

and for many miles inland. It is allowable that these fires originate from the uninterested heedlessness of the natives in transporting fire-sticks from place to place and leaving unquenched their fires scattered through the woods.

#### NATIVES USED FOR CAPTURING BUSHRANGERS.

At the close of the year 1804 one or two persons of a restless character induced several others to olope from the settlement and commit themselves to the insurmountable dangers of the forest. Immediately the commandant (Lieutenant Menzies) heard of the escape of the desperadoes he despatched a detachment of military in search of the fugitives. A party of natives accompanied the soldiers, and tracked the runaways to their lair. Among them was Field, who some time previously had accompanied Johnson in his fatal and weak attempt to escape from the colony in a boat belonging to Sergeant Day, and who was the only survivor of three, his unfortunate companions having been murdered by the natives and himself desperately wounded. The love of liberty was strong in him, and the commandant ordered him to be punished and put into irons. His fellow dupes were punished and put to very hard labour.