracticable for it to be connected with Camden Harbor. One settler found and took on lease a small piece of country with good grass and useful timber, eight miles from the camp, but such spots were very rare. The settlers have been blamed for not looking for good country, but they were given to understand that they would find land fit for sheep and agriculture at Camden Harbor, and it is not probable that men with one or two hundred sheep would go to a new country to look for territory. They expected that was ready for them. The whole scheme for settling Camden Harbor was rash and ill-considered. How far the Association were to blame, I would not venture to say; but it is fair to suppose they knew nothing of the character of the country they induced so many poor men to try and settle to their ruin. The victims blame principally Dr. Martin, who visited that part of the coast, and published a journal more valuable as a scientific work than as a guide to squatters and other settlers, for having given such inaccurate accounts of the country. Having read Dr. Martin's work I come to the conclusion that his description of the land was, in the main, correct. He describes it as dreadfully stony, and as having high, rank grass; but, then, he concludes by giving an opinion that sheep would thrive there. I went over the site that had been selected for the principal town of the district. It was very dry, and would have the advantage of a rocky foundation. It was elevated, but did not occupy a commanding position, the prospect being obscured by the neighboring hills. At some part of the proposed town of Elliot there was a view of the inlets and bights of the harbor. Wild turkeys were roaming about. The Government Resident had not commenced the survey, as he expected the settlement would be entirely abandoned.

Mr. Sholl gave me much valuable information respecting the country he had explored about the Glenelg and between that river and Camden Harbor. The country was mountainous, with loose rocks and stones almost everywhere. The difficulties of travelling were immense. The horses were continually losing shoes, and if not reshoed, they were lame almost instantly. There were many high ranges, and Mr. Sholl's party did not succeed in finding an outlet into more practicable country. The country was well watered with rivulets and larger streams. Not much good land was seen except on Hampton Downs and along the banks of the streams. Mr. Sholl stated that he found Grey's description of the land wonderfully correct. Some few weeks before our arrival the settlement had been visited by Malays. There were about 300—in seven proas and 30 canoes. They were a wretched looking lot, and had for firearms but a few old rusty flint muskets and two or three small rusty cannon. The natives drove them away from the watering-places, and killed one of their number. These are the formidable pirates against whose attacks it was supposed the party at Adam Bay might have to maintain a desperate defence. At Port Essington the Malays were afraid of the natives, who were remarkably harmless. In Jukes's work there is a full description of the character and habits of the aborigines, and of the Malays that visited that part of the coast. Notwithstanding all this, grave doubts were suggested as to whether, if the *Forlorn Hope* fell in with the numerous flotilla that had visited Camden Harbor, some insult might not be offered to our flag. Before we left the settlement we supplied ourselves with provisions sufficient to take us to Nicol Bay. The Government Resident allowed his mechanics to make us a heavier anchor than the one we possessed, and a binnacle for our lamp. We purchased a ship's compass of a settler, and Mr. McMin took tracings of the coast as far Fremantle, from the Admiralty charts.

On the 3rd June we took leave of our host, from whom we had received every assistance in preparing for the continuation of our voyage, and every attention to our comfort that courtesy and kind feeling could suggest. From all the good people at Camden Harbor we received nothing but kindness, and we shall always have pleasant recollections of that settlement. We took with us Her Majesty's mail and a multitude of messages to people in Perth. On leaving the landing at the camp we sailed over to the wreck of the *Calliance*. Here several of the Victorian settlers who had purchased the wreck

had their tents erected on the shore, and were busy in preparing to burn the hull as the only way to get the copper from her. We purchased a cable, and soon after sailing an enormous column of smoke arose from the wreck. The Callaness was on fire as if in honor of our departure. Had that vessel been at Adam Bay a cutter would certainly have been made from her for the majority of the party to escape by.

4th.—We did not get out of the harbor till 4 a.m. Course, W.S.W. Wind S., and light all day. Weather looking threatening in the evening. Little wind through the night.

5th.—No land in sight this morning. Plenty of fish about, including barracoota. At noon, lat.  $15^{\circ} 40' 24''$ . Macleay Islands in sight, bearing S. by W. Cloudy in the afternoon, with drops of rain. Beautiful sunset. During the night violent puffs of wind, and we lowered the main-sail and jib. Smart shower of rain.

6th.—Hoisted all sail at about 6 a.m., and the wind soon left us with a heavy swell on the sea. Brue Rock on our right at daylight. Fish and turtles about, and sea-birds sailing over our heads. Course, W.S.W. Got into shallow water at 7 a.m.—two and a-half, two, and three fathoms; we supposed we were on the edge of a reef. Cafferelli Island bearing E.S.E. At 7.30, water shallowed to two and a quarter fathoms, and we stood S.E. till the water deepened. Bottom coral or rock. Continually getting into shallow water till a little after 9 a.m., when we got clear. Wind variable all day and S. in the night.

7th.—Had drifted northward; latitude  $16^{\circ} 1' 55''$  at noon. Strong breeze all night and sea rising.

8th.—About 4 a.m. the ironwork of our rudder broke; lowered sails, and put out a steer oar; sea high and rough. Latitude at noon,  $16^{\circ} 35' 55''$ ; still drifting. Sea moderated after noon, and we mended the rudder and baled out the boat. Some of the party unwell, two having cramps, another bilious, another with dysentery, and a fourth very sick, but eat very well. Wind variable, and high at night.

9th.—The sea getting worse till after daylight; a dreadful cross sea that our sailing master, White, said was enough to swamp all the boats that ever were made. At sunrise the sight was terribly grand—the long swell, the mountain wave, the deep hollow, the white foam—as far as we could see, the scene was one of wild disorder. When upon the crest of a mighty sea, we saw ourselves about to descend into a deep hollow like the extinct crater of a volcano. Down we went, high seas flaming all around us. The bowsprit just kissed the water, and the Forlorn Hope rose like a duck upon the next wave. The storm did not increase after sunrise, and at 10 a.m. showed signs of moderating, and before noon we had all canvas set. Latitude  $17^{\circ} 14' 35''$ ; wind, S.E. by S. Porpoises following us, and shoals of fish about. Yellow snakes with black spots floating on the surface; jellyfish abundant. In the afternoon the wind rose till it increased to a gale. The sky had a hard, cold, appearance. The waves awfully high, and we shipped some heavy seas; one in particular sunk the boat low, and we had to bail for our lives. We passed an awful night, expecting every minute to be our last. Half-drowned and bitterly cold; constantly bailing; laying to with a leg of mutton sail.

10th.—At daylight the scene was frightful, and we longed for a ship to deliver us from our peril; but we knew that we were out of the track of all vessels. Snakes floating on the billows, and we hoped to make sail again, but as evening came on the wind rose to a gale, and we found we had to pass another night of suffering and peril. One of the party was seized with shivering fits. We had no medicine, but administered rum, and essence of ginger; rubbed his feet and covered him up in his bed; blankets, clothing, and everything saturated with water. Night clear, and the cold biting.

11th.—Sunday. We had passed through a night of tempest, danger, and pain; the storm worse than ever, the waves not higher, but we had cross seas, with the billows breaking over the boat and dashing her round. The invalid suffered very much, and—poor fellow—we were unable to cook, or do anything for him but give him the rum and ginger. As the morning wore on the tempest still raged. There was an awful feature in the storm that morning. The waves were high and steep, and as two of us sat watching the horrible scene, we saw an immense sea approaching almost perpendicular, and a few feet at the summit quite so, and of a bright green color and capped with foam. "We shall never get over that," both exclaimed; but there is no orating at those fences, and on we went. As we expected, the top of the sea broke over the boat, nearly upsetting her, and dashed her down the steep descent, and the mass of water surging under dropped us down on the other side. "Ball, quick!" was the cry, and we prepared for the next sea. We had three of these walls of water, with their green tops and crests of foam; and it seemed a miracle how we escaped from such danger. Each time the boat was dashed down in the same way, and a quantity of water thrown into her. At noon we were once more deluded with the hope of the gale lessening, and we changed our leg of mutton sail into a double-

reefed foresail. We took latitude  $17^{\circ} 36' 32''$ . In the evening the sea and wind increased, and we were obliged to take in canvas. The waves broke against us from three different directions. We were now so exhausted that in the danger we could sleep, and even the man at the helm kept continually dropping off and waking with a start. We were cramped and tortured with rheumatic pains, caused by being so long wet and remaining in the same posture. During the night we cut down the mainmast and let it float away; we could not unfasten it and take it down without moving about and probably upsetting the boat.

12th.—Morning broke upon us still battling with the storm. Awful as the danger was, there was a fierce and almost pleasing excitement in seeing the gallant way in which the Forlorn Hope rode over the mountain billows, or recovered herself after being dashed against by cross seas. During the day the storm abated. A few boatswain birds came round us. We ran all night under a close-reefed foresail.

13th.—Our situation still looked more hopeful, we could see over a greater expanse of wild sea and white surf. The breeze was strong, but we were getting under the influence of the land, and with a south-east wind the sea moderated fast as we approached the shore. We began to feel that our worst danger was over, and to feel proportionately thankful. No men, probably, were ever in greater peril for so long a time. Fortunately we had moonlight—the sky, night and day, wearing a hard glaring appearance, with scarcely ever a sign of cloud.

14th.—About 10 a.m. saw smoke in the direction of land, and at 11.15 saw land itself. Latitude at noon,  $19^{\circ} 45' 53''$ . The coast low and barren looking. Along the shore white sandhills with little vegetation. Endeavored to land in the evening to dry our clothes, but there were heavy rollers on that rendered it dangerous, so we stood out, and anchored in four fathoms.

15th.—Sailed at daylight W.S.W. Coast still low; can often see smoke when no land is visible. Warm night.

16th.—Course W.S.W. Wind still S.E., occasionally varying for a time. Weather cloudy, with cold wind and drizzling rain.

17th.—A breeze sprang up, and we sailed till midnight, when we lay to for fear of passing Turtle Island, where we intended to try for turtles and eggs. Soon after daylight sighted the island, and having a good breeze, and all sail set, rapidly overhauled it. We found it guarded by much worse reefs than we had expected. Large rocks warned us off; tremendous breakers sent up volumes of water bursting into spray that looked at a distance like clouds of smoke. There was, of course, some way of getting to the island with an oared boat, but it would not have done to risk the Forlorn Hope; so all our visions of turtle soup and pelican's eggs were, dispelled. The smaller Turtle Island was too far out of our course. Point Larry was visible in the morning. Afterwards saw nothing of the mainland, but smoke was visible all day.

18th.—Breeze E. to E. by S. till noon. Passed over the Geographic Shoals, where were hundreds of turtle. Passed Cape Thonin. Our meat all finished. Jellyfish floating about. Wind variable during the afternoon. Since trying to anchor on the 14th we heard day and night the sound of heavy rollers on the beach. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 19' 15''$ .

