

A NARRATIVE

OF

A VISIT

TO THE

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES,

BY

JAMES BACKHOUSE.

ILLUSTRATED BY THREE MAPS, FIFTEEN ETCHINGS,

AND SEVERAL WOOD-CUTS.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

Departure from Brisbane Town.—Plumbago.—Fishes and Birds.—Dugong.—Stradbroke Island.—Amity Point.—Aborigines.—Penal Regulations.—Moreton Island.—Trees.—Crabs.—Amusements.—Huts.—Native Dogs.—Fish.—Manufacture.—Mangroves, &c.—Animals.—Fight of Natives.—Mistake in the name of Biscuit.—Departure from Moreton Bay.—Storms.—Arrival at Newcastle.—Native Guides.—Ebenezer.—Aborigines.—Amusement.—Missionary Labours.—Civilization of the Blacks.—Amount of Native Population.—Forest.—Remarkable Spring.—Gregarious Caterpillars.—Wages of Blacks.

4th mo. 11th. WE took a final leave of the Officers of the Penal Settlement, and embarked on board the Commandant's gig, a fine boat of eight oars, to return to the Isabella.

At the Lower Wharf, we took in two military officers, one of whom was returning to Sydney. While waiting for them, I went on shore, and saw, in the bush, a beautiful, blue *Plumbago*, possibly *P. capensis*, which I believe is not known as a native of N. S. Wales. As we crossed the Bay, we saw great numbers of Pelicans, standing in a line, at the water's edge, on a sand-bank. One was also fishing among shoals of Mullet, a migratory fish, probably not the Mullet of the Northern Hemisphere, that is just coming in from the sea, so thick, as to darken the water; out of which, they are so continually jumping, as to give the idea, of a dance among the fishes! but it is probably a dance of terror, to elude the pursuit of their enemies, the Porpoises and Sharks. The Blacks do not kill the Porpoises, because they shew where there are fish to be caught; but they value the flesh of another cetaceous animal, called here Youngon, the Dugong of India, *Halicore Dugong*. This animal feeds on marine vegetables; and is

taken when it goes up narrow creeks, by means of nets, skilfully made of the bark of various species of *Hibiscus*.

Moreton Bay is shut in from the sea, by three islands, the northermost of which, is called Moreton Island, and the middle one, Amity or Stradbroke Island. On the north point of the latter is the Pilot's station. The forest about this point, is formed of some species of *Eucalyptus*, *Melaleuca*, and *Banksia*, with the Cypress-Pine, *Callitris arenosa*, which forms a spreading tree, forty feet high, and eight feet round. On the sandy flats, by the shore, *Ipomœa maritima*, sends out long, straight shoots, to the extent of many yards: it has large, pink, convolvulus-like blossoms, and curious, two-lobed leaves. It helps to bind the sand together, as do also, the large, yellow-flowered *Hibbertia volubilis*, and several maritime grasses. Although *H. volubilis* is offensively fetid, in English green-houses, I could never perceive that it had any smell, either here, or at Sydney. Some of the smaller species of the genus, are offensive in Tasmania. Many interesting shells are found upon the shores of this bay; among them, the Crowned Melon Shell is much esteemed for its beauty. The Blacks watch for it, and take it as the tide ebbs, before it has time to bury itself in the sand, or they probe for it, with a bone skewer, in the places where its track is seen.

The Blacks on Stradbroke Island, like those resorting to Brisbane Town, are fine-personed, in comparison with those about Sydney. Some of them can speak a little English. Their intercourse with the white people, at this station, has not increased their virtue, but it has evidently advanced them a few steps towards civilization, beyond those of Brisbane Town. Pride produces its painful effects among these people, as well as among those who profess civilization and Christianity, among whom it is less tolerable. The males of this tribe of Aborigines, ornament themselves, by cutting their flesh, and keeping it from healing, till it forms elevated marks. They cut nineteen ridges, that look like ribs, right across their breasts, from the line of their armpits, downwards. One man, about six feet high, had them as wide as my thumb, and half as much elevated. Their

backs and thighs are thickly marked, with lighter, zigzag lines, of great regularity. The right shoulder is marked with lines, like epaulettes, and the left with irregular scars, received in combat with stone-knives; with which, on such occasions, they wound one another on the left shoulder, left thigh, or left leg; considering it a point of honour not to deface the ornamented portions of the frame! Some of them have curly hair, but others have it, lank, and wear it tied up, often forming a knot at the top of the head, and decorated with feathers. In this knot they stick their bone skewers, and other implements; for being without clothing, this is the only place in which they can carry an implement not in the hand, except under the strips of skin that they occasionally wear round their arms and loins.

12th. The wind not favouring our departure, we went on shore, and had a religious interview with the White people. We met them in the boat shed, which afforded good accommodation, and was pleasantly cool for this almost tropical climate, in which the heat is still great, notwithstanding the summer is past. A considerable number of Blacks came also into the boat-shed, and as we could not convey to them our sentiments of Christian good-will, in words, we presented them with a few handkerchiefs. Some of these useful articles were also given to the boat's crew, as an acknowledgment of their attentive services. Though prisoners, they may be allowed to wipe the perspiration from their faces with them; but so strict is the discipline, that they would not be allowed to tie them round their necks! They are not allowed to wear any thing but the slop clothing, provided by the Government. Perhaps this may be a good regulation, tending both to keep up the feeling that they are prisoners, in consequence of their crimes, and to prevent their stealing. Some of the soldiers and prisoners, applied for tracts, which they received gratefully, along with a few books, including a testament. They are very destitute of books, the only Bible I heard of, at the station, belonged to the pilot.

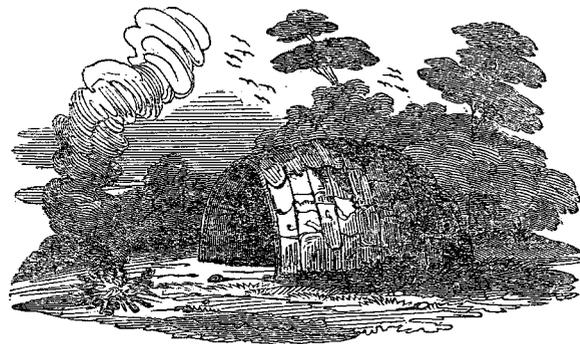
The wind continuing adverse, I accompanied a party from the Isabella, to Moreton Island, with a view of

examining its vegetable productions. Bordering the sands, there were a *Scævola*, with brilliant, blue flowers, and black berries, *Ipomœa maritima*, some of the shoots of which, were fifty yards long, *Canvallia Baueriana*, a kidney-bean-like plant, with rose coloured flowers, and another leguminous plant, with yellow blossoms, both of which, grow also on Norfolk Island, and several other plants, with trailing stems. The part of the Island, that I crossed, was sandy, with swamps and lagoons. Most of it was covered with trees, such as *Callitris arenosus*, a large *Tristania*, *Banksia œmula*, and *integrifolia*, and *Melaleuca viridiflora*, which attains a large size. Here, in sandy places, *Pandanus pedunculatus*, a species of Screw Pine, forms a singular tree, fifteen feet high. Its leaves, resemble those of the Pine-apple; its fruit, is as large as a child's head, yellow, and composed of clustered, oblong nuts, fleshy at the base, which separate in attached groups, when ripe. The fleshy part, is eaten by the Blacks; but it has an unpleasant smell, and though sweetish, is rather acrid. The trunk, is supported securely, by roots, that descend from various parts of it, into the sand, and are as thick and straight, as broom-sticks; they look rather like the stays of a ship. In returning from the west side of the Island, my attention was diverted, by a multitude of butterflies, and by a large lizard; and after walking for some time, I again, and again, found myself on the west coast. Taking therefore my compass, I determined, to make my way direct to my companions, whom I succeeded in reaching, after some fatigue, by wading through a lagoon, and crossing some steep sand-hills. The latter, were overgrown by *Myrtus tenuifolia*, a Myrtle, of low stature, with narrow leaves, and sweet, aromatic, white berries, spotted with purple. These are the most agreeable, native fruit, I have tasted in Australia; they are produced so abundantly, as to afford an important article of food, to the Aborigines. Near the east coast, there were a yellow *Crotolaria*, and *Lygodium microphyllum*, a beautiful, climbing fern, also *Pteris esculenta*, and *Blechnum cartilagineum*, ferns, the roots of which, are eaten by the Blacks.

On the shore, there were herds of crabs, covering many acres of sand: they were globular, and about an inch in diameter; their bodies roundish, and of a bluish colour, and their legs long; they made a noise, like the pattering of rain, while filing off, in all directions, to allow us to pass; in doing this, they scraped the sand into masses, like peas. A few of them buried themselves, by a rotatory movement, like their smaller allies seen at Circular Head, in V. D. Land. The Moreton Island species is also found on the shores of Port Jackson, but in much smaller numbers.