19th.—Sighted Cape Lambert, which we reached about 2 p.m., and entered Nicol Bay, sailing between the mainland and Bezout Island. The coast bolder than any we had been accustomed to for some days. The hills appeared to have a good deal of ironstone about them. The rocks at the shore were rough and strange looking—some washed into arches and concaves, others into the most rugged and fantastic forms, with multitudes of excrescences like stalactites. Patches of sandy beach appeared, and in places reefs jutted out from the shore. At 5 p.m. we were hugging the land on the south side of the bay. We sailed principally by solid rock of the color for some distance of copper ores. We almost fancied we could see the bay plainly visible. Plenty of turtles. Jellyfish of a peculiar shape, like mushrooms, with a horseshell attached. They were of different colors. Snakes following us. At about 4.30 heard a cooey, and saw natives on the summit of a rise. They motioned to us to come to them, and we steered towards the beach, but could not land on account of rocks and the swell. Tried to communicate with the natives, but we were unintelligible to each other. We were obliged to turn away, and when we did so they all gave a tremendous groan. On there were about twenty men, women, and children. On our moving up the bay one ran along the top of a hill to watch our movements. About sundown we fancied we could see tents, and just after dark saw a light, when we cast anchor. Fired two barrels of a revolver, and were answered by three distinct signal lights, when we fired another barrel in reply, and rested satisfied we had found the settlers. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 32' 6''$ . During the night we began to doubt whether the settlement was not a native one.

20th.—At daylight all doubt as to whether we had found civilized beings was removed, for we heard a cooey, and in-

medately afterwards saw a native inviting us ashore. As, however, the shore was some distance from us, and we had a fair wind, we pushed on, thinking the settlers must be higher up the Bay, as we had seen no sign of a landing-place. We passed islands, rocky points, and long stretches of low shore fringed with mangroves. About noon steered for a sandhill; sailing for the last mile or two over three feet of water. Took the boat up to a rocky edge, and some of us landed, while others pushed her out, and anchored in muddy bottom. Latitude,  $20^{\circ} 47' 18''$ . The boat was soon high and dry, when all came ashore, and we distended ourselves with porridge and scones. In the afternoon several of us started to walk across a plain to a range of rocky hills to the south, about two miles distant. Found wiry grass, a little saltbush, a great deal of spinifex, and a few bushes. Crossed a dry watercourse with pebbly bottom. The ground was very dry and hard, and the grass had been burnt. Saw white men's tracks, very old. Reached the hills, and, on arriving at the tops followed them west for a mile to a point, from which there was a fine view of the Bay and surrounding country. We had noticed that the bay was bounded on the west by a reef, but we saw water beyond that. When I looked from the hill the tide had receded, and left a dry swamp trending round to the south as far as the eye could reach. The country everywhere looked desolate and barren. In all directions, except seaward, we saw hills similar to that we were upon. No sign of timber, except a few stunted trees. Far to the south, higher ranges appeared; they looked blue and wooded, and probably were the better country. Smoke rose in different places from their summits. The hills we were on were composed very much of ironstone. There was quartz about them and on the plain. Numbers of sandhills dotted the plain to the east and south. Saw a rock wallaby and numerous traces of other animals. Followed the hills eastward, and descended till we cut the creek we had crossed lower down. Stunted gum, with bark of a remarkable whiteness, grew in the bed. Followed the creek down about two miles till we came to a little water, of which we drank heavily. Limestone all along the creek. Returned to the boat. The sandhill by which we were anchored was a camping-place of the natives. There were many old fire-places, fish and turtle bones, and breakwinds of bushes. We found two curious fishing arrangements that we were quite unable to comprehend. They were constructed in this fashion:—A log about four feet in length and eight inches in diameter, having at each end a log about one and a half feet long, pegged on diagonally. A notch was cut round each short piece, and a cord attached, and running from one end of the machine to the other. One of these contrivances was carefully covered up with grass; the other lay on the beach. We supposed these things were floated with fishhooks attached to them; but why the division into three pieces? We could not understand how they bored the holes for pegging. The limited time at our disposal compelled us to leave these questions unsolved. When next we visit Nicol Bay we may investigate them more fully. Latitude at noon  $20^{\circ} 47' 18''$ . This part of the Bay goes farther inland than appears upon the charts.

21st.—At daylight three of us went to the spot where we found water in the creek, hoping to find more by sinking, but were disappointed. After sinking two and a half feet, we came to decomposed slats. There was shale about, and plenty of talc. Saw a native burying-ground almost in the bed of the creek. Started a quail, and saw emu and dingo tracks. Returned to the boat, and started for the opposite side of the Bay. About 8 or 9 miles from shore water 5 fathoms. Anchored at 4 p.m., two miles from land, the wind having died away.

22nd.—Sailed at 2 a.m., and rounded point after point of the mainland, and an island running north of it, till a little before 8 a.m., close to the north point of the island, we saw a small sandy spit, and determined to land, and get a view from the hills. On nearing the shore we saw a native, who ran along the beach, and then along the rocks, making great gesticulations. We spoke to him, and made signs that we were going to land, when he ran to meet us, and three or four other men made their appearance, with four boys. Two of the men had spears, and shook them at us; but as we approached nearer, they laid them on the beach. Not knowing how many might be in the background, we loaded all the firearms, and running the boat ashore, two of us landed, one having a revolver in his belt. The rest of the party stopped for sometime in the boat. Eight natives met us, and were friendly enough. An old man kept in the distance, and did not come to us during the day. He was probably behind the times, and the slave of antiquated prejudices against foreigners. With this anticosmopolitan was a remarkably fine dingo, large, broad-chested, and in good condition. We found the natives knew nothing of the settlement, but they had seen white people. They used of their own accord about eight or ten English words, including water, bacon, sugar, by-and-bye, and thank you. They begged for food, but that was too scarce with us at that time. We gave them knives and tobacco. They offered us fish ready cooked, but we were afraid they would expect us to pay for the meal with interest, or it would have been welcome. They appeared to have some notions of the habits of business men, for it was not till evening that they offered to

introduce us to their families—an invitation the necessity of proceeding on our journey prevented us from accepting. They showed us water in the rocks nearly at the summit of the hills, about three quarters of a mile from the boat. We took in a full supply in six journeys. The natives showed us some of their drawings on the rocks. There were sketches of fishes, turtles, lizards, and different kinds of birds, including emus. One native made a sketch of a turtle on the sand. If the performance would not have satisfied a critical eye, it had at any rate the merit of being dashed off with a free hand. One of our party then drew the outline of a horse, which sorely puzzled them. One of the men stood more than six feet, and most of them were above the medium height. All were badly shaped and skinny. Most of them had that peculiarity mentioned by Stokes respecting the natives of Dampier's Land of having their eyes nearly closed, the result of continually keeping them almost shut to exclude the flies; so that to look at any one in the face they throw their heads back, and elevate their chins. Their friendliness almost amounted to affection, and they were obedient to our requests. Their spears were unbarbed. They had short pointed sticks from one to two feet in length, that they informed us were used for stabling turtles. We shot beautiful crested dove here. Rock oysters were abundant. We found an oyster of a remarkable kind, of the size of an ordinary oyster of this coast, but with a thinner, smoother shell. The fish was yellow, and in places a very bright yellow; and there was a tuft of bristles passing quite under the fish, and overlapping the upper edge. One of the natives told us they were excellent cooked, but in a raw state were objectionable. There were wallabies in the rocks. The hills were composed of piles of loose rocks. There was ironstone and talc, and in places limestone. Scarcely any timber; but in hollows, through which a dry watercourse ran, there were stunted gum trees. There were a few mangroves near the shore. All along the island were a succession of stony hills. In the evening we prepared to start, and not having been able to find any signs of a settlement, were determined to make for Clampton Bay. We had about 60 lbs. of flour, 22 lbs. rice of the worst quality, and two or three pounds of oatmeal and maize. We determined, after finishing the two latter articles to put ourselves on three pints of flour and rice per diem for the whole of us. Having taken in wood and water, we went on board, and lay at anchor for the night.

23rd.—At daylight weighed anchor, and rounding a point steered W.S.W. for what appeared an opening ahead of us. After four or five miles got into shallow water—one and a-half to two fathoms. Passed several low, square, rocky islets, and a grassy island. Tried an opening to the north abreast of us. On reaching it found it very narrow—not above 20 yards wide. The current was very strong—at least eight miles an hour. Sometimes there were three fathoms of water, and then rocks three feet from the surface. We lowered sail on approaching, but the current was so powerful the only course was to go through the channel. We backed water with the oars, and shoved the boat off the rocks as she rushed through like a racehorse. We then found that instead of being in the open sea we were surrounded on all sides by islands and reefs, except to the east, the direction from which we came. We turned in that direction, and the wind being against us pulled till nearly midday, when we were past the last night's anchorage, and had a full view of our old landing-place. Cooked oatmeal and flour. We lit the fire in a campoven, and boiled in a bucket. We boiled everything to make it go further. About 1.30 took to the oars again, and continued pulling till after 4 p.m., when the wind enabled us to sail. At sunset there was a strong current against us, and we anchored between Legendre and Delambre Islands in 11 fathoms water. Both islands are rocky but grassy on their surface. The passage between Legendre and Haay Islands appeared impracticable on account of breakers. A N.W. breeze during the night made us anxious; we could not help thinking of the much-dreaded N.W. Cape, and feared the most dangerous wind had set in.

24th.—At daylight found to our joy that the wind had shifted to the S.E., and that we had probably taken leave of Nicol Bay with its dreary and desolate looking scenery. Steered N. by W. about four miles, N.W. seven miles, W.N.W. ten miles, then W. at 11.30 Delambre Island out of sight. At 3.30 steered W.S.W., the farther point of Legendre Island bearing S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. Wind died away in the evening. Light and variable winds through the night.

25th.—Glorious sunrise over clouds reflecting from their edges the most varied and brilliant hues. Light fleecy clouds in all parts of the sky, interspersed with others of a darker color. Turtle about. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 27'$ . Rocky Point, Enderby Island, bearing S. by E.; wind, E.N.E. At sunset cloud banks and dark scud all round. Winds light and variable all night.

26th.—Variable winds all the forenoon and ceasing altogether after midday till evening. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 35' 30''$ ; dark scud floating about at dusk; variable winds all night; crops of rain. The dew were not so heavy after reaching Nicol Bay.

27th.—At daylight, saw rocky isles to the S.E. Porpoises and snakes about the boat. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 40' 23''$ .

Light and variable winds all day and night. Stormy petrels flying round. Night cold with heavy dew.

28th.—At daylight, saw on our left the north-east island of five tending to the south-west. Immense shoals of fish rising and playing on the surface of the water, and making a noise like a tempest. Latitude at noon,  $20^{\circ} 59'$ . Went to the island we sighted at daylight, and landed. Plenty of driftwood and large bushes. Took in firewood. The island had a ridge of sandhills running round it, and plain in the middle, with spinifex and other worthless vegetation growing on it. There were curlews on shore, but very shy. We shot four seabirds in the water, but the strong current took them away before we had a chance to get them. Abundance of turtle close to the beach; if we could have stopped at night, we could have supplied ourselves, but a fair breeze springing up between 3 and 4 p.m., we set sail with three fishhawk's eggs and some firewood, as the reward of six miles rowing and a loss of eight miles on our course. We had islands on our right; the five on our left are called Rocky Isles, but they have merely a few rocks round their base, and grass or vegetation of some kind on their summits. The whole coast about here is studded with islands. Wind lulled at 7 and died away.

29th.—Just after midnight a fine breeze came from the S.E., and we had a splendid run all night. During the forenoon it shifted till it stopped at N.E. Course, S.W. At 11 a.m. passed a sandy island, S.E. by S. Immediately afterwards saw bottom, and sounded from one and a half to four fathoms, and then passed into deep water. Abundance of turtle. Breakers to the south-east. A reef extends fully three miles north-east from the island, which is seven or eight miles, according to the chart, from the Rosilly Island of the French. Latitude at noon,  $21^{\circ} 19' 28''$ . Breeze freshened till our jurmast, made of an oar, cracked, and had to be stayed. At 1 p.m. Thouvenard Island on our port bow. During the afternoon passed a line of low sandy islands, keeping them to the east. About 10 p.m. saw a sandy island, unnamed. Shortened sail, so as to round the Cape in the morning. Pleasant night. Wind at midnight from S.E.

30th.—Cold towards morning. At daylight sighted Muiron Island, and passed between the island and Cape, within two miles of the former. The island, or rather islands—for there are two—low, grassy, without timber, and with shelving shores. Approaching the Cape the land looks bold, but is still higher along the Exmouth Gulf. On the gulf shore hills looked wooded, and smoke was visible. Turned west about 8 a.m., and took in the mainsail. At noon we had well rounded the Cape. Lat.  $21^{\circ} 49' 52''$ . We had a beautiful run round. There were sandhills along the shore, both on the gulf and ocean sides, as far as we could see. Heavy breakers on the shore. Fine night. Passed Point Cloates at 11.30 p.m. Nearly drifted on a reef. All night heard the roar of the breakers.

July 1.—At daylight could see the spray rising up like mist-clouds. Latitude at noon,  $23^{\circ} 8' 18''$ . We had been running within from five to eight miles from the shore, and the coast from the North-west Cape to this point was as wretched-looking as any part of the continent, barren, desolate, treeless, and of a dingy brown color. I knew it was the season when in those latitudes Australian landscape would have a withered appearance, but here were large patches without any vegetation whatever. About that line of coast, there is no element of the sublime to redeem its horrible barrenness. A long range of 600 feet elevation; no ruggedness, no beetling crag, no steep mountain or dark ravine, no chasm or overhanging precipice. The hills are smoothed with a dull uniformity of height, and appear to be elevated only to render more conspicuous their sterility and monotonous hideousness. Twenty-five miles from the Cape the hills looked a little more irregular, but there was the same absence of forest, the same appearance of desolation.

2nd.—At daylight, could indistinctly see the coast through the haze and mist—to the north were perpendicular cliffs; to the south lower land, trending away in a kind of bight, and then coming out in the form of bold cliffs of reddish-white color. Passed Cape Cuyler, and Cape Cuyler of the French. The view was indistinct up to this point, but the land appeared desolate—partly cliffs, partly steep slopes, with sandhills here and there. Latitude at noon,  $24^{\circ} 22'$ . The wind was N.W. in the afternoon, and we steered for Shark's Bay, and ran under the shelter of the Bernier and Dorre Islands, the former of which we sighted between 3 and 4 p.m. Cold afternoon, and calm night.

3rd.—At daylight, had passed Bernier Island, and had Dorre Island on our right—distant about 10 miles. Shores steep and cliffy, some of the cliffs being extremely white. There appeared to be scrub or stunted timber about the island. We found soundings at 6, 5, 4, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  fathoms and then anchored, there being a calm. After leaving Nicol Bay the most common wind had been S.E., or from that to E.S.E.; but the wind went all round the compass nearly every day, and often stood a long while at N.E. We were perpetually in fear of its setting in from the N.W., and no colonial Saxbys—no mariners ever watched the signs of the weather more earnestly than we did. Before anchoring we had great success with the gun, having shot seven shags. We also caught three fish of

a peculiar species, weighing about 12 or 14 lbs. each, something like a cod, particularly about the head. They had no scales, and the skin had a shiny appearance, with black spots. They distended their stomachs with wind, and then let them collapse. We did not like the look of the creatures, but the flesh appeared wholesome, and we determined to run all risk and feed on them. Just after anchoring we caught a schnapper, and looking into the water saw shoals, and pulled up 23 in less than that number of minutes. We desisted from motives of humanity, for we had as many as we could use, or we might have filled the boat in a short time. We now threw away our spotted friends. We discovered afterwards that they were called blow-fish, and were deadly poison. In the afternoon commenced boiling the schnapper. We were ravenous, and while the boiling was in progress every one clustered round the fire and grilled and toasted for himself. We had two bollings, and altogether we eat nine large schnapper weighing at least 50 lbs., when we felt satisfied. Wind set in S.E. dead against us if outside the bay, so we remained at anchor.

4th.—After sailing a few miles along the island we anchored for the rest of the day and all night. We gorged on schnapper, of which we caught 14 more, when sharks drove them from the ground. Schnapper, blowfish, and shags, all fed on crabs, as we found on opening them. Latitude at noon,  $25^{\circ} 7'$ . Cold weather; we were glad to wear our top-coats.

5th.—After a beautiful night, a glorious sunrise, and a warm balmy day. Wind being E., we sailed at early dawn, going along within two miles of the island. The shores were low cliffs of rock, partly loose and partly solid; inland grassy with bushes. The nearer we were to the island the more bare of timber it appeared. Still feeding on schnapper. Water smooth, but we felt a swell as we approached the channel between the island and Dampier's Reef. At 10.30, the wind dying away, we anchored in seven and a half fathoms water. The anchorages in this bay are sandy, often with great quantities of weed. From the point of the island a reef runs out about two miles. Land abreast of us showed hills, with sloping summits very bare of bushes or grass. Ahead, at the point of the island, the ground was much higher. Starting, after a short time we saw Dirk Hartog's Island about 1 p.m. Saw a large whale. Turning the point of the island the sight of the breakers was grand. Some rose in columns to a great height; others broke in high bodies of water, and foamed over the rocks. The whole of the west half of the point seemed enveloped in spray and mist. We listened to the tremendous roaring, and felt thankful we had not tried the passage in the night-time. At sunset the wind ceased, and we rowed till 9 p.m., when a light S.E. breeze started, and during the night we got through the channel and put the boat on her course, S.S.E.

6th.—In the morning the sea was rather rough, with a long swell on. Dirk Hartog's Island had a mist over it all the forenoon. It is high land, appearing like ranges of hills, dark and gloomy. Occasionally we could see the steep cliffs overhanging the sea. About mid-day we were off the false entrance between the island and the mainland. Latitude at noon  $26^{\circ} 9' 45''$ . The coast on the mainland is low, sandhills near the points, then low yellowish cliffs, their summits showing dry grass but perfectly bare of timber. Snakes followed us, and albatrosses sailed round the boat. Finished our schnapper, those uncooked having become uneatable. The shags stood on the 3rd we cut up and stewed with rice. The preparation of this dish was quite sufficient for your correspondent; the flesh was red and rank; I shall never forget the odour; for several days all creation seem flavoured with shag. One of the party was ill, but the remaining five devoured the whole of the delightful preparation, two-thirds of a bucketful at a meal, and pronounced it delicious—infinity to be preferred to the insipid schnapper. It was a pure matter of taste. During the night weather alternately cloudy and fine; light winds most of the night.

7th.—Towards daylight the breeze freshened. About an hour before dawn took in the mainsail. Wind N.E., getting stronger during the forenoon, and the sea very rough. We had got out 20 miles from land, and the sea being on our broadside we received a good wetting. About 10 a.m. the weather moderated, and soon after the sun came out, and the sky lost its wintry appearance; even the wind was warm. Latitude at noon,  $27^{\circ} 18'$ . In the afternoon wind N.W., and weather threatening. All longing to reach Champion Bay before a burester came on. We pulled in towards the coast, and ran within seven or eight miles of it. Land high, but the atmosphere was so hazy we could see little of it. Sometimes we saw cliffs, and timber in places. We saw smoke on shore, the first since leaving Exmouth Gulf. Plenty of albatrosses and a few cape pigeons. In the latter part of the afternoon the land became more distinct, and we could see the green foliage of trees. Passed Gantheaume Bay about 7.30. Although before moonrise could make it out distinctly. We had a splendid run during the night, hugging the shore, with a smart breeze and a high sea in our favor. After passing Gantheaume Bay the limestone hills were very conspicuous, and had a strange effect by the light of the clouded moon. They were lofty and white, with dark summits. Noticed Shoal

Point. Passed, without observing them, Port Gregory and the mouth of the Hutt River. During the night the wind shifted once or twice, and on one occasion the juremast cracked, and nearly went over the side. Just afterwards an oar that was being used for a boom broke in half, striking the watch on the head, knocking him into the bottom of the boat, and occasioning a flow of the circulating fluid from the nasal organ.

8th — Morning broke unpromisingly, with a mist so dense that we could not see the land at the distance of a quarter of a mile. We feared that in the fog we should pass Champion Bay without seeing it, but at last we recognised in what looked like a cloud-bank the high land, and, after a heavy shower of rain had to a great extent cleared away the mist, we were refreshed by a delightful view of lofty and picturesque ranges. We were prepared, from all we had heard of Western Australia, to find a barren coast; but we saw that whether this part of the coast were fertile or otherwise, it presented a bold and varied scenery. There were hill and valley, peak and bluff, long ranges, flat topped hills, trees scattered over the upper portions of the elevations, and heather upon the mountain side. The effect of this view upon us, after the dreariness and desolation of the coast we had left behind, was enchanting. Then the mist came over us again, obscuring all the view, and leaving only the dull outline of the coast. Once more it partially cleared, and we saw in the distance Mount Fairfax and the Pinnacle, with other hills of strange shapes. Hugging the shore we passed over a shoal marked on the chart, with five fathoms of water on it, and a rough sea. Shortly after this we perceived a green spot in the scrub, then discovered a hut, and found that the verdant patch was a cultivation paddock. How welcome was this first sign of civilization after 1,600 miles of wild ocean and desert shore. The coast after this took a sweep, and we struck for a distant point of land with a reef stretching out from it. In vain endeavoring to reconcile our course with the chart, we suddenly saw houses, then flagstuffs, shipping, and a jetty. At last our toils, privations, and perils were over. We turned our boat for the jetty, and disregarding the buoys to our left, sailed over the end of the reef, on the south-west side of the bay, with soundings at from three and three-quarters to five fathoms, till we got regular bottom at six fathoms, which lasted till we nearly reached the shore, when it shoaled suddenly. Our arrival created great excitement. It was at first thought that ours was a whaleboat from Port Gregory; but the course we steered, and the fact of our taking soundings, proved us to be strangers. Nearly all the population were on the beach to meet us, of course thinking we were part of

a wrecked crew, and 50 willing hands helped to drag our boat on shore. Our story was soon told, and we were loaded with expressions of kindly welcome and offers of assistance and although undoubtedly we presented a suspicious appearance the authorities did not trouble us with enquiries till we had been warmed by the fire and comforted with the good cheer of mine host Baston, whose excellent hotel we can recommend to travellers as one where they will meet with excellent accommodation and the most studied attention to their comfort. After satisfying the claims of hunger we proceeded, according to our several tastes, to give ourselves the appearance of civilized beings. Before the metamorphosis was completed in my case, I was waited upon by a functionary, who enquired if I was the ringleader of the party. I looked steadily at him, as if for an explanation, when he modified the ex. reason by lopping off the first syllable, and dwelt upon the extreme importance of caution and vigilance in a convict colony. I satisfied him, however, by showing my clearance from Camden Harbor, and still further reassured his mind by allowing him to see Her Majesty's mail for Fremantle. The day continued rainy and cold, and rendered doubly grateful the warmth and shelter we had found after our weary voyage. In the evening several of us visited the Mechanics Institute, and buried ourselves for hours among the colonial, but, of course, more particularly the Adelaide Journals. Those who in our own beautiful city have been accustomed to their morning and evening paper, will hardly appreciate the zest with which we devoured several months' news, with all their topics of interest, including the rise and fall of Ministries, the accidents by flood and field, the catastrophe that had befallen Panton's party, the deaths of great men in the old country, and the momentous news from America. We returned very late to our inn, and felt thankful that the voyage of the Forlorn Hope had ceased. Our crew was disbanded. A better lot never pulled together. Under Providence we were all much indebted for our lives to the skill and judgment of John White, and to his coolness in times of the greatest possible danger; and we felt thankful we had the assistance of another British tar, James Davis. To my friends, Messrs. Hamilton and McClinn, who took observations and laid down our course, we owed the exactness with which we ascertained our position, and pursued our way. To their assistance I owe much in preparing this journal, and to their labors is to be attributed the accuracy that must constitute its chief value. Those who were neither seamen nor navigators did their duty as Englishmen, and the recollections of the perils we have faced, and the hardships we have endured together, will form a tie that time can only strengthen.