13th. We again went on shore at Amity Point, where some of the Blacks were amusing themselves, during a rainy portion of the day, with dancing. One of them beat two of their Boomerings together, for music, and produced a deafening clack. The men danced, or rather, stamped, to the tune, often changing the position of their hands, and using great exertion, till every part of their bodies and limbs quivered: they chanted at the same time, with a loud voice, and in this the women assisted, adding also to the noise by means of their hands. Once they sent the women out, that they might not witness a dance, which had nothing about it particularly striking; they also collected bushes, and danced with them in their hands, and under their arms, concealing themselves partly by them. They seemed to enjoy this boisterous child's-play, for such it greatly resembled. If custom did not render people in some measure blind to folly, many of the amusements practiced in circles of society, considered highly civilized, might perhaps, seem as absurd, and almost as barbarous. I consider the Society of Friends to have made great advances in true civilization, beyond the rest of the world, in having abandoned such amusements, as well as in some other particulars. By this abandonment, they also avoid much that is inimical to Christian sobriety, and turn their relaxation into channels more rational, and conducive to domestic happiness. I believe no people in the world realize so much temporal comfort as they. When the rain ceased, we walked to a native village, on the coast. It consisted of a number of huts, formed of arched sticks, and covered with tea-tree

bark, so as to form weather-tight shelters, just high enough to allow the inmates to sit upright in them, and equal in comfort to the tilts, inhabited by the Gipsies, in England. One of these is represented in the accompanying wood-cut.



Openings were left at their larger ends, opposite to which at the outside, there were little fires, at which many of the women were roasting fern-root. This, after it was roasted, was held by one hand on a log of wood, while its whole length was beaten, by a stone, held in the other hand, so as to break the woody fibre. In this state it is eaten, without removing the charred surface; its taste is something like that of a waxy potato, but more gelatinous. In most instances, there were a man and a woman in each hut, and in some of them there were also a few children; but the number of the children is small, in comparison with what it is in the families of Europeans. Many of the huts had shelters of leafy boughs placed so as to keep off the wind. We were informed that these people had several such villages on the Island; and that they resorted to one, or to another, according to the weather, the season of the year, and the contiguity of food. At present they are near the opening between Moreton and Stradbroke Islands, depending chiefly on the shoals of Mullet for food. A few weeks ago, they went further into the interior, collecting honey. At some seasons they resort to places producing

wild fruits; and in wet weather, to elevated situations, contiguous to those parts of the coast, abounding with oysters. In these last situations, their huts are said to be large enough for a man to stand up in.

Some of the native dogs appeared to be in a half-domesticated state, among the Aborigines. One was shot to-day, by a sergeant, in the act of stealing his fowls: he said the women would make great lamentation over it. It was about the size of a cur, but slenderer, and of a reddish colour.

14th. Our company again went to Moreton Island, to fish, with a view to economizing the stock of provisions. The kinds they caught are known here, by the names of Mullet, Pimbore, and Guard-fish. Pimbore is the native name of a superior fish, larger than the Mullet of these seas. We also picked up a few shells, and saw some Gigantic Cranes and Fishing-eagles, a considerable number of Pelicans, and large flocks of Curlews, Terns, and Red-bills. In the evening, we again visited the village of the Natives, on Stradbroke Island. One of them was busy, twisting rushes, to make a dilly or bag. The base of the rushes is of a pale colour, the portion included in the sheaths, at the base, or just emerging from them, is of a pinky hue, and the top green. By arranging the knots, so as to form diagonal lines across the bag, the colours are brought into a tasteful order, by these poor creatures, who have been erroneously represented as below all other human beings in capacity. In forming huts, and making nets and bags, and various implements, those here excel their more southern neighbours.

15th. We took a walk, along the inner shore of Stradbroke Island. Here we observed *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, with its fine, yellow flowers, like those of Hollyhock, but with crimson eyes, growing to the size of a pear-tree; and near it, *Edwardsia nuda?* a pretty bush, with yellow flowers, but inferior in beauty to the *Edwardsias* of New Zealand. On the muddy land, within the reach of high tide, there was a small species of *Rhizophora*, or true Mangrove, and a *Bruguiera*, another shrub of a nearly allied genus. The Mangrove resembles a thick-

leaved Laurel, and has roots from its stem above ground, like the stays of the mast of a ship: its fruit is about an inch in diameter, and it vegetates, as it hangs on the bush, and sends out a green radicle, about a foot long, and swollen toward the pointed base; this, bearing the germ on its top, drops from the fruit, and either sticks in the mud, and vegetates, or floats in the sea, till landed on some congenial spot, or till it perishes. The *Bruguiera* forms a fine bush, eight or ten feet high, and has the bell-shaped cup to its evanescent petals, in substance, resembling red-morocco leather, and cut into ten narrow segments. Its mode of propagation is similar to the former, but its radicle is shorter, and not swollen toward the base. These gay, red-leather-like flowers, and long, green, spindle-like radicles, were washed up abundantly on the shore, and till I saw them growing, they puzzled me not a little.

16th. We took a walk upon a part of the beach, where the variety of shell-fish was great. The Rock Oysters were attached to the portions of the various Mangroves, within the influx of the sea. Drift Oysters were in large masses, below the high-water mark; among them were various species of *Cypraea*, Cowrie, *Conus*, &c. Common and Pearl Oysters were thinly scattered, lower down on the shore. While walking on the beach, a native Black, who, in answer to a question respecting his name, said "Tommy Green," came dancing toward us, the picture of good nature; he made signals to us to put on our shoes. This we found, was to save our feet from being cut by fragments of shells, in a mud-flat, which we were about to cross, and in which there were a large *Pinna*, a sort of wedge-shaped Muscle, and a strange thing, without a head, somewhat like a lady's riding whip, as well as many other creatures, of unusual form, that might reward the investigation of a diligent naturalist. By the instruction of our black friend, we obtained specimens of a large *Cardium*, or Cockle; the impressions of the margin of the shells of which, were visible on the sand under which it was buried.

On our return, two Natives were fighting, at the village. One of them, according to their custom, had seized a

woman from another tribe, for a wife, and had been challenged by one of her connexions. The combatants, wore white fillets round their heads, and had boomerings in their belts, and wooden shields, and waddies, in their hands; with the latter, after some fencing, they gave each other heavy blows, upon the head. They then retreated a few paces, but maintained a vociferous contest, in which, the women of the village joined. It was painful, to witness this affray, which we could not interfere, to put an end to, on account of not knowing their language. At length, to our great relief, a shoal of mullet was announced. The people took their nets, and hastened to the beach; and when there were no abettors, the contest ceased, and the company, belonging our boat, who had been standing in the rain, to witness this painful spectacle, no longer delayed returning on board the *Isabella*. It is said, the battles sometimes become very general, on occasions of this sort, but that they are seldom attended by loss of life. Several of the men, at this time, were armed with spears, and boomerings; and seemed only to wait, for a little more excitement, to join in the combat; others, paid little attention to the fight, and one continued, quietly building a hut, notwithstanding, the combatants were often close by him.

On the borders of Moreton Bay, into which, several small rivers discharge themselves, there are said to be four tribes of Natives, of about one hundred each. Those, about Point Skirmish, to the northward, are reported, to be remarkably pugnacious, and cruel. Possibly, they may have been influenced by runaway prisoners. The ornaments, of those we met with, were necklaces, of short pieces of reed, pieces of nautilus, or other pearly shell, feathers, and bands of kangaroo sinews, or of opossum-fur: of the latter material, some of the female children wore short, fringe aprons. They smear their bodies, with charcoal, pipe-clay, or ruddle, and grease. Some of them, are affected with disease, said to have been communicated, from an American Whaler; but most of them seem, healthy, and robust.

While in Moreton Bay, we were surprised, by hearing the Blacks call biscuits, Five Islands. This we learned,

arose from some men, who, several years ago, were driven from the part of the Illawarra coast, called the Five Islands, having held up biscuits, to the Blacks, and said, Five Islands, in the hope, of learning from them, the direction of their lost home. The Blacks, however, mistook this, for the name of the biscuits, and hence have continued to call them by this name. The lost men remained among the Natives, for several years, and were kindly treated. At length, they were brought away, by a vessel that put in here, and subsequently, one of them was returned hither, as a prisoner.

17th. The weather having become more favourable, the anchor was up, at an early hour; we parted from Lieut. Otter, the officer, whose duty it was, to see the vessel off, and who had shewn us much kind attention, and soon crossed the bar, by a shallow passage. At sea, the wind was adverse, and the rolling of the vessel, was such, as to produce much sickness. This continued to be the case, till the 20th, when we had a fine breeze, and were off Port Macquarie; but the sea was too high, to admit of our being put on shore there, without risk to the vessel. In the night of the 22nd, there were violent squalls, and in the morning, a gale commenced. We were then to the south of Port Jackson, having been unable to make the land. In standing off, during the night, we were driven by a current, to the north, so that in the morning, we were off the mouth of the Hunter River.