## NOTES ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

We spent a week at Champion Bay, and I will give the result of my observations without reference to dates. The day after our arrival was Sunday, and the town was remarkably quiet. There is a small church used during the week as a schoolroom, but Geraldton is at present without a clergyman, the incumbent having lately left. The church service is usually performed by the Resident Magistrate, but he being absent, there was no public worship on the Sunday we were at Geraldton. The bell tolled, and the convicts were marched to the church, but returned unedified and unprayed for. I walked about the township, across grassy flats, and over sandhills, with their vegetation of bushes, including small tree, sarsaparilla, the hibiscus, and many other shrubs. Among hills of white sand are wells of the purest water. From the highest sandhills I had a fine view of the country. Eastward were the Pinnacle, and Mount Fairfax—two remarkable looking hills forming landmarks for mariners at a great distance from the bay. In the distance were dark ranges, and leading to them large plains and tracts of tableland, apparently scrubby, but really comprising blocks of good pastoral and agricultural soil. Some holdings were pointed out to me, but they were distant and far apart. Turning from this view the harbor next strikes the eye, the reef on the south side extending and curving round so as to afford complete shelter for vessels. No accident has ever happened to a ship in this harbor. During our stay a schooner was building near the jetty, and the launching had commenced when we left. The Sea Wave, by which we sailed for Fremantle, arrived with timber. There were a number of boats anchored about the bay or drawn up on the beach. The town of Geraldton consists of about 60 houses, nearly all of them built of stone. Some are extensive and substantial buildings, the principal one being Mr. Crowther's stores, opposite the jetty. In Adelaide we have hardly any merchant's buildings more extensive than these. There is a large store more to the eastward, and two or three smaller ones about the town. There are two inns—the Geraldton Hotel, kept by Mr. Baston, where your correspondent and others of the boat party took up their quarters, and Mr. Kidley's Inn, at which the rest of the crew of the Forlorn Hope found accommodation, and where they enjoyed all the comfort they could in more advanced townships. West of the Jetty is the Court-House—a long low building, built after the true Australian pattern; and opposite is the church, a small erection, of which the style of architecture is extremely simple and unpretending. Still further west is the house of the Resident Magistrate, a capacious one-storied dwelling, with several acres of lawn attached, and surrounded by a stone wall. Other private residences complete this part of the town. At the back, on a high hill is the flagstaff, from the summit of which at night-time a lantern gives a feeble light. A quarter of a mile eastward of the Geraldton Hotel and the business part of the township are the convict buildings and the residence of the Assistant-Superintendent. All around are sandhills. The climate is wonderfully healthy; the air pure and bracing. The juvenile population look plump and strong, though few of them are ruddy. Diphtheria had visited the district, and had been fatal in some instances. The natives looked strong and muscular, and their clean-built frames, open intelligent countenances, and large full eyes, were a treat to us after seeing the skinny, illshaped, bear-eyed specimens of humanity at Nicol Bay. They are a lively joyous race. We saw the greatest number on Sunday, and their notions of Sabbath observance seemed rather Parisian than English. All seemed to be in a happy mood, laughing, singing, and even dancing. One sat on the summit of one of the highest hills chanting his corroboree, and beating time with sticks. At a distance were two going through some peculiar terpsichorean performances. Others met us as they were indulging in melodies of a somewhat monotonous character. Of one vocalist we begged a translation of the ditty he had been warbling; but after hesitating some time, he expressed it as his opinion that it was impossible for the aborigines and Europeans to make themselves mutually intelligible in poetry. This did not satisfy me, remembering the charming translations of Sir George Grey. Some of the blacks make efficient constables, and during our stay at Geraldton they captured several of their countrymen on a charge of cattle stealing. I was in Court for a few minutes while this charge was under investigation, and was struck with the perfect acquaintance with the English language displayed by the native interpreter. The Magistrate did not, in conversing with him, use any other phraseology than one would find in talking to an English laborer. I visited the penal establishment with the Resident Magistrate, from whom I received a great deal of kindness, and much valuable information. The felons and their keepers are accommodated in a collection of substantial stone buildings. We first saw the local prison, with lofty cells for holding three prisoners each, and dark cells for

solitary confinement. Here I was shown irons of different weights for refractory prisoners. None were suffering this penalty during my visit. We next examined the gaol for Imperial convicts, an extensive lofty building, ventilated by a large square opening at each end, guarded by iron bars. The bedssteads or bunks were in two tiers, and the building formed only one apartment, in which all the prisoners slept—an arrangement so universally condemned in the other colonies during the reign of convictism. The hospital was roomy and comfortable. Ten or a dozen miserable looking men were in it for various complaints; the most common being debility. The kitchen, stores, and stables were kept in perfect order. The officers' quarters were spacious and comfortable. In every department perfect neatness and cleanliness met the eye. A stone wall ran round the whole of the public buildings, and outside, but close to this, was a quarry, where some prisoners were working. Other parties were employed on the road between the Bay and the mines. Apart from the establishment were the house and garden of Mr. Snowden, the Assistant Superintendent. On the 12th I started for the mines with several settlers. Our road lay northward, and parallel with the shore for some 10 or 12 miles; and we travelled over deep sand, and through scrub full of flowers of many varieties, and of every shape and hue. The banksia tree was very beautiful—it resembles our honeysuckle, and even the blossom is of the same shape, cylindrical, but of most brilliant colours, varying from scarlet, or more commonly crimson, to purple. Some kinds are of a palish pink, with longitudinal stripes of crimson. Thousands of birds filled the air with their music. Like all the winged musicians of Australia, their songs were brief and the notes few, but this was to a great extent compensated for by the immense number of the performers, and the variety of their melodies. We crossed the Chapman five or six miles from the bay; it had very little fresh water in it. About nine miles from Champion Bay the country begins to improve, and after going over a couple of miles of good grass country we came to Mr. Drummond's, one of the earliest settlers in that part of the colony. To him the district owes much for his management of the natives in the infancy of the settlement. When they were hostile and treacherous he acquired so wonderful an ascendancy over their minds by his fearless bearing and perfect acquaintance with their customs, habits, and character, that he was at all times able single-handed to make any capture he wished, till at last the aborigines became reconciled, or submitted to European ascendancy and occupation of the land. We did not see the stock on this run, but the homestead was extensive and looked like that of a prosperous settler. Mr. Drummond cultivates a vineyard of some acres, and we tasted a sound full-bodied wine, made from the Shiraz, that when mature, will be excellent. After leaving this station we visited a young vineyard several miles further north, in a sandy hill, where the prospect of having healthy vines, or a large yield of grapes, appeared to me very small. We next saw a copper mine of Mr. Drummond's, from which we took a fine specimen of black ore. There were a few men working at this mine, and it looked very promising. We crossed the Bowles River by an excellent bridge. The water was low, and the river, like most in that part of the colony, was simply a chain of ponds. We went through a number of creeks during the day, and in the evening stopped at Hoskins's Hotel, centrally situated in the mining district. The following morning, under the guidance of Dr. Elliot, I visited the Wheel Fortune Mine, where we met Captain Penberthy, who was succeeding in turning out some very fine ore. The crushing machine was at work. The water was not so troublesome as at many of our mines, and the facilities for drainage admirable. This is the leading mine of the district, and is being worked by an English Company. Some of the ore is of high quality, exceeding 40 per cent., and has realized £35 per ton at Swansea. At the Yanganoka we obtained specimens of grey and peacock ore, and observed the operations that were being carried on with every prospect of success. The Gwala to the south-east of the Wheel Fortune was turning out good black ore; and this, with visiting two or three abandoned shafts, completed our inspection of the mines in this part of the district. Judging from what I saw, I believe that the country to the north and north-east of Champion Bay would prove rich in paying mines were there capital found to work them, but there are really no capitalists in Western Australia. Two or three thousand is generally about all that can be raised to work a mine, and often far less; then if there is not sufficient ore raised to carry on the expenses, the mine is necessarily abandoned. I doubt if so much money has been spent on all the mines in the district. I visited also the New Cornwall Association have expended in their operations. Copper is the principal mineral in that part of Western Australia, but there are quantities of lead in some of the shafts. Malleable

copper has lately been discovered on the surface over a considerable piece of country near the Irwin, and the discoverer has taken out a lease of several hundred acres. Nearly all the mining country I passed over was excellently grassed, some of it suitable for wheat. There was a good deal of the poison plant, but principally on patches of stony ground, and about the higher hills. The sheep had to be tended close to keep them fit. The sheep are large and long-wooled, but scarcely a flock can be found wholly free from scab. The squatters resort a good deal to local dressings, and a flock I saw were daubed and spotted about as if with the idea of checking to some extent the progress of the disease, instead of curing it. The settlers almost universally see the necessity for a Scab Act. The country I travelled over was the high land I had seen from the boat, and it did not appear so wild and picturesque as when viewed from the sea. After leaving the plain, we ascended by a succession of slopes till we reached a considerable elevation, and then steep bluffs rose up apparently from 100 to 250 feet above us. The timber is small in and about the beds of creeks, stunted gum—elsewhere, the timber consisted principally of different species of wattle. There are terebinths, and another wood that we should describe as a species of teatree, but what is here called ironbark. Among the shrubs and plants were hibiscus, sarsaparilla, and the Sturt pea. The grass is similar to that in our hilly country, and the runs appear to be understocked. The rocks are principally granite and ironstone. To the south of Geraldton, about 20 miles distant, are the Grenough Flats, running along the river of that name, where about 30,000 acres of rich agricultural land are under cultivation. I regret that I had not time to visit that part of the country. The Champion Bay district is considered the pick of Western Australia. It was spoken of in high terms by Sir George Grey, but his reports were contradicted. For the last seven or eight years I have received repeated testimony to the accuracy of his descriptions of the land he explored, and the settlement of Champion Bay has afforded, perhaps, the most remarkable instance of his truthfulness and sound judgment having been recognised after years of misrepresentation. I looked in at the Court-House at Gwalia, where justice was administered in a manner that left authors no reason to complain of the law's delays. Between 50 and 60 cases, civil and criminal, were disposed of between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The lock-up was small, and scarcely equal to the requirements of the district. In the evening I went with nearly all the Magistrate of the district to the station of Mr. Burgess, a J.P. and leading settler, whose homestead is prettily situated on the Bowes River. There was abundance of water; the country undulated and well-grassed; large patches of wattles were sprinkled over the slopes, and at a short distance were ranges of hills. The house was large and roomy; all the buildings, including barn, stable, huts, &c., were well-built, and well arranged; large cultivation paddocks stretched away in indifferent directions. A flour mill worked by six horses was in operation. In the stables I was shown a thoroughbred horse, powerful, short in the barrel, and with splendid legs under him. Some good mares were about the yards. The whole establishment looked very much like the home-station of one of our prosperous squatters. Here we stayed for a night, and taking leave of our kind host on the morning of the 14th, returned to Geraldton by a somewhat different route, travelling nearer to the sea, keeping the White Peak on our left, and passing close to the hut and paddock that gladdened our eyes on the morning we concluded our weary boat voyage. At a spring on the road we met Mr. Von Birna, the only settler on the Murchison, who is a successful breeder of horses for the Indian market. He had with him a supply of ales and spirits, of which he hospitably invited us to partake. Having, during the morning, had the principles of the Permissive Liquor Law, expounded to us at great length by an amiable enthusiast we availed ourselves of his provisions. Reaching the Bay late in the afternoon we found that the Sea Bird, a timber barge, was to sail in the evening for Fremantle. Five of the Forlorn Hope crew collected, leaving behind Messrs. Hamilton and Blake, who intended following for some time, the avocation of photographers, and went on board about 10 p.m. There being no wind we lay at anchor all night, tacking slowly out of the bay next morning, and so left Champion Bay with its pleasant recollections, and the friendships we had formed during our short sojourn. The settlers were frank, hospitable, genial, abounding in all those virtues that find their highest development in young or struggling settlements.

On the 16th, we passed low coast, and in the evening, ran into a small bay, just past the mouth of the Irwin, where we were sheltered behind formidable reefs and breakers. There was a landmark erected on a hill at this bay. I gained much information at Geraldton and on this vessel respecting the coast we had passed in our boat. The skipper, Mr. Cooper, had commanded the Flying Foam, that carried the exploring party under Dr. Martin, to the Glendy and other places, and knew almost every foot of the coast. We learnt that there were no settlers within forty or fifty miles of Nicol Bay, the settlement being at Tien Tsin Harbor, near Depuch Island.

There was a passage between Dirk Hartog's Island and the main land—a fact we were unaware of, it being marked on the chart as False Entrance. On the main land at Shark's Bay we should have found a party collecting guano; and there was a squatter's station being formed some distance inland. I found also that the natives on that coast were exceedingly cunning and dangerous. At Nicol Bay on one occasion, thinking the whites were unarmed, they endeavored to make them lead the way down a rocky descent, intending probably to throw stones after them. The sight of a brace of pistols, however, had a happy effect, and, adopting the better part of valor, they preceded their white visitors down the hill. At Exmouth Gulf they attacked a party, including Mr. Cooper and some settlers, wounding the former, and it was necessary to fire on them repeatedly with effect before they fled. We had a long passage to Fremantle, and did not sight Rottnest Island till 1.20 p.m. on the 20th. It looked low and scrubby as we approached, but I understand that on the side nearest the mainland it is prettier looking and more fertile. There is a Governor's residence here, but as we passed in the dark we did not see it. After tacking about all night, we anchored at dawn close to the Fremantle Jetty. There were about 14 small craft, principally cutters, near the shore. Farther out were a barque and a brig. A vast number of boats of every size and shape, and every variety of rig, were anchored or hauled up on the beach. Launching the Forlorn Hope, we pulled to the jetty, landed, and according to a request that the proper authority afterwards assured us was made under a misapprehension—it being supposed we were a shipwrecked crew—proceeded to give some account of ourselves at the Police Office. We then went to mine Host Hicks's, a large well-furnished hotel, where we rested before surveying the town. Fremantle is compact, with good substantial buildings, without much pretension to architectural beauty. The people seem dreadfully addicted to stucco. One can see at a glance that the best buildings belong to the Government, and are the result of Imperial expenditure. The town is painfully quiet, and there appears less bustle than in Wallaroo or Gawler. We met here a number of friends of Adelaide people, who welcomed us heartily, and eagerly professed more kindness than we could have availed ourselves of in far more time than that occupied by our stay in Fremantle and Perth. Perth is distant from Fremantle 12 miles, and a steamer runs to and from each place twice a day. A mailcart also travels to each town morning and afternoon. We took the second steamer, and enjoyed the trip up the river very much. There were scrubby hills occasionally, but large timber appeared about the flats, gullies, and hillsides. Here and there were pretty clearings and neat cottages. In one place, on a spot excavated from the hills, and close to the water's edge, were several buildings forming a small convict depot. About halfway from Fremantle the Swan takes a sudden turn to the right, and from this point we had a full view of the blue hills of the Darling Range. There is rather too much uniformity of height and general appearance about this range, but it is still a pleasing feature in the landscape. After the bend in the river, the scenery generally improves, and we pass green paddocks, houses lying back in the wood, or adorning the clearings; picturesque hills and rocky banks, till we reach Perth, a well-planned, clean little town, admirably situated on rising ground on the bank of the river. Here before landing I met and was cordially welcomed by a well-known South Australian (Mr. George Leake), now Solicitor-General and Police Magistrate. Being introduced to a Post-Office official in the street I handed to him the mail from Camden Harbor. It contained duplicates of despatches that had been sent by a vessel that had not arrived at Fremantle at the time of my departure for the Sound. Our arrival necessarily created great excitement in Perth; the continued bad news from Camden Harbor, and the scarcely less disastrous intelligence from Adam Bay, together with the details of our extraordinary and almost miraculous escape from that place of horrors, would necessarily form absorbing topics of conversation. Adam Bay and the Forlorn Hope filled the public journals and were in the mouths of everybody. I had the honor of waiting on the Governor, who received me kindly, and took the most lively interest in the prospects of our new country. The most important work of the Government and people of Western Australia now is the settlement of their own northern territory. In this they are now likely to be successful. The country at Robb Bay, though flat, leads away over a vast extent of good pasture into higher land. The sheep and other stock there are looking well. At Tien Tsin there is good pasture land, but it appears very limited in extent. I met Mr. Maitland Brown, the great explorer of that colony, from whom and from Mr. Kenneth Brown I obtained a fund of information respecting the West Australian coast, and the country going back from it.

Rambling about Perth, and enjoying the hospitality of its citizens, would have occupied a much longer time than I had at my disposal. The town looks so still that one wonders how the inhabitants employ themselves. I seldom noticed a vehicle in the street, and only once saw any one on horseback, and he was a mailman. There are some tolerably

large buildings, but none that attracted much attention except Government House—a lofty building faced with brick and with stone dressings. Having begged professional information, I am able to describe it as being ornamented with towers in the domestic Tudor style, the angle turrets being Elizabethan. The Government offices were a modest imitation of our old three-sided block of erections in Victoria-square. There are one or two neat looking churches and chapels. The great difficulty in building at Perth is that there is no good stone within a reasonable distance. There is nothing striking about the places of business. Ladies will be distressed to hear that there is no draper's shop either at Perth or Fremantle; nothing but those arrangements called general stores, where currants are sold at one counter and crinoline at the other. I went to the Police Court, where justice was administered with promptitude. There were no people present but witnesses, convicts, prisoners, and police. No morbid curiosity draws an audience to that temple of justice; no feeling of levity induces idle people to consider it a legitimate place of entertainment. The offences were few, and for the most part trifling. All the offenders were convicts; one was remanded on a charge of having the clothes of some fellow-prisoner in his possession; two or three were fined for being drunk; and another was sentenced to three months' imprisonment as a rogue and a vagabond. The charge sheet for the preceding three months had been very light, the most serious case being that of a man who was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for forgery. This genius was possessed of considerable energy and determination, and soon afterwards escaped, and was discovered with burglar's tools in his possession, when he was sentenced to an additional three months' imprisonment, and 100 lashes. He was next found with a knife or dagger, with which he entertained the pious intention of removing the Police Magistrate from the scene of his earthly toils and anxieties, and was accordingly rewarded with yet another three years' accommodation at Government expense, and another 100 lashes. I had heard a good deal of the innocence of the convict population, but the appearance and expression of countenance of those I saw at Court did not propound me in their favor. I had scarcely leisure to decide upon their merits on phrenological principles, but Lavater would certainly have dealt with them in the most summary manner. Before leaving Perth I returned to Fremantle and visited the great gal of the colony, over which Mr. Leffroy, the Superintendent of Convicts, kindly showed me. It is a capacious and lofty building, capable of holding 1,200 prisoners; but there are seldom 400 in it at once. It is four-storied, or has four tiers of cells, into some of which I entered. Each prisoner had a separate apartment; and there were dark cells for the refractory and those sentenced to solitary confinement. I went into the kitchen; dinner-time was approaching, and the allowance of food was ample.

There was excellent soup, good and wholesome bread, and an abundant supply of butchers' meat. Such is a part of the treatment for serious offences. The convicts are never flogged for laziness, and the amount of work they perform in all parts of the colony is absolutely insignificant in proportion to their numbers. I saw the prisoners drawn up in ranks, to be searched for forbidden articles; this performance is gone through four times a day in winter, and oftener in summer. They were ranged with military precision and exactness; and looking along one of the lines, I had the gratification of viewing all their faces at a glance. Having heard so much of the Swan River convicts, I observed this interesting band with some attention. Most of them were dressed in clothes of the plainest material, ornamented in various places with the everlasting broad arrow. Some, as a reward of personal merit, were distinguished from their comrades by particular ornaments, and were also adorned with chains and anklets of the very brightest steel. These decorations were fastened about their ankles and held up with one hand, and however ornamental, were, to say the least, somewhat cumbersome. To assert that these favored individuals bore their honors meekly would be to fall short of the truth; some appeared subdued and overpowered by the weight of the distinctions bestowed upon them. But there were others who hardly seemed grateful for what they probably felt they had so fully earned; they rather reminded one of meritorious individuals in other departments of the State, who have received too tardy a recognition of their services, and who at last with preference that was as well deserved, and might as fitly have been granted long years before.

I had heard much of convict harmlessness, and without at present giving a decided opinion on the subject, I will say that all these gentlemen had the peculiar expression of countenance observable in all who, in the interests of their country, have suffered an abridgement of their personal liberty—an expression seldom lost, even after years of freedom and prosperity. To complete my acquaintance with the "domestic institution," I visited the Hospital. I understood that indigestion and the disorders arising therefrom were the most common complaints. Confinement produced in men of active habit of mind a derangement of the digestive organs. In one bed was a warder, who had been stabbed, of course in a fit of playfulness, by an inoffensive creature with the Government brand.