The gale continuing, and our provisions being reduced to four days consumption, we concluded to run for Newcastle, in Port Hunter. On coming opposite the port, a gun was fired, and a signal made, which was answered by one that perplexed us, signifying that the tide had begun to ebb. We therefore again beat off the land; but on referring to the tables, it was found that the ebb could not have commenced, and that the tide would yet flow for several hours; we therefore again approached the shore, fired another gun, and made another signal, shewing that the vessel belonged the Government. This was answered by one such as we desired, and quickly by a second, indicating that the pilot

had left the shore to board us; he soon reached the vessel, and made an excuse for the wrong signal, that was not very satisfactory; but under his prompt directions, we beat into Port Hunter, tacking first to one side, and then to the other, close to the breakers, until we reached a place of safety, under a natural, though imperfect breakwater, terminated by an islet, called The Knobby. The Tidewater, and another officer, soon boarded us to know our business; and after they, with our captain, and our fellow passenger, had gone on shore, we mustered such of the people as inclined to meet with us, to whom we read a chapter, and addressed some counsel. It was far from a bright time, and there is reason to fear, that more of a disposition to murmur, at the privations that had been endured, existed among them, than of one to give God thanks for the unmerited mercies, continued to us, and by which we had now been delivered from being driven to sea, in a famishing state. Last night the topping-lift of our mizen sail broke, when two men were on the boom, which swung over the side, but they kept their hold, and escaped injury. Another man received a severe bruise by it, and would have gone overboard, had not his leg got jammed between a water-cask and the bulwark. This poor fellow, though now unable to turn in bed from the injury, seemed thankful for his escape from a watery grave; from which, in a dark night, with a high sea, he could not have been rescued, had he been precipitated into the ocean.

25th. The gale continuing we went on shore, and were kindly welcomed by George Brooks, the Colonial Surgeon. Newcastle in New South Wales, like the town in England from which it is named, is famous for the production of coal; but Newcastle in N. S. Wales, is only a village of about forty houses, inclusive of a jail, a hospital and military barracks. It stands at the mouth of the Hunter River, on a sand-stone promontory, on the point of which, there is a lighthouse. The harbour is not of easy access; the river, which is shallow in this part, widens beyond it, and forms several channels, separated by low, Mangrove islands. There being no prospect of the Isabella getting to sea again for a few days, we embarked in the Ceres steamer in the

evening, but the sea proved too high for her to proceed, and she put back to Newcastle about midnight.

26th. Most of the day was spent with our kind friend the Surgeon, in company with a gentleman in the Survey department and a settler, who were, like ourselves, delayed here by the storm. In a walk, we passed the burial ground, in which a detachment of an ironed-gang was at work, under an overseer, and three sentries. These men had been occupied here about a month, in making improvements, that a quarter of their number of industrious men, would have effected in the same time. Work without wages proceeds slowly, by a natural consequence that is not at all reversed, by the work being imposed as the punishment of crime. The state of the weather rendering it unlikely we should be able to proceed to Sydney for some days, we concluded to visit Ebenezer, on Lake Macquarie, where Lancelot Edward Threlkeld is employed by the Government, as a Missionary to the Aborigines. With this view we engaged as our guide Beerabahn, or M'Gill, a tall, intelligent man, the chief of the tribe of Blacks resorting thither.

27th. We set out with our black conductor, who could speak a little English, and one of his countrymen named Boatman or Boardman. These people had contracted a debasing appetite for strong drink, which was often given them by the military and other persons, perhaps from mistaken notions of kindness. Boatman some years afterwards, lost his life in a drunken fray.

M'Gill was dressed in a red-striped shirt, not very clean, a pair of ragged trowsers, and an old hat. Suspended from his neck, by a brass chain, he had a half-moon-shaped, brass breastplate, with his native and English name, and a declaration of his kingly dignity, engraven upon it: his nose and part of his cheeks were besmeared with ruddle, but he had few cuttings upon his flesh: he carried one of our bundles, and took a young dog upon his shoulder, on this journey, of twenty-six miles through the bush. In passing his hut, he stripped off his shirt, which he left behind to avoid encumbrance. Boatman, who is represented in the accompanying wood-cut, in the act of throwing a spear, by

means of a womera, an implement used to increase the impetus, wore a ragged, blue jacket, and trowsers.—On the way through the bush, our guides stopped to seek wild



honey, but without success. Sometimes the Blacks capture bees, and stick small pieces of feather to them, with gum; this makes them fly heavily, and enables their pursuers to watch them in their flight, until they reach their nests. Many of the open places in the forest, abounded with Gigantic-lily; the flower stems of which rise from 10 to 20 feet high. These stems are roasted, and eaten by the Aborigines, who cut them for this purpose, when they are about a foot and a half high, and thicker than a man's arm. The Blacks also roast the roots, and make them into a sort of cake, which they eat cold: they likewise roast and pound the seeds of *Zamia spiralis*, and then place the mass for two or three weeks,

in water, to take out the bitter principle, after which it is eaten. M'Gill thought potatoes were better than most vegetables they used: he said, the Blacks, in this neighbourhood, had "thrown away" the use of fern-root. These people find maize, potatoes, bread, and other articles produced by the industry of white people, so much better than their own native articles of diet, that they stay much about the habitations of the European population, and do little jobs, for which they get these articles in return: they also find this kind of provision more certainly to be relied upon, which induces them to keep near to the usurpers of their country, notwithstanding the abuse and indignity they sometimes meet with, and their liability to be fired upon, if seen helping themselves among the growing Indian corn.

The sun had just set, when we reached the residence of L. E. Threlkeld and his numerous family, from whom we received a kind welcome.

28th. L. E. Threlkeld has applied himself diligently to attaining the language of the Aborigines, and reducing it to writing, compiling a grammar, preparing a translation of the Gospel according to Luke, and some smaller selections from Scripture, also a vocabulary. He has been employed several years in the mission, in which he has been unassisted by any other Missionary. He has had, at the same time, to provide for his own family, which now consists of nine children, and is living on his own land, a portion of which he has cleared, with much labour. In the afternoon, we walked to a woody point, extending into the lake, which is twenty-five miles long, and seven broad, and has a narrow opening into the sea. Some Blacks were fishing, to whom L. E. Threlkeld spoke a few words, in reference to the Deity, to which they attended with gravity.

29th. We accompanied L. E. Threlkeld, in a boat, rowed by three Blacks, to the site of the old missionary station, at the head of the Lake, where we landed on a fine seam of coal. This station was abandoned some years ago, by the London Missionary Society, on account of its expense, and the misrepresentations of persons who had never been upon the spot; and thus an opportunity was lost for

benefiting the Blacks, such as will never occur again in this part of N. S. Wales. Those who were collected here, have become dispersed among the settlers, toward Newcastle; and through the acquired love of strong drink, and other causes, such as occasion Black men "to fade away," have become greatly diminished in number. The Natives obtain fish and oysters in the lake; which they exchange for flour, tobacco, &c. In the forest, at the north end of the lake, the variety of trees is considerable; among them is *Achras australis*, which bears a fruit like an inferior plum: its seeds are something, in form, like the handle of a gimlet, but are pointed and polished. The Blacks scratch various figures upon them, and amuse themselves by guessing what the figure is, on the one held in the hand of another person.

30th. Was very rainy: it was spent in examining into the labours of L. E. Threlkeld, which have been very persevering and disinterested. He has succeeded in imparting to the Blacks, some general ideas respecting the Deity and the responsibility of man; but so far as yet appears, without that effect by which, under the influence of the divine Spirit, such knowledge becomes practical, in leading to repentance and faith in Christ. We have come to the conclusion, that no impediment exists, to the Aborigines of New South Wales becoming civilized, or receiving the Gospel, beyond what applies to other tribes of human beings, destitute of civilization. In these, the wandering habits, induced by living on the wild produce of the earth, are uncongenial to the settlement requisite for instruction; but this might be overcome, especially in the rising generation. But there have been impediments of another class, in New South Wales, such as the demoralizing influence of the white population, and the prejudices of benevolent persons, who had given way to discouragement, in consequence of individual Blacks, who had been brought up among the Whites, returning to their own tribes. This circumstance has arisen from the feeling that such had, that they were looked down upon as black men among Whites; while they were looked up to, because of their enlarged knowledge, among their own people. The

amount of the Black population of Australia has been a subject of much variety of opinion; but it has probably been greatly over-rated. On comparing the number of Aborigines, known to exist between Batmans Bay and Port Macquarie, with the whole extent of N. S. Wales, and this with the whole of Australia, making large allowance for the reduction of the tribes, by European influence, and doubling the amount for contingences, we came to the conclusion, that the whole Black population of Australia, probably did not exceed fifty thousand; and nothing that we subsequently saw in Southern or Western Australia altered our impression on this subject.