After an extensive and careful survey of the favorite

institution of Western Australia I took my departure, and cultivated an acquaintance with the free population of Fremantle; and although it may be considered great prejudice on my part, I thought their society more desirable than that of the people who had arrived at Imperial expense, and on Western Australian invitation.

The day after my arrival at Perth I drove with some friends to Guildford, about 12 miles distant. Just outside the city we crossed the Swan over a well-constructed bridge. Like all Australian rivers, the Swan is liable to tremendous floods, and at times rises much over its apparent and usual limits. Leaving the river, we travelled over an excellent road, in some places planked, through forests of mahogany and red gum, and great numbers of saplings. There were vast quantities of the most beautiful wild flowers, among them blue creepers particularly attracted our notice. The banksia was not in bloom in this part of the country. There were many handsome trees of which I forget the names. A tree called the ironbark was very much like our teatree. A prevailing feature in this part of the country was the blackboy, a plant something like our grass-tree, and what is in that colony called the ground blackboy, having the root and blade of the true blackboy, but not the black gnarled stem. Almost all the land bearing this is considered by the colonists to be worthless, but yet if it is cleared the grass grows, and patches of it have been cultivated with success. The expense of eradicating this weed should not prevent the cultivation of the land, for it would not cost more to clear an acre of that ground than an acre of the wattle country about parts of the Onkaparinga. We saw paddocks growing good crops, and land adjacent, of exactly similar quality, is lying waste. Some of the soil was cold and hungry-looking. Some farmers had drained their ground. Along the flats of the Swan and the Okagee Creek was a great deal of land of the very best quality. As we travelled along, the landscape was lovely; we had frequent views of the river; there were hill and dale, fine stately timber, long reaches of water, and trees with dense foliage overhanging the banks; long flats, stretches of undulating parklike scenery, and in the distance the blue range of the Darling. We found Guildford a pretty township, with a number of cottages and buildings of a more pretentious kind, and a neat little church. Here we called on Dr. Waylen, whose grounds are on the river. The Doctor had an excellent vineyard, kept in admirable order. The soil was a red clay. We visited the cellars, and tasted a wine that was called Fontainebleau, but appeared to be a Burgundy, full-bodied, and of excellent flavor; and a light fruity wine that promised well. After leaving Guildford we drove three or four miles to the estate of Mr. Brockman, at Herne Hill, where we found a hospitable shelter for the night. The following morning we walked over part of the grounds, including an extensive garden, with a plantation of strong healthy vines. Citrons and lemons were flourishing, bananas were thriving; and the orange grew well, but, as in South Australia, required irrigation. There was farming ground of the best description—extensive river flats, one a mile in length. The rising ground on the opposite side of the river looked very beautiful. Returning, we gathered immense quantities of wild flowers. About the river were large flocks of ducks, and crossing the road were numbers of a kind of crane that, I understand, has only appeared of late years. The time passed swiftly away at Perth and Fremantle till the 26th, when we started at about 1 p.m. by the mailcart for the Sound. A number of our kind friends saw us off. I have not thought it desirable to frame this journal after the model of "Sunny Memories," but will content myself with gratefully acknowledging that I experienced in Perth and Fremantle as much kindness as could by any possibility have been compressed into the space of time elapsing between the periods of my arrival and departure. All the members of the boat party who had come to Fremantle started by the same conveyance, which was a common spring-cart drawn by three horses in a line. An immense quantity of luggage was piled up and crammed into the vehicle, rendering it difficult for us to wedge ourselves in. A trooper accompanied us as guard, and was relieved at certain stages. The road from Perth to the Sound runs about S.E.E. We crossed at the Swan, and after a mile or two got into a mahogany country, the soil very worthless—sandy or gravelly. We reached, after 18 miles driving and walking, a small and very rustic looking public-house a little after dark, where we imbibed a villainous mixture called "best stout," evidently some abomination compounded in the colony. Two miles beyond this inn we came to an eating-house, where ample and satisfactory preparations had been made for our arrival. After lying down for an hour we rose and pursued our way, walking a great part of the distance. We passed through grand forests of mahogany and dwarf gum. The former has a bark very much like the stringybark, and, like that tree, is most commonly found on poor stony soils. We crossed over a number of creeks and small streams. A great quantity of rain fell during the night.

Our method of travelling was to stop four or five times during the 24 hours from an hour and a half to two hours at each halting place for the purpose of eating and sleeping, and resting the horses. We stayed at settlers'

huts, at police stations, eatinghouses, convicts' depots, and sometimes camped in the bush. We found our own refreshments, except at one or two eatinghouses.

27th.—Heavy rain till after midday. Travelled through forests of mahogany and gnarled gum. The country all hilly and worthless, even for pasture. There was abundance of granite. We passed many creeks and swamps. Noticed a number of convicts professing to be at work on the road. Evening set in with a young moon and a bright starlight. The enjoyment of travelling among dark hills those along the valleys full of underwood, and through grand and gloomy forests, was somewhat allayed by the feeling of excessive cold. We found it necessary to walk most of the way to keep our feet from freezing.

28th.—This morning our beards were covered with ice or frost, quite hard, and as white as snow. I dare say, to an observer, our appearance would have been picturesque; but coming fresh from the tropics, our sensations were not of the most pleasing kind. Started a number of kangaroos. During the forenoon, about 90 miles from Perth, the country changed, and we travelled through good grazing and agricultural land, broken occasionally by patches of sand. Ten miles farther, we came to the Williams—a nice stream, with cultivation paddocks along it. We stopped at a farmhouse to rest and change horses for the first time, and I inspected the crops. I was told that they had excellent yields of wheat at this farm, exceeding 25 bushels per acre. Leaving the Williams, we passed through good and bad country alternately, much of it being excellent wheat land, and a great deal more well adapted for pasture. A short distance south of the Arthur were a few small farmhouses, at one of which we stopped. Here I understood the crops of wheat were abundant. We crossed the Beauford River and Plains at night, and could see by the moonlight that we were in grassy country. During the night we changed horses again, at a place called Kojunup. We took the precaution of taking off our boots and wrapping our feet in blankets; and so, with halting twice, passed through the night pretty well. Ice on the puddles.

29th.—Saw good country to-day. Banksias and wattles abounded, and there were forests of red gum. The red gum had a very different appearance from that of South Australia, having a very rough and dark-colored bark. Like all large straight-stemmed gums, it is a certain sign of good land. Hundreds of kangaroo, crossed the road during the day. Changed horses for the last time. Frost and ice at night.

30th.—Breakfasted at a convicts' fire. Most of the gang were young men. They had no guard over them, and could, of course, work or play as they liked; but the presence of an overseer would not make much difference in that respect. Here I witnessed an incident that made more impression on my mind than all the chains and broad arrows I had seen. We were some distance from the road, eating, or warming ourselves by the fire, when a man passing quietly along was halted with the enquiry "Who are you?" The reply was that he was looking for some one from whom he expected work. "Come and let me have a look at you," said the trooper. The traveller obeyed, was questioned, and allowed to pass on. Western Australians would think this a trifle, but it would give strangers the uncomfortable feeling of being in an open-air gaol. We got into worthless country early in the morning. During the forenoon saw the hills about the Sound. Passed between Mount Barker on our right and some picturesque hills on our left. About midday stopped at a stream or chain of ponds, where we enjoyed a slight sleep. We were all dreadfully knocked up with incessant travelling and want of repose. The impressions I had formed of the country we had passed over were that for the first 90 miles from Perth the land was worthless. Then we came into good country, and for about 125 miles three-fifths or two-thirds of the land was useful—some for agricultural, and more for pastoral purposes. Most of the good land I saw was lying waste; the last 40 miles before reaching Albany was quite worthless. I gathered on the journey specimens of three different species of the poison plant, which I believe can now be seen in the Museum. They were called respectively the box, the heartleaf, and the common poison. All were about equally poisonous. I learnt that the effect upon sheep is sudden and peculiar. They start running at their utmost speed, and after going for some distance stop for a short time, and then again rush away till they drop dead. It is said that the kangaroo tribe eat the plant with impunity, but that if a dog eats the entrails of a rat or wallaby that has fed on the poison the effect is fatal, and shown in the same manner as in the case of the sheep, by the poisoned dog running till it drops dead. How far these statements are correct I cannot say; but there is no doubt of the deadly effect of the shrub upon sheep and cattle. Horses seldom eat it, and all stock prefer the young leaves. It grows most plentifully on the bad and scrubby country. In good land it is found principally in small patches of stony ground and inferior soil. About seven miles from the Sound we came to a good macadamized road that lasted for five miles, when we got into sand. Soon we saw the outskirts of the town. The horses had bolted on the macadamized road, and upon entering Albany, irritated by the injudicious application of the whip, they repeated the performance. There was no room for a straight run, and a smash seemed

inevitable, when the driver asked a passenger to take the reins of the shaft horse, and he pulling at the leaders, that were harnessed abreast, the team were brought up. We next struck a gate, and immediately afterwards jamming a wheel against the corner of a building, confidence in the guidance of our coachman was so far shaken that we left the cart, and walked up a narrow lane to Strickland's Hotel, where we fed, and then slept for 14 hours.

We stayed at the Sound for a week, and I may as well summarise my observations upon Albany and its vicinity. I walked several times to the summit of Mount Clarence, and enjoyed a magnificent view of the Bay, the shipping, the islands, and the surrounding country. To the north the land is undulating, with a prominent elevation here and there. Surrounding this lower land are high dark ranges, with peaked, conical, and irregular looking hills. On the way to the summit of Mount Clarence is the rock on which Eye stood and overlooked the Sound when he had completed that awful journey along the coast. From this rock the black Wylie cooeyed to his countrymen before they rushed up in transports of joy at finding one whom they had long looked upon as lost. Poor Wylie has been dead ten years. The natives talk about him freely, but I could find none who remembered Eyre. A mile or two from Mount Clarence is the residence of Mr. Edward Spencer, situated prettily among the hills, in a forest of red gnarled gum, with scrub and flowers all around. Here were gardens, drained and cultivated, and looking very well. Beyond this is Frenchman's Bay, with a nice beach running round it. Scrub surrounds the Sound and this Bay, and abounds in wild flowers, including the banksias. There were two vessels in the harbor, with coals—the barque Beatrice and the ship Rocklight, that has obtained a disagreeable notoriety from the mutiny and consequent shooting of one of the sailors. The Rocklight was a magnificent vessel of upwards of 1,700 tons burden. I walked over the coal depot. The ground was floored with slag, and the coal was kept in stacks by walls of the same material. I visited the native school, some distance back from the town. Mr. and Mrs. Camfield manage this humane institution, and gave Mr. McMinn and myself much interesting information respecting the children at this establishment, and the natives in general. Half the pupils were laid up with influenza, and we saw no less than 20 black, half-caste, and quadroon juveniles, with one or two European children, whose parents had deserted them. A married half-caste woman was assisting in the instruction of the scholars. We heard a class of boys, apparently from 9 to 12 years of age, read. They went through the exercise with great deliberation. Some of them spell some long words correctly, and a black girl, of about 15 years of age, read from the New Testament with great fluency. The specimens of their handwriting were remarkably good. Leaving the school we walked to some wurleys, where we mentioned the institution to the natives. One of them, in reply to an observation, pointed to a half-caste woman who had evidently relapsed into aboriginal habits, and said "yes, that's a schoolwoman." The Government Resident, Sir Alexander Campbell, showed me the convict depot; it was arranged on the same principles as the other provincial depots. A number of prisoners were at work about the town, mending other people's ways, if not their own. The Gaol occupies a commanding position on the hill, overlooking the bay and most of the town, as though the citizens were rather proud of the institution. It does not, however, give one the idea of a prison, but looks rather like a country residence. Albany contains from 300 to 400 inhabitants. It is straggling, but the houses look neat and most of them are very white. Strickland's Hotel is about the most conspicuous building. There are two other hotels, and a number of stores and shops, some of them of considerable dimensions. About 11 p.m., on the 2nd instant, the Rangatira arrived with the mails for England. Mr. McMinn and I went on board, and were welcomed as though we had risen from the dead. We heard then of the arrival of the Bengal passengers in Melbourne, and the consequent anxiety respecting the fate of the Forlorn Hope. An hour or two passed swiftly away among friends met under such circumstances. Adelaide news, Adam Bay, the Forlorn Hope, and hot whisky were discussed with great earnestness, and at last we stepped into the boat and returned to the shore. On the 4th the Sa'ette arrived, and sailed with the mails and Adelaide passengers. On Sunday, the 6th inst., as we returned from church, the gun fired, announcing the arrival of the English mail, and in little more than an hour, we were on the Rangatira, steaming for Adelaide. On our arrival at Albany, Mr. McMinn and I had been kindly received by the Resident, and at our urgent request he provided us with credentials for Adelaide, of which the purport was that we were not convicted felons. We afterwards discovered what it was to have visited Western Australia; we were not allowed to land at Glenelg, and at the Port we were obliged to deliver our letters of introduction to a policeman before leaving the steamer. After two days of sea sickness and sleep, I awoke to the responsibilities of my position, and recollecting promises repeated many times, to treat Western Australian affairs in a spirit of justice and candour. The great question associated inseparably with Western Australia is of course that of convictism. As the eastern colonies have already secured the abolition, within a short and

stated period, of transportation to this continent. It may seem superfluous to discuss the question any further, but as our western neighbors assert that the final decision of the Home Government involves a triumph of right over wrong; that what the more powerful colonies failed to win by arguments they extorted by threats; and that an unworthy advantage has been taken of the weak and defenceless position of Western Australia, we are put in some degree upon our defence, and it cannot be altogether useless or superfluous to endeavor to show to our friends that the course we have pursued on this matter is founded on reason and justice.

To treat their complaints with utter silence now we have obtained what we have struggled for, might seem disrespectful and give some color to their assertions that they have failed in a mere trial of strength. We must remember, too, that our neighbors have been tried by long years of adversity, and have all that sensitiveness peculiar to small communities. It is not immaterial to this case to remember the circumstances under which transportation to Western Australia commenced. In New South Wales the system had been discontinued, and every attempt to resume it met with the most strenuous opposition. In Port Phillip the people were goaded almost to insurrection by the avowal on the part of the Home Government of their intention to ship convicts to that colony, and at a monster meeting a venerable colonist made a vow that the first convict who landed on those shores should walk over his dead body. In South Australia the proposition to import Parkhurst boys and Pentonvillians excited the greatest indignation, and at public meetings inflammatory speeches were made, and memorials, embodying the most earnest and determined protests, were forwarded to the Imperial Government. Van Diemen's Land was the last colony to which Britain shipped her felons, but they, after years spent in vain efforts at reform and improvement, were convinced of the rottenness and unutterable horrors of the system, and were determined to free their beautiful island from the degradation of being used as England's cesspool. When once they took this position their efforts were marked by an enthusiasm, a unanimity, and a determination that excited the admiration and sympathy of the other Australian colonies. It was indisputable that transportation to one Australian colony meant transportation to all, and the League was formed to obtain from the British Government the complete abolition of transportation. What years of petition and argument had failed in securing was now wrung from Downing-street by the bold and determined front and united action of these colonies. It was decided that transportation to Australia was finally to cease, and we were to be delivered from the stigma that hung about Australians, in whatever part of the world they travelled. Just at this juncture the smallest colony in the group stepped in—marked the completeness of our triumph, and prevented the perfect freedom of Australia from the foulest blot that ever disfigured the escutcheon of a young community.

The arguments advanced by our Western Australian neighbors in favor of transportation are separable into two classes, those purporting to show that convictism is harmless, and even beneficial to the penal colony itself, and those used to prove that the system cannot injure neighboring colonies.

It will be impossible to be exhaustive upon this subject in the limits within which I intend to confine these notes, but I hope I shall at least be able to show that the resistance of the eastern colonies to the continuance of transportation to any part of the Australian continent, was not unreasonable, and perhaps I may be able to suggest grave doubts as to whether the benefits Swan River has derived from the expenditure connected with convictism, are not more than counterbalanced by the indirect evils resulting from the system.

The argument that the colony has benefited by the expenditure of Imperial funds, is of itself calculated to injure the colony, for it is an admission that the colony is so poor, and so destitute of internal resources, that the settlers are willing to forfeit their self-respect, and bear the stigma attaching to a penal settlement for the sake of the expenditure of English money. It is asserted that employers would not be able to obtain labor were it not for convictism. Now, has it not occurred to those who argue in this way that free labor may have been driven away by the presence of convicts? This is most certainly the case. It is not disputed that every ship that leaves Western Australian ports takes away settlers to other colonies, and on conversing with these emigrants, their principal complaint is that they were obliged to compete in the labor market with felons, under the various titles of prisoners, ticket-of-leave, or conditional pardon men. Then, if so many leave because of convictism, how many are deterred from settling in that colony by the existence of that institution.

Many people may get hardened to the system; employers of labor may find it convenient; but honest laborers and intelligent mechanics will always have an insuperable objection to enter into competition with people with cropped hair and broad arrows. All the remaining arguments in favor of convictism, as it concerns the colony, are principally of a negative kind. It is urged

that property and life are not unsafe; that serious offences are few in proportion to the population. Now there is a great deal of truth in these statements, but it is desirable to consider whether there are not peculiar features in the condition of Western Australia to account for these apparently singular facts, and whether these features are likely to be permanent. Convicts do not commit highway robbery, because few people carry much money about them, and fewer have much to carry. They do not commit burglary because the spoil they would gain would not repay the risk of severe punishment. But a great reason why they do not plunder is that if they took anything but money they would hardly know what to do with it in a small and poor population. They do not commit many assaults of an atrocious kind, because, scattered over a vast extent of country, their instincts find gratification among the native camps. The reason that operates most powerfully in preventing serious crime on the part of the convicts is the certainty of detection. In a small and scattered community concealment is necessarily difficult. Every one travelling about is a subject of observation. Then the natives track any one fleeing from justice with almost unerring accuracy. The population being so sparse, footprints are not very liable to be obliterated. Even in Perth natives may sometimes be seen tracking white offenders. It is almost impossible, too, for criminals to escape from the colony; there is at present no practicable overland track, and the capture of runaway felons is simply a matter of time. Now, our Swan River friends will not argue that the state of things that renders it easy to control their prisoners will always continue. They will not surely reason on the assumption that their colony will always be very poor, very thinly populated, and completely isolated from the other colonies. It is worth pointing out that the prisoners have little provocation to steal. Their treatment is kind, if not judicious; they have abundance of food, and do as little work as possible. If a settler finds one useless he can return him on the hands of the Government, when he will again have a good allowance of food, and can work as little as he likes. There are many prisoners in gangs about the country without supervision, and those who are provided with an overseer are not expected to distress themselves by anything approaching to severe exertion. For men treated in this way to plunder would be indeed wanton gratuitous depravity. Yet, notwithstanding all this kind treatment, some do break out into violations of the law. There were two bushrangers loose and plundering the settlers during the time I was in Western Australia, and occasionally one is suspended. Small offences are innumerable.

But let us examine now the evils of transportation—evils that must be felt by Western Australia as surely as by other colonies that tried the system and were compelled to abandon it. There is the reputation—the very name of a convict colony that inflicts so much injury. The stigma attaches itself to every member of the community. It is but a few years since Australians of all the colonies were looked upon in other countries with suspicion, and were made disagreeably conscious of the fact. In the minds of the people in England and America every Australian was associated with Botany Bay. He was treated as though there was a taint of the prison about him, and if he was regarded with any interest it appeared to be a curiosity to see whether the marks of the gyves and fetters were at all fresh. How persons from Swan River are regarded when they appear without credentials I need not say. Transportation prevents the settlement of a country. While some leave in disgust, few or none come to take their places. It does not signify whether their notions of convictism are correct or exaggerated; it is an undoubted fact that they operate to prevent people from emigrating to a penal colony. I do not mean to infer that convictism is the only reason why settlers do not go to Western Australia, but undoubtedly it prevents, and will prevent, many from settling there who would otherwise do so. But the evil effects of the system upon the population who remain cannot be otherwise than injurious. Even in Western Australia, persons well acquainted by position and experience with the working of the system, state it as their conviction that the daily and hourly familiarity with crime cannot fail to blunt the moral perceptions, and have a hardening effect upon the best constituted minds. From the moment you land in that colony villainy of some kind or another is thrust upon your notice. You jostle against murderers; garotters wish you good evening; boots was a burglar, and probably the hostler was transported for burning a hayrick. Walking along the streets you meet hardened felons, with all their character depicted in their countenances, doubtless longing for some fairer field for the exercise of their talents. In the shops you find men of a different class; perhaps some whose manual dexterity admirably fits them for the duties of a retail business. Behind the counters and in offices you see smooth-tongued and smiling villainy; here are men whose offences were of a literary character, who indulged in statements respecting matters of fact not strictly consistent with sober truth, or who were banished for annoying men of commercial minds with extravagant works of fiction.

Granting that the "noblest study of mankind is man," these are phases of humanity of which one may see too much. The effect of this association with felony upon the

mind of the young must be deplorable. I once knew a gentleman who invariably and firmly insisted upon the absolute necessity of never employing any but pretty nursemaids in a family, for he maintained that children always caught the expression of those who were most constantly with them. I believe this was carrying a sound principle to a dangerous extreme; but surely no father could think without horror of bringing his children into a community where of every dozen faces they would be familiar with, eight would be those of ruffians or sneaks. The idea of really effecting a reformation in the character of the prisoners I believe to be a delusion. To reform a convict you must hold out the hope of his being able to recover to some extent his position in society. Now, I think Western Australia is the last place where he will be able to do this. I think there is a broader, deeper gulf between the convict and the free population in that colony than in former penal settlements, and the chances of a prisoner accumulating property must be infinitely smaller.

Now we will look at the question as it affects other colonies. Our neighbors say, first, that their convicts cannot get to us in any numbers; and, secondly, that if they did they would not do much harm, on account of their inoffensive character. Now we have perfect proof that many Swan River convicts have found their way to these colonies and been convicted of serious crimes, and punished at our expense. Chief Justice Cooper, Mr. R. F. Newland, Police Magistrate at Port Adelaide, and Mr. R. R. Torrens all deposed to these facts. It is ridiculous to sneer at such evidence as this. But the fact is we are not without Western Australian men in our police, who know the innocents of Swan River when they stray amongst us; and, without doubt, the same assertion is true of Victoria. It is said that convicts can easily be excluded by such precautions as we have adopted being adhered to; but when thousands of men are longing to leave one colony for an adjoining one, many will find some method of accomplishing their object. I have heard it spoken of as a pleasant joke, that the favorite plan of escape now is to ship for India, and then come from there to Adelaide or Melbourne, when, of course, unless they are accidentally recognized as felons, they can land without any questions being asked. But a danger that appears in the distance is that communication by land with Swan River is likely in the course of a short time to be regular and easy. The discovery of fresh tracts of good country, the establishment of new settlements, and the opening up of new routes across the Continent, will connect Western Australia with the other colonies; and the convicts will be able to spread themselves over Australia without any difficulty. I consider it certain that, as a rule, convicts wish to leave the scene of their punishment and degradation. This would hold especially true of Western Australia, situated near far more prosperous colonies, where felons might in large populations pursue their evil courses with less chance of detection; or, if really wishing to reform their lives, might earn their livelihood honestly without feeling that every eye watched them, and that every one was acquainted with their history. The great majority of the convicts in Western Australia wish to leave it, and will do so on any and every opportunity that offers, and few of them will go anywhere but to the other Australian colonies. Transportation to one colony is transportation to all.

It has been urged that the convicts are singularly harmless and innocent, and this has been asserted so pertinaciously and earnestly, that one would imagine transportation to be quite a purifying process; and that in passing through the furnace of penal discipline, the character is thoroughly purged of all the grosser elements. The fact that now, men are only transported for serious offences, or on account of repeated convictions for crime, might seem to militate against this view of the subject; but probably Western Australians adopt the belief entertained in certain schools of theology, that the greater the sinner the greater the saint. Akin to this is a proverb current among worldlings, that young men of the most irregular habits finally become the most exemplary domestic characters. As, however, we have neither known these propositions to be demonstrated, nor been favored with a sufficient number of examples in their support, we must decline at present to act upon them. There are sufficient reasons why convicts should not be so harmless in these colonies as in Western Australia. The temptations to crime are greater—the chances of detection fewer. Another reason why Swan River innocents might be troublesome is, that if they honored us with their presence they would have to work. We do not support able-bodied men, whether free or bond, in idleness. We have not yet abolished the good old rule that makes it an exercise of eating contingent upon exercise of a severer kind. As we are somewhat stringent in this particular, unpleasantness and misunderstanding might ensue with men who had been trained in an easier school.

I think now I have dealt with this subject sufficiently to show that we have not struggled for the abolition of transportation without some show of reason. Discussion of the question, except as a matter of history, is now useless. We can only look forward to the time when the last convict ship shall arrive at Fremantle, and we shall no longer be made the receptacle for the dregs of England's gaols. It is

to be hoped that before then our sister colony will recognize in her mines and timbers; in her pastoral lands, now lying idle; in her new territory, and in the industry and intelligence of her free population, better sources of national wealth than in the expenditure of British money on a few thousand lazy and incorrigible felons.

I will now give my impression as to the resources and prospects of Western Australia—impressions formed after a very superficial and partial view of the country, but not without serious consideration. I travelled some miles over what I have heard described as the creek district of the colony—the Champion Bay neighborhood. I have seen something of the vicinity of Perth, and in going to the Sound have passed over what Swan River colonists consider their worst ground. I believe that the character of the country has been much misunderstood; that good land is not so scarce as people have imagined, and that the long-continued poverty and depression of Western Australia arises mainly from artificial causes. I have already described the land I have seen, and even where it has been commonly supposed to be worthless, there is a quantity of useful soil. I am sure that some I saw on the Sound-road would, if within 70 or 80 miles of Adelaide, be worth £5 or £6 per acre. Most of this is lying waste. In the country on either side of the overland route the land is much better, and the good soil more plentiful. There are many men who, beginning with nothing, have acquired competence by farming in the colony. The good land is scattered and in patches more than in this colony, but still there is a great deal of it. The country is well watered; although there are no large rivers, except in the new territory, the streams and springs are very much distributed. The agricultural and pastoral interests of Western Australia are capable of an enormous expansion. The soil and climate are admirably adapted for vinegrowing, and the yield is enormous. Almost all fruits flourish. The mines next claim attention. Any South Australian travelling in the mining district will notice mine after mine that has been abandoned when showing good copper, and promising to yield a quantity of ore, for want of the funds necessary for the operations that must in almost all cases precede returns, instead of following them. The extent of mineral country seems almost illimitable, and fresh discoveries are continually being made. The staple for which Western Australia is most celebrated is her timber, of which the supply is, practically, exhausted. Even the forests that one passes through on the track between Perth and the Sound would excite the admiration of people from the eastern colonies; but the colonists think nothing of these trees. They are not comparable in size or quality to those in the forests about Banbury and Vasey, and in other parts of the colony. The most valuable wood is the mahogany—hard, tough, durable, of a pleasing color, and capable of receiving an excellent polish. Probably the blue gum does not surpass it as a timber for shipbuilding. The York gum is a magnificent tree, and the red gum grows to a great height and circumference. Compared with these giants of the forest, other specimens of timber appear small, but are of a useful kind. Such a character has Western Australian wood acquired, that I understand orders to an immense extent might be obtained from India, but there is neither the capital nor energy to carry out such contracts. The sandalwood trade has been rather dull of late. Whether the devotees who purchase it have become less pious, whether another incense equally pleasing to the divinites has been discovered, or whether it is simply an ordinary case of a glutted market, I am unable to say, but the trade is depressed. However, I saw large quantities of the wood, stripped of its bark, and stacked in yards, or being carted to the seaports. Naturally the enquiry will be, if the colony of Western Australia has such resources, how is it that it has been in so depressed a state, and achieved so trifling an amount of progress during 36 years of settlement? The first grand blunder in colonising Swan River was, as every one knows, the land system—the practice of granting large blocks of land to parties without capital, and often without the knowledge and energy to enable them to make a profitable use of what they gained so easily. Many thousand acres of good land, even near the capital, are lying as waste now as when they were granted. Large estates are fenced in, but no use is made of the land except to graze cattle upon it.

Another disadvantage from which Western Australia has suffered has been her complete isolation from the other colonies. She has had no overland mobs of cattle and sheep when settling her country; and no market for her own superfluous stock. She has gained little or no advantage from the diggings in Victoria, having had almost as little communication with that colony as with any foreign country. People who left the Swan for the diggings seldom returned. Convictism of late years has helped to deter people from looking to Western Australia as a place to settle in. There are other disadvantages of a kind not so easy to contend with. Every Australian colony commences with cattle and sheep as a starting point—no branch of industry grows and matures so rapidly as the pastoral interest; and if a new territory on this continent were unsuited for stock, its early progress would be comparatively slow. Now, the poison plant has been the ruin of many squatters in Western Australia; the whole colony seems

more or less infected with this plant. All these evils have brought others in their train. People have become depressed by long years of adversity and disappointment. They have lost heart and energy; and operations in agriculture or squatting, that would suggest themselves at once to people from more active settlements, they look upon as hopeless struggles with nature. Many leave in disgust, and with most of those who remain there is a perpetual longing to go to other colonies, of whose prosperity and lively bustling life they have heard so much. There is also the want of new blood; people leave Swan River, but none take their places. The inhabitants have much the same ideas and habits as they had 30 years ago, only differing probably in a diminution of energy and determination. Now, I think most or all of the disadvantages I have enumerated will before very long cease to exist. The isolation from other colonies will not last long. Beyond doubt there will be land communication between the northern territories of Western and South Australia, and fresh overland routes will, in all probability, be discovered. Convictism will die out. The poison plant will not be found so formidable as has been supposed. Growing in the good country only in patches, it can be eradicated probably as cheaply as the Scotch thistle that has infested this colony. In the early days of Swan River and South Australia, with sheep at from 2s. to 4s. per head, this operation would not have paid; but now that stock are valuable, runs scarce, and rents high, squatters will find it profitable to take land at the cheap rate at which it is leased in Western Australia, even with the expense of eradicating patches of poison plant. At any rate, some of our most experienced sheepfarmers have thought so, and have taken up blocks of country, and others are sure to follow. It is not to be questioned that, as a pastoral and agricultural country, Western Australia is inferior to the other colonies, and as land was abundant, and runs easily obtained here, people would not go to Swan River; but now that the price of agricultural land is very high, and a piece of new country for a run almost impossible to obtain, persons will turn their attention to a country where land for pastoral or agricultural purposes is so easily and cheaply obtainable. In Western Australia you can lease runs at 2s. per 100 acres, and purchase good land at 10s. per acre in the settled districts; and in the north and east districts enjoy runs without rent for four years, and at a nominal rent for the next eight years, and purchase at 7s. 6d. per acre. The regulations for leasing or purchasing mineral lands are also extremely liberal. The new territory on the north-western coast promises to be a success, notwithstanding the failure at Camden Harbor. When a few people from these colonies do go to Western Australia, carrying with them energy, enterprise, intelligence, and experience, the progress of that hitherto unfortunate colony

will commence; and the sooner the better, even for us; for it must be in every way more advantageous to have prosperous than poor neighbors.

The continued adversity of the colony has been attributed to political causes, and petitions have been presented praying for an elective Parliament. That Western Australia suffers some of the evils of irresponsible Government is beyond doubt, but whether the people are ripe for the opposite system is a question upon which I do not feel prepared to express an opinion. One thing is certain—the movement in favor of a new constitution has been without enthusiasm, or even earnestness; there has been nothing like a spontaneous expression of public feeling in its favor; it has had its origin in the activity of a few individuals. It may fairly be concluded that if people are indifferent about obtaining the privileges of self-government, they will be equally careless in the exercise of its duties.

A few general observations must now complete these notes. Western Australia appears remarkably healthy. Although the temperature is sometimes very high, our neighbors are not much afflicted with our hot winds. That the climate is on the whole, temperate, is sufficiently proved by the blooming complexions one frequently sees in Perth and Fremantle. Whites born in the colony are commonly tall, and in general appearance are more like the natives of Adelaide than those of either Sydney or Tasmania. There appears to be about the people an absence of energy and inventiveness. These qualities were, perhaps, drawn rather largely upon some twenty or thirty years ago. Long years of disappointment have induced in many a feeling of resignation to dulness and slow progression. They seem to bear patiently evils they suppose they have no power to remedy. There are many who are exceptions to this rule, and who chafe at the restraints that circumstances impose on their energies, and the talents they are conscious of possessing. The colonists are hospitable and warm-hearted; strangers invariably find a welcome. South Australians would fancy themselves among Adelaide people, for the settlers have so many connexions and friends here that their sympathies are more with us than with any other colony. What is called *par excellence* society has a thoroughbred character, attributable to the poverty of the colony having been unfavorable to the growth of what are irreverently called mushrooms. The people complain of the sneering tone in which the press of other colonies speak of Western Australia and her public characters. The unpleasant bearing of the other colonies toward Swan River has, without doubt, been provoked by convictism, and will disappear with the cause that produced it. We cannot think slightly of a colony with whose early history a Grey was identified, that has given Australia a Gregory, and sacrificed a Panter to the cause of geographical discovery.