5th mo. 1st. We were present during the season devoted to public worship, in the mission family, in which opportunity was afforded us, for the expression of what was upon our minds. It is seldom that any of the Blacks are present on these occasions. Among the marks of improvement, in regard to civilization, exhibited by the Natives of this neighbourhood, none of whom can be said to remain permanently here, may be noticed, their wearing clothes, and their consequent abandonment of the practice of ornamenting themselves by cutting their flesh; their ceasing to knock out a tooth, on their youths attaining to manhood; their intelligence and friendly feeling toward the white population, and their willingness to do little turns of work, for rewards in flour, tobacco, clothing, &c.

2nd. Taking leave of Ebenezer, L. E. Threlkeld conveyed us in a boat, to the head of the lake; from whence we proceeded by a road, originally cut from the old missionary station to Newcastle, through forest of Red Gum, *Angophora lanceolata*, Apple-tree, *A. augustifolia*, Iron Bark, Stringy Bark, Blood-tree, Bastard Box, Spotted Gum, and other species of the genus *Eucalyptus*. About two miles from Newcastle, there is a singular spring of water, that rises a few inches above the surface of the ground, inside of the trunk of a Spotted Gum-tree, a root of which has probably tapped the spring: the water is accessible by an inversely heart-shaped hole in the tree, and occasionally flows out in wet weather. The beautiful *Blandfordia grandiflora*,

with yellow, bell-shaped, lily-like flowers, was growing in the forest, along with many other pretty plants. In the course of our walk, we fell in with some regiments of hairy caterpillars, following one another in long lines, the head of each, except the first, touching the tail of the one before it. A friend of mine told me, that once, on meeting some of these caterpillars, traversing a rock, he directed the head of the first, with a stick, to the tail of the last, and they continued following one another in a circle, for several hours, without seeming to discover the trick that had been played upon them! Our sable guides were joined on the way through the forest, by another of their tribe, whose name was Macquarie, and we saw several other parties, passing backward and forward. They sometimes amused themselves and us, by throwing their boomerings, which made circuits, almost like the flight of birds. On reaching Newcastle, they received their wages in bread, tea, sugar, and tobacco. This kind of payment, they seemed to understand better than one in money; of which it has not been the policy of the settlers to teach them the value; perhaps more from seeing that they appreciated more readily the worth of useable commodities, than from an intention to keep them in ignorance of a point, that would have been desirable for them to understand, in order to save them from imposition, in regard to the value of their own labour.—In the afternoon, we embarked on board the Ceres, a fine vessel, built on the Williams River, carrying two engines, each of forty horse power, and once more put to sea, with a contrary wind.

3rd. We landed at Sydney, after a rough passage of sixteen hours, and were kindly welcomed by our friends. The Isabella, on board of which was our luggage, arrived before us, having beaten up, against the wind, in three days.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Sydney.—Tidings of D. and C. Wheeler.—Aborigines in Towns.—Work of the Spirit.—Grant of a Burial Ground.—Reformed Prisoner.—Wills.—Trial of Blacks.—Bibles in Strange Tongues.—Meetings.—Voyage to Maitland.—Drunkenness.—Season.—Irongang.—Fossils.—Country.—Plants.—Arthurs Vale.—Management of Prisoners.—St. Aubins.—“Prisoners of Australia.”—Plants.—Rain.—Sheep.—Snow.—Mount Wingen.—Objects of Curiosity.—Return to Maitland.—Compass, &c.—Geology.—Cock-fighters Bridge.—Prisoners.—Bibles and Card-playing.—Small Congregations.—Friends’ Principles.—Self-delusion.

5th mo. 7th. WE had the satisfaction of hearing of our dear friends, D. and C. Wheeler, through the medium of a letter from Charles Barff, to William P. Crook, of this place, dated “Huaine, Jan. 19th, 1836;” he says, “I mentioned in my last, that I accompanied Mr. Daniel Wheeler and Son, to Pora Pora, as interpreter. The Natives listened with profound attention, to their pious, pointed, and Scriptural addresses.”

8th. Very wet. Only seven persons were at our meeting in the morning, and eight in the afternoon. Both were silent seasons, except that I gave expression to a few sentences in prayer, in the morning.—Our black guides, M’Gill and Boatman, called to see us. They are in town, in consequence of the trial of some Aborigines, to whom, on behalf of the Government, in conjunction with L. E. Threlkeld, M’Gill acts as interpreter. We gave them some articles of clothing, with which they were much pleased.—These poor creatures called upon us several times afterwards, during their stay in Sydney. They were mostly in a state of excitement, from strong drink; which they are easily persuaded to take. The Blacks are not like the same people,

when in towns, as they are, when remote from places where they are incited to vice, into which many of the white population take a pleasure in leading them.

12th. The week-day meeting was very small. To me it was a season of comfort, notwithstanding a prevailing sense of my own weakness and poverty. The clear perception of these, is the direct work of the Holy Spirit. If we have any just sense of the state of man before his Maker, it must be of his helplessness, and that, without Christ, the best of men can do nothing for the glory of God, the edification of one another, or the salvation of their own souls. It is by waiting upon God, in the depth of humiliation, that we have the evidence confirmed to us, from season to season, of being reconciled to him, through the death of his Son, and know a union, one with another, and with Christ, and through him, with the Father. It is thus that we experience, the fulfilment of that, for which our holy Redeemer prayed, not for his immediate disciples alone, but for all who should believe on him, through their word: "That they all may be one, as thou Father," said he, "art in me, and I in thee; that they also may be one in us;" "that they may be one, even as we are one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one."—John xvii., 21, 22, 23.

13th. In consequence of the decease of a child belonging to parents, one of whom was brought up among Friends, and has a religious objection to the modes of burial, in common use, and who could not, on that account, attend the interment of her own babe, we made an application to the Governor, for a burial place for Friends, in the land reserved for Burial Grounds, adjacent to Sydney. This request was afterwards granted.

14th. On behalf of a reformed prisoner, who has for some time been associated with us, in religious fellowship, we remitted to the persons who prosecuted him, the sum of £20, toward the expense they incurred in the prosecution.

19th. At the suggestion of my Brother, who has kindly taken care of my temporal concerns during my absence, I made some needful provisions, by a codicil, in my will.

I have often regretted not having brought a copy of this document with me, as I cannot recollect with certainty its contents. When in England, it was my practice to read it once a year, to see that it was according to my mind and conscience; and more than once, I have seen occasion to alter it. Before I had a proper will made, I was a few times unwell, when from home; and though favoured with peace in looking toward eternity, I was nevertheless uncomfortable at not having a satisfactory will. It is well to attend to such subjects in proper season, and to remember, that in the Day of Judgment, account will as surely have to be rendered, for the right use, and the disposal, that has been made of the talent of property, as for that of any other talent.

24th. We received a call from L. E. Threlkeld, who is about to return to Lake Macquarie. The Black who was tried lately, was acquitted, and some others have been discharged. In the course of this trial, one of the barbarous, white evidences, stated in open court, that he considered the Blacks as no more than the beasts of the field. This is a sentiment too prevalent among many of the Whites of the Colony. The presiding Judge expressed his abhorrence of such a sentiment, and his conviction, that they were human beings, responsible before God, in whose sight, killing them was as truly murder as killing human beings of any other description: he stated also, that they were responsible to the laws of the Colony, and must be protected by them; and said he was glad, that through the medium of a respectable Missionary, their causes were capable of being pleaded in that Court.

27th. On visiting the Bible Society's Depot, to obtain an Irish Bible, for an old Hibernian, in the interior, both the Depository and myself were at a loss, among the variety of languages, in strange character, to distinguish the Irish. This difficulty was at length overcome, by reference to the word, New Testament, in forty-eight languages, forming the frontispiece to Bagster's Polymicron New Testament. This circumstance suggested, that the name of the language in which each Bible was printed, might be

advantageously introduced, in English, in the titlepages of foreign Bibles.

6th mo. 12th. Since returning to Sydney, we have been much occupied in sending books, and tracts to persons whom we visited in our late journey. In the prospect of again leaving this place, for a season, we felt a debt of Christian love toward the inhabitants, which it seemed time to endeavour to discharge, by inviting them to a meeting for public worship, which was held this morning. I was much oppressed in it, by a sense of a lamentable want of a true hungering and thirsting after righteousness, in the congregation, among whom there were nevertheless some pious persons. I had to address them on the passage, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." At the conclusion, notice was given of the hours of meeting, on First and Fifth-days. At three o'clock about thirty persons assembled, with whom we sat an hour and a half in silence. My own state was one of great emptiness, and under such circumstances, I dared not to attempt expression, much as the people seemed to need religious instruction. Tracts were distributed at the close of the meetings.

14th. Being furnished with letters of introduction, from our kind friend, the Colonial Secretary, to several settlers on the Hunter River, we sailed by the Ceres steamer, for Maitland, and had a fine passage, the sea being so smooth as scarcely to give motion to the vessel.

15th. About five o'clock in the morning, the steamer anchored at Newcastle. After waiting an hour for daylight, it proceeded up the Hunter, to the Green Hills or Morpeth, the port of the embryo town of Maitland, which is about twenty miles from Newcastle, by land, and forty by water. The Hunter is here of considerable width; its banks are low, alluvial land, but little of which is cleared. A thick scrub, containing a variety of trees and shrubs, extends to the water's edge. Some of the trees are clad with shaggy Lichens, and many of them support the Golden Mistletoe, and a species of Loranthus. The Elkshorn Fern, *Acrosticum alaicorne*, which in Port Jackson, generally grows on decomposing, sandstone rocks, forms here protuberant girdles,

round the trunks of trees, among the branches of which *Ipomœa pendula*, and *Marsdenia fragrans*, are striking climbers. Water-fowl are numerous, near the bushy islands, at the mouth of the river, especially Pelicans. The Williams River and the Paterson, both of which are navigable, join the Hunter from the north. In proceeding up the river, the depression of the waters, before the packet, occasioned by the elevation produced behind, by the action of the paddles, made the reeds of the margin, bow to our approach, with an amusing regularity.—Maitland is about three miles from Green Hills: it consists of a considerable number of houses, scattered by the sides of a soft road, for upwards of two miles, some of which are substantially built of brick. We found good accommodation at an hotel, between Green Hills and Maitland. There are also several decent inns in the town. We had been told, that we should find a large proportion of the inhabitants of this place, drunken with rum and prosperity; and this description was not without ground, in regard to many; for the place has of late, become one of importance, in traffic between the coast and the interior, and at the time of our visit, devotedness to the world, and drunkenness, were awfully prevalent.

16th. We made several calls in the town; in which a considerable number of the native Blacks, were working for the inhabitants, as hewers of wood and drawers of water. We also visited the Jail, a place of temporary confinement, till the prisoners are examined and transferred to Newcastle: it consists of a few cells, enclosed within a high, wooden fence, and is said to be sometimes so crowded, that prisoners have to be brought into the yard to avoid suffocation.

17th. At sunset, several Night Hawks, in flight resembling owls, were soaring in various directions. Plovers were crying, and frogs croaking in the marshes. Large Bats, called Flying Foxes, are common in this neighbourhood. It is now nearly mid-winter, but the frost has scarcely touched the leaves of the Pumpkins and Potatoes, and the second crop of Maize is not yet fully harvested. The springing wheat is beautifully green, and the "brushes," on the sides of the river, scarcely vary from the verdure of summer, except in the

yellowness of the foliage of *Melia Azedarach*. The evenings and mornings are chilly, but the middle of the day is as warm as that of an English summer, and Swallows are numerous.

19th. We had a meeting in the Court House, and notwithstanding the roads are very soft, from late rains, about 150 persons assembled; to whom, after a considerable period of silent waiting upon God, we were enabled to bear a clear testimony to the truth, with expressions of earnest desire, that our auditors might become individually acquainted with the blessings, proposed to mankind in the Gospel. In the afternoon, we visited an ironed-gang, employed on the roads, under a military guard; we found them locked up in their caravans, out of which only one-third were allowed to come at a time, for exercise. When locked in, only half of them can sit up, on the ends of the platforms, on which half of them sleep; the rest must sit back, with their legs at a right-angle with their bodies. On our arrival, they were all turned out, counted, and then marched to a place, at a short distance, where they stood, with the guard of soldiers, under arms, behind them. After a pause, we addressed them, inviting their attention to the convictions of the Holy Spirit, as the witness in their own minds, against sin; by neglecting which, they had fallen into transgression before God and man, until they had been permitted to commit the sins which had brought them into grievous bondage, among their fellow-men; when, if they had attended to this warning voice of the Most High, they would, on the other hand, have been led to repentance, and faith in Christ, and through him, would have become of the number of his reconciled and obedient children, free from the bondage of Satan. They were invited to turn at the reproofs of instruction, as at the voice of Him who desires not that any should perish. In commenting on the passage, "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him; but God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God;" it was mentioned, by way of illustration, that our ideas of all

things, are liable to be very defective, till we see or feel them; that thus, though themselves might have heard of the sufferings of prisoners, they had had a very defective idea of them, till they felt them; and though they might have seen men in chains, they had had a very imperfect notion of the suffering of this punishment, till they felt it; and that so, likewise, though of an opposite nature, the blessings of the Gospel required to be felt, to be understood. These comments excited a significant assent, in the countenances, and movements of the heads of the prisoners, expressive of their sense of the suffering under which they have brought themselves, by having multiplied their offences, so as to incur the extra-coercive discipline, of this part of our penal laws.

20th. Was occupied in connexion with a lecture, on temperance, held in the Court House, in the evening. The evils of strong-drink seem scarcely to have claimed the notice of the people here, notwithstanding they suffer grievously under them.

21st. We travelled westward through open, grassy forest, toward Harpers Hills, where another ironed-gang is stationed. In the evening, we were overtaken by a settler, professing with the Church of Rome, who kindly invited us to his house, and readily assembled his family and servants, in order that we might express to them our Christian desire for their present and eternal welfare.

22nd. In the morning, we had an interview with the Ironed-gang, at Harpers Hills, who were working on the road, at a place where, I think, there were marine fossils, sparingly imbedded in basalt. The officer in charge, promised to send me some, to Sydney; but those received from him, had evidently come out of an argillaceous rock, and seemed to have been selected on account of their beauty.

We pursued our route for a few miles further, along the course of the Hunter River, which here flows through a rich, alluvial vale, in some places spreading into extensive flats, and in others narrowed by ranges of hills, which, in the distance, rise to mountains of three or four thousand feet high. The whole country is still one vast wood, except

here and there, a patch of a few hundreds of acres, where the forest has yielded to the axe. In the evening, we reached Dalwood, the dwelling of a pious and hospitable settler, by whom we were kindly welcomed.

23rd. We proceeded to Kirkton, the residence of a settler, who has a considerable vineyard. In the course of the day, we saw a Kangaroo, an animal that has become scarce in the settled parts of N. S. Wales; where flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle, now consume the thin grass of the continuous forests. *Kennedia ovata*, a blue, pea-flowered climber; a species of *Tecoma*, or Trumpet-flower, with small, pale blossoms and bright leaves; *Sicyos australis*, a little plant of the Cucumber tribe; *Nicotiana undulata*, a species of Tobacco, with flowers, that are fragrant in an evening; a species of Hemp, possibly *Cannabis indica*, and several other striking plants, were growing on the banks of the Hunter.

24th. Continuing our walk, we passed the dwellings of several considerable settlers, and crossed Patricks Plains, an extensive flat, partially cleared, with some small scattered houses upon it. At the further end of the plain, the Hunter is fordable, close to a little rising town, called Darlington, where we were kindly received by a family of the name of Glennie. From Darlington, we proceeded over low, gravelly hills, thinly covered with grass, to Dulwich, where, as well as on other parts of our journey, we were received with hospitality.

25th. We passed through a beautiful, park-like property, called Ravensworth, belonging to a gentleman in Sydney. Oranges were ripe in the garden, but the crop was thin, from continued drought. The rains nearer the coast, have scarcely reached this part of the country. Between this place and Muscle Brook, our route lay over sandy, gravelly, poor, clay hills, thinly clothed with grass and Iron-bark trees, and with some other species of *Eucalyptus*, and the Forest-oak. The town reserve, of Muscle Brook, is marked by a small, weatherboard inn. Near this place, we came again upon the rich, alluvial soil of the Hunter, and a few miles further, reached Arthurs Vale, a

large farming establishment, belonging to Henry Dumaresq, by whom we had been recommended to the kind notice of his agent. This morning, the country was white with hoar frost, but a swallow flew into the house at Dulwich, and took a fly off the ceiling.

25th. We had some religious service with the family of the agent, and the prisoner-servants of the establishment, in which their attention was directed to the teaching of the Holy Spirit, by which alone, the truth of the Gospel can be practically understood. The prisoner-servants were numerous, and under excellent management. The greater proportion of them are lodged in ten, neat cottages, with gardens attached. The wives of several of those, of good conduct, have been permitted to join their husbands. The cottages of the married people, present a neater appearance, than those in which the different classes of single men reside. Classifying the single men, and placing the married men with their wives and families, and at the same time, maintaining a good superintendence over the whole, has a decidedly beneficial effect upon them; and were they brought to entire abstinence from intoxicating drinks, much might reasonably be expected in regard to moral reformation.

27th. We proceeded to St. Aubins, the residence of William Dumaresq, from whom we received a most kind welcome. This establishment is conducted on a similar plan to that at Arthurs Vale, and with similarly beneficial results. In this family we met a pious person, much interested in the state of the female Convicts, and who, since her return to England, has published an intelligent, little volume respecting them, entitled "The Prisoners of Australia." In the course of our journey, we crossed the Hunter, at a shallow ford, and passed over a series of low hills, covered with thin, grassy herbage, and open forest, of small trees. Among the trees were species of *Eucalyptus*, known in the Colony as Box, and Bastard Box. *Lotus australis*, with pink or white, vetch-like blossoms, was scattered, in pretty tufts, among the thin herbage. The quantity of rain that falls in this part of the country, is

often very small, in proportion to the evaporation. The grain crops are consequently, too uncertain to be calculated upon. Few settlers aim at growing more wheat than may support their own establishments. Sheep form the great object of the attention of the settler of the Upper Hunter; and far beyond this district, they are extensively fed, on the open tract, called Liverpool Plains. The flocks consist of about 400 each: several of these flocks are often folded at one place, the folds being slightly separated by a few rails. The sheep are counted into the folds, and committed to the charge of a night-watchman, to be protected from thieves and wild dogs: in the morning, they are re-counted to the respective shepherds, who travel with them, several miles, in the course of the day over the thin pasturage.

28th. The night was very cold. In the morning, the adjacent mountains were covered with snow, a phenomenon that had not occurred in this part of the country, for a long period. Snow also fell in Sydney at this time, which it is said not to have done previously, for more than thirty years. After having a religious interview with the family and establishment, at this place, we walked in the direction of Mount Wingen, or the Burning Hill, a pseudo-volcano, distant about fourteen miles. It would have been interesting to have visited this and some other objects of curiosity, had our time admitted, but as our object was to visit the people, we were not disposed to go out of our way, even to see the wonders of creation, unless when delayed at a place longer than was necessary for the primary object. But when the wonders and beauties of creation, fell in our way, we counted it a privilege, to be able to admire them, and to remember that "our Father made them all."

29th. Not apprehending it to be our duty to proceed further in this direction, we returned by way of Henry Dumaresq's house, at St. Helliers, to Arthurs Vale, and from thence, on the 30th, we crossed through the forest, to Ravensworth, using the compass and a map to direct our course. When the weather was clear, we more frequently resorted to the sun and a watch, than to the

compass for this purpose. The country about St. Aubins, is on porphyritic rock; about Arthurs Vale it is on Sandstone.

7th mo. 1st. On leaving Ravensworth, we were assisted with horses, in fording the Hunter. We continued our journey on foot, passing the habitations of some settlers, to Cock-fighters-bridge, on the Wollombi Rivulet; where we were hospitably entertained, at the house of a person belonging to the Survey Department, under whose charge, a party of prisoners were employed in the erection of a bridge.

2nd. The Bridge-party here, were lodged in huts of split timber. The numerous fissures in the walls of which, admitted much air; but fires were allowed, to keep out the frost. The men had only one blanket each, in which they slept, on large sheets of bark, put up like berths in a ship. No religious instruction was provided for these men, nor any suitable occupation, for the first day of the week. Bibles were distributed among them about three years ago, but none are now to be found. Men in such situations often take to card-playing, or other demoralizing occupation, to fill up vacant time. In some places in these Colonies, they have been known to convert the leaves of their Bibles into cards, and to mark the figures upon them with blood and soot! After a religious interview with these people, we returned to Darlington, and again met a kind reception from the Glennies.

3rd. At eleven o'clock, we walked about two miles, to the school-house, which we found a miserable slab-building, in a ruinous condition, with seats fixed into the ground, much exposed to the weather, and without doors or windows. By half-past twelve, about twenty-five persons had assembled, among whom were some of the more respectable settlers of the neighbourhood; to whom we were strengthened to point out the "way of life." We learned that the Presbyterian Minister, from Maitland, was in this neighbourhood to-day, and that he had only the family in whose house he preached, as a congregation. The indisposition of people to think of eternal things, which is increased by the approximation of the races, at Maitland, and the want

of a convenient place to assemble in, were probably the chief causes of the smallness of our congregations.

We arrived at Maitland, on the 5th. On re-visiting a settler on the road, he told us, that he had long leaned a little toward the Society of Friends, although his acquaintance with them had been small, but that he had not supposed their principles to be so decidedly scriptural, as he now had found they were, on reading some of the tracts that we had given him.

6th. Maitland was in a state of great excitement yesterday, from the races, and to-day, from a large sale of live stock, belonging to the Australian Agricultural Company. From rain, and the treading of the cattle on the rich soil of the road, through the eastern part of the town, it had become so cut up, as to make a journey to the post-office, distant from our inn, one mile and a half, a difficult task. I succeeded in effecting it, and returning, in two hours.

8th. On expostulating with a store-keeper, against his practice of selling spirits, the evil of which he acknowledged, as well as, that temporal and eternal injury might accrue to his family, through this means; he pleaded the necessity of doing it for their maintenance. Thus, people too often delude themselves, and as it were, sell themselves to the devil, and those with whom God has intrusted them, under the pretext of obtaining a supply for their temporal necessities, even in the midst of other means. Such practically deny their professed belief in the promise of Christ, that the things needful for the body, shall be added to those who seek first the kingdom of heaven and its righteousness. They shrink from following his example, in denying themselves of the glories of this world, when offered on condition of falling down to Satan, and worshipping him.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Maitland.—Cedar Brushes.—Morpeth.—Retired Officer.—Faithful Spaniel.—Raymonds Terrace.—Pottery.—Country.—Plants.—Reformed Prisoner.—Port Stephens.—Carrington.—Territory of the Australian Agricultural Company.—Karua River.—Booral.—Stroud.—Stock.—Land Speculations.—Blacks.—Dingadee.—Wallaroba.—Paterson.—Libraries.—Maitland.—Newcastle.—Meetings.—Coal-works.—Voyage to Port Macquarie.—Lake Cottage.—Penal Establishment.—Town.—Rocks.—Prisoners.—Wilson River.—Trees, &c.—Rollins Plains.—Natives.—Sugar Canes.—Tacking Point Wood.—Acrosticum grande.—State of Prisoners.—Return to Sydney.

7th mo. 9th. AFTER attending to some subjects of importance, we took a walk into one of the luxuriant woods, on the side of the Hunter, such as are termed Cedar Brushes, on account of the colonial White Cedar, *Melia Azedarach*, being one of the trees that compose them. *Eugenia myrtifolia* and *Ficus Muntia*, are among the variety of trees in these brushes. The former resembles a large, broad-leaved Myrtle, and attains to twenty feet in height; its fruit, which is now ripe, is about the size of a cherry, but oblong and purple, with a mixture of sweet and acid. *Ficus Muntia* is a spreading Fig, growing as large as an Apple-tree. Where its branches touch the ground, they root, and send up erect shoots, forming a succession of trees. The insipid fruit, which is about the size of a Gooseberry, is sometimes produced from the bare trunk and boughs, as well as from the leafy branches, giving the tree a very unusual appearance. These Cedar Brushes are also thick with climbers, such as *Cissus antarctica*, the Kangaroo Vine, *Eupomatia laurinae*, a briary bush, allied to the Custard-apple, but with an inferior fruit, and several *Apocineae*.

10th. We held a meeting with about fifty persons, in

a school-house, at Green Hills, or Morpeth, in which the Gospel was preached, with much warning. We afterwards dined with the benevolent individual, who let us have the use of the school-house, which he built for the benefit of the neighbourhood. He belongs to a class that is pretty numerous in these Colonies, who, having been brought up to a military life, have beaten their swords into ploughshares, and have proved, that the pecuniary profits of the arts of peace, as well as their comforts, are much greater than those of war. The eldest son of this person, when between two and three years old, wandered into the bush, and was lost; he would probably have perished, but for a faithful spaniel, that followed him, and at midnight, came and scratched at the door of one of the servants' huts, and when it was opened, ran toward the place where the child was. A man followed the dog, which led him to a considerable distance, through a thick brush, by the side of the river, where he found the little boy, seated on the ground, almost stiff from cold, but amused with watching the sporting of some porpoises and sharks. The dog afterwards lost its life, from the bite of a snake, which proved fatal in fifteen minutes, much to the sorrow of its little master, who pointed out the corner of the room where it died, with evident emotion, though several years had now elapsed since the event.

11th. We proceeded by the steamer Ceres, to the mouth of the Williams River, and walked from thence to Raymonds Terrace. Here we had a meeting, in the evening, with the assigned-servants of a considerable establishment, in an overseer's cottage, situated among some trees, in contact with the forest. The large Bats, called Flying Foxes, and the black, Flying Opossums, made considerable noise among the over-hanging trees, but this did not seem to divert the attention of our congregation.

12th. There is a manufactory of superior, brown earthenware, at Raymonds Terrace; it is one of the most successful, of the few attempts that have been made to manufacture pots, in the Australian Colonies.—From a hill in this neighbourhood, there is a fine view of the surrounding country,

which, like most other parts of N. S. Wales, is one vast wood, interrupted by a few open swamps. Near this place, *Sarcostemma australe*, a remarkable, leafless shrub, with green, succulent, climbing stems, as thick as a quill, and bearing clusters of white flowers, resembling those of a *Hoya*, was growing on some rough, conglomerate rocks. In the more fertile spots, by the sides of brooks, there was a species of Yam, the root of which is eaten by the Aborigines, as well as *Eugenia trinervis*, and another shrub of the Myrtle tribe, and *Logania floribunda*, a Privet-like bush, with small, white, fragrant blossoms. The country toward Port Stephens, whither we next proceeded, was decorated with *Acacia longifolia*, and some others of that genus, with lively, yellow flowers, and with *Bursaria spinosa*, which is fragrant and white, *Lambertia formosa*, a stiff bush, with beautiful, deep crimson flowers, and *Dillwynia parvifolia* with pretty, orange blossoms.

We were accompanied a few miles on our way, in this direction, by a prisoner, who had been the subject of religious impressions in early life, but had yielded to temptations, which led to the forfeiture of his liberty. The trials to which he had been subjected, by association with wicked men, had become, under the divine blessing, the means of stirring him up to watchfulness and prayer; and here, he met with kindness, from those under whom he was placed, whose hearts became opened toward him, as his own became again turned to the Lord. A boat, belonging to the Australian Agricultural Company, conveyed us from Sawyers Point, on the south-west of the estuary of Port Stephens, to Tarlee House, the residence of Henry Dumaresq, the Company's First Commissioner, by whose family we were received with much Christian kindness.

13th. Much rain has fallen lately. Our journey through the forest, yesterday, was a very wet one, and to-day we were almost confined to the house by rain.

14th. We visited the little village of Carrington, which is situated on the north shore of Port Stephens, and is composed of a few weather-board cottages, occupied by officers and servants of the Agricultural Company, with

whom we had a meeting, in the evening, in a carpenter's shop, which was used also as a place of worship, by the Episcopal Minister. There were a few Aborigines in the village, where they are kindly treated. Their number is very small in this neighbourhood. Port Stephens is studded with a few, little islands, which, with the contiguous Porphyritic hills, give it a pretty appearance; but the country is not of the most fertile description. The territory of the Australian Agricultural Company consists of detached tracts, amounting together to 1,000,000 acres. The parts where their sheep and cattle are chiefly kept, are on Liverpool Plains and the Peel River, distant 150 miles from Port Stephens.

15th. We proceeded to Booral, up the Karua River, which is wide and navigable to within a short distance of this place, and flows through a sandstone country. Where the water is salt, it is margined with Mangroves, which give place, where it is fresh, to various species of *Eucalyptus*, *Ficus*, *Casuarina*, and a number of climbers. We were kindly received at Booral, by the Second Commissioner and his brother, and had a religious interview with the people of the settlement, in a neat little chapel.

16th. Passing a small settlement, called Alderley, we continued our journey to Stroud, where we were hospitably entertained by an intelligent, medical man, having the superintendence of the stock of the Company, which consists of about 60,000 sheep, 3,000 horned cattle, and 500 horses. At the sale of some of their stock, last week, sheep averaged 28s. each, cows with calves £8, and horses £20; which are high prices for this Colony. Their last year's dividend was three and a half per cent. and they have now a prospect of a progressive increase. The Speculations of Companies, in land, in the Australian Colonies, have not answered the expectations of the parties who have embarked in them; nor is it very likely that they should, as the salaries of officers alone, amount to more than the profits of most private settlers. The Company have about 300 acres in cultivation here, and 200 at Booral. The population of Stroud is considerably greater than that of the

other stations.—This evening, a large party of Blacks were singing and dancing around some fires, near the village. Their number is considerable on the territory of the Company; and if its object had been as much to do justice to the people, whose lands they have occupied, as it has been to enrich themselves, they would, doubtless, have made more effort than they have done for their civilization.

17th. We had a meeting in the evening, with the people of the settlement, in a chapel built by Sir Edward Parry, the former First Commissioner of the Company. The service of the Episcopal Church is read by a pious overseer, except once a month, when the clergyman from Carrington visits the place.

18th. A young German, in the employment of the Company, and a Native, accompanied us part of the way to Dingadee, at the confluence of the Carowery Creek and the Wilson River, to help us over some swollen rivulets, by means of horses. These being cleared, we passed over some high land, on a narrow ridge, and over several lower hills. The forest was open, but in places, rather thick. In the gullies, there were large Myrtle-like *Eugenias*, of handsome form, with Cedars, and other trees, not occurring on the face of the open, forest hills, which were of poorish soil, and thinly covered with Kangaroo-grass, besprinkled with various plants, among which *Swainsonia galegifolia*, forming a low, suffruticose bush, with white or pink pea-flowers, was strikingly pretty. At Dingadee, which forms a peninsula of rich, alluvial soil, nearly surrounded by the Williams River, and which has been partially cleared of thick brush, we met a kind reception from a settler, with whose establishment we had an interesting religious interview, and who, in his solitude, seemed glad to converse on subjects of eternal importance. The distance between Stroud and Dingadee is about seventeen miles. When these places were first occupied, the parties went to them from different points, and our friend at Dingadee said, that when he first saw a white man come from the hills behind him, his surprise was excessive, as he had no idea that his countrymen had penetrated the woods, in that direction.

19th. We proceeded down the Wilson River, to Dunggog, where the site of a town is marked by a small, weather-board Court-house. The brush by the side of the river is very rich, and ornamented by numerous, fan-leaved palms, *Corypha australis*, some of which are about sixty feet high. On leaving the river, we passed over a hilly country, of poorish soil, clothed with open forest and thin grass, to Wallaroba, where we were very cordially received, by a settler and his wife, whose connexions, we were well acquainted with in England, and who emigrated to this country in a time of great depression in agriculture. In this land, they have exerted themselves, with a spirit of independence, that led them to decline the help of money on loan, and by persevering industry, they are now possessed of a comfortable home, and a location of land, on which they have a fair stock of cattle. They have also maintained a kindly feeling toward the Aborigines, who live about them in quietness and confidence, but who have been reduced, in this neighbourhood, by various causes, among which has been the Small Pox, from about 200, to 60. These kind-hearted settlers say, they are convinced, that the misunderstandings between the Blacks and Whites, always originate with the latter; many of whom would destroy the Blacks if they happened to take a few cobs of Indian-corn, from the fields, enclosed from their own country; they also strongly deprecate the indiscriminate vengeance, often returned upon this hapless people, when any of their number have committed outrages, by the Government sending armed police, or soldiers upon them, often before the merits of the case can be properly ascertained. One of the Blacks brought our host a present, of a small species of kangaroo, called in this part of the Colony, a Paddy-melon: it is about the size of a hare, which it is said to resemble in flavour, when roasted.

20th. After a wet walk of ten miles, over hills and flats, of open grassy forest, we reached a little settlement, called Paterson, consisting of a few houses, on a river of the same name, and were kindly entertained by a settler whom I had met in London, and at whose house, we had a meeting with

such persons as could be assembled to receive our gospel message. Our friend here had brought with him a good library. This is a point which a few other settlers have also attended to; but emigrants are not generally a reading people, their rural pursuits occupying most of their time and energy.

21st. Much rain having fallen, many parts of the road to Maitland were inundated, and strong currents were flowing through the hollows. Some of these, we crossed, upon logs, such as, from the woody nature of the country, frequently happen to have fallen across the brooks and rivers. In other places, the post and rail fences, which commonly divide the located portions of the land, enabled us to cross the water; and in others, we had to wade, after going a little out of the way, in search of fordable places. Some parts of the country bordering on the Paterson, were fine, and interspersed with houses and cultivated lands; but we found the children of the lower classes here, as we have also found them in some other parts of this Colony, growing up in much ignorance. There was no school among them, and the only apology for public, religious instruction, was a sermon from the Episcopal Clergyman of Maitland, once a month, in a lock-up-house, on the site of the intended town of Paterson. Some of the settlers however, collect their servants on First-days, for devotional reading, but this is far from being a general practice.

On the 22nd, we were detained at Maitland, by rain; on the 23rd, we proceeded by the Sophia Jane steamer, to Newcastle, where the Police Magistrate, who is a military officer, granted us permission to hold a meeting for public worship in the Police Office, and the Episcopal Chaplain kindly lent us some seats for the place.

24th. In the forenoon, we had a religious interview with about 120 prisoners, in the jail; in the evening we had a crowded meeting with the inhabitants of Newcastle, in the Police Office. On this occasion, great freedom was felt, in preaching the Gospel, and in drawing a clear line, between the service of God, and the service of the devil, and in testifying to the grace of God that brings salvation, and to

the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, sent into the world, of the Father, in the name of his beloved Son, to convince the world of sin, bring them to repentance, and lead them through faith in Christ, to reconciliation with God. There was a comforting sense of the divine presence with us, enabling us to bear witness to that justification by faith, through which we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and receive the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father, knowing the divine Spirit to bear witness with our spirits, that we are the children of God.

25th. We breakfasted with a pious couple of Anglo-Australians, and inspected the Jail, which is a considerable building, but very badly arranged, for the complete separation of the male and female prisoners.—Between the Jail and the town, there is a sandy hill, that was once covered with brushwood. This was cut down, when Newcastle was a penal settlement, to prevent the concealment of prisoners; and ever since, the drifting sand has bid defiance to all opposition, burying walls, and all other impediments, raised to obstruct its course. In the afternoon, we had an interview with an ironed-gang, stationed here, who are chiefly employed in the formation of a break-water, at the mouth of this harbour; several soldiers were also present; the whole of the company were very attentive, while we discharged our debt of Christian love toward them.

26th. We visited a detachment of fourteen men, belonging to a bridge and road-party, at the Iron-bark Creek, about eight miles from Newcastle, toward Maitland, a part of whom we gathered up, by walking two miles back into the bush. They were at length collected in an overseer's hut; and we were strengthened to extend to them, an invitation, to turn to the Lord and live, calling their attention to the proofs of his unwillingness that they should perish in their sins, exhibited in his having freely delivered up his beloved Son for us all, and in the pleadings of his Spirit, by which he still convinces the rebellious of their transgressions, and warns them to repent and turn, that they may be saved.

The road to this place was sandy and heavy, but the fineness of the day made the walk pleasant. The bush, through which it lay, was gay with *Kennedia monophylla* and *rubicunda*, *Acacia longifolia* and *suaveolens*, and other shrubs, and the air was perfumed with their fragrance.

27th and 28th. We had religious interviews with the patients in the Upper and Lower Hospitals, and with the pitmen, of the Coal-works, of the Australian Agricultural Company, the last of whom are about ninety in number. We also took part in the organization of a Temperance Society, and a Branch Bible Auxiliary. Among the pitmen, there seemed an ear open to religious counsel. Several of them were formerly in connexion with a religious society, but were transported for offences, connected with "striking for wages."—A considerable quantity of good coal is raised here, and shipped to Sydney, Hobart Town, the Cape of Good Hope, &c.

29th. At the request of the Military Officer, in charge, we had an interview with the soldiers stationed here, for the purpose of giving them some hints on the importance of temperance.—I received a letter from India, from the young man to whose care we committed some of the writings of Friends; and respecting which he says: "The books which you entrusted to me, afforded me much pleasant, and I hope also profitable reading, during the voyage to Madras; and I will tell you frankly, that in many, perhaps in most things, I find myself satisfied that the truth is with you. I refer, in thus saying, chiefly to your application of the precepts of the Gospel to the every-day practice of life; in which, I have long felt, that Christians fail, and are content to fall very far short of what they ought to attain to."

30th. We embarked on board the William the Fourth steamer, which put in at Newcastle this morning, on the way to Port Macquarie, and early in the forenoon, we were in Nelsons Bay, Port Stephens, where the steamer had cargo to deliver to a whaling brig. Keeping close in with the land, the view of the coast was fine. The islets and headlands, about Port Stephens, present a remarkable, and ruggedly furrowed appearance, and have numerous vertical

fissures. They are also much varied in colour, with red, yellow, and dirty white. The tide was running with great force, round some of the points within the port.

31st. We anchored under a head-land, on the south side of Port Macquarie, until the tide allowed the steamer to cross the bar; when we proceeded to the jetty, which is an overhanging, conglomerate rock, where we landed. After depositing our luggage at a small inn, we proceeded to Lake Cottage, seven miles distant, where we received a hearty welcome from Archibald Clunis Innis, and his wife, son-in-law and daughter of our kind friends, Alexander and Elizabeth M'Leay, of Sydney. On the way, we had a religious interview with a small road-party, in which there is a person, who was brought up a clergyman of the Episcopal Church. They were without a Bible, or any religious instruction.

8th mo. 1st. A. C. Innis drove us to Port Macquarie, and introduced us to the Episcopal Clergyman, and the Police-magistrate, both of whom received us kindly, and signified their willingness to assist us, in obtaining religious interviews with the prisoners and free population. Port Macquarie was a penal settlement, up to a late period, but is now thrown open to free settlers: it still is a depot for that description of educated prisoners, denominated "Specials," and for invalids, decrepit, and insane persons, and idiots, who are lodged in miserable, wooden barracks, about to be superseded by new ones of brick.

The town is prettily situated, on the side of a bay, with a sandy beach; upon which, the rocks are of Quartz, and mottled, green Serpentine. The soil is rich, and of a remarkably red colour. On the south of the town, the forest is very thick. The buildings are few, and chiefly of weather-board. The principal ones are, the Commandant's Quarters, Military and Prisoners Barracks, Hospital, a few stores and a windmill.

2nd. We visited the female prisoners, the ironed-gang, and the invalids. The Ironed-gang assembled in "the Punishment-yard;" in which, three men were shortly after, to be flogged. They were all very quiet, while we set forth

to them, the way of salvation, and pleaded with them on the folly of sin.

3rd. We visited the specials, operative prisoners, patients in the Hospital, a free overseer who had brought on dropsy by drinking strong liquors, a prisoner who had attempted to commit suicide, under the mortification produced by the restraints imposed upon him, and some of the specials, individually. Neither their association here, nor that of the other prisoners, seems likely to produce reformation.

5th. We had a meeting with the free inhabitants, in a room in the Colonial Hospital. It was not numerously attended, neither was it a season of much brightness. There is reason to fear, that in this place, as well as in many others, the people are much more concerned about their temporal things, than about those that are eternal; forgetting that temporal things will soon pass away, and that then, those who are not rich toward God, will be poor indeed.

6th. We rode to the Plains, on the Wilson River, and on the way visited a road-party, at Blackmans Point, where there is a ferry across the Hastings River, at its confluence with the Wilson. By an order from the Commandant, the road-party met us at the ferry-house, where a few other persons also assembled with them, and we had a satisfactory season of gospel labour. These people have no appointed religious instruction, but had borrowed a Bible, from which, on First-days, one of their number, who had been a clergyman of the Episcopal Church, read to them. At Balingara, where there is a ferry across the Wilson, we met another road-party, in a large barn, used as a barrack for them. The quietude of our meeting was much interrupted, by the passing of a herd of cattle, and by the swearing of their drivers, but we were favoured with a sense of the divine presence, both while silent, and in preaching the Gospel. This company, consisted of from twenty to thirty men, some of them persons of education; they had not a Bible, nor were they assembled, even on First-days, for religious instruction.

The brushes on the border of the Wilson, are very

magnificent. The trees, some of which are of gigantic size, are overrun with climbing, evergreen shrubs, twisted about them in fanciful coils, or wreathed around them, like huge serpents, or hanging from them like ropes; their leafy tops being enlivened by gay and fragrant blossoms, and often hanging pendent to the ground, which is covered thickly with beautiful shrubs, ferns, and flowering plants, nourished by the moisture of the rich alluvial soil, and kept from the parching influence of the sun, by the exuberant foliage. Mosses, epiphytes of the Orchis tribe, and splendid Ferns, as well as various species of Fig-tree, support themselves on the trunks and branches of the larger timber, and add greatly to the richness of this kind of forest scenery; among which, gay Parrots, Cockatoos, and other birds, unlike those of our native land, sport and chatter in harmony with the rest of the surrounding objects, which are strongly calculated to remind an Englishman, that he is far from home, even though he may have made this, his adopted country. But to one who, feeling reconciled to God through the death of his Son, can, with a sense of the divine presence in his mind, look upon these objects, and with filial love to his and their Creator, say, "My Father made them all;" even though such a one may be reminded by them, that he is far from his nearest connexions in life, they have an interest which cannot be understood by those who are living at enmity with God. In some sense of this interest, we are often favoured to feel the length of our journeys beguiled, and our minds cheered. And with thankfulness, I would add, that often, when withdrawn from these enlivening scenes, and amidst various conflicts and exercises, both on account of ourselves and others, we are favoured with such a measure of peace, and such a sense of the love of God extended to us, poor, unworthy, and of ourselves, helpless creatures as we are, as reconciles us to our allotment, and restrains us from wishing to be anywhere but where we are, at the time, willing to leave the morrow to the morrow, knowing that sufficient for the day is the evil thereof, without adding to it, by useless anticipation.

7th. We proceeded along a line of little alluvial plains,

intersected by the windings of the Wilson River, still margined by rich brushes, among which numerous Cockatoos were screaming, Parrots chattering, and the singular and loud-voiced, snake-killing bird, called the Laughing-jackass, was at intervals, setting up its rolling note, until we reached the house of a settler, at which we had a meeting appointed, that was attended by several young persons of the neighbourhood, and a considerable number of assigned prisoners. It was held in the verandah, and was satisfactory, notwithstanding the wind was strong and cool. The auditory listened attentively to the doctrines of truth, which commend themselves to the conscience, according to the measure of light, and the experience of those that hear; who, at least, can trace in themselves, the work of the Spirit of God, as a witness against sin.

In returning, we called on a settler of our acquaintance, on Rollins Plains, which is one of a series of rich alluvial flats, adjoining the river, and backed by wooded, grassy hills. Considerable alarm was existing at this time, in consequence of some of the native Blacks having speared some cattle, and committed other outrages. Two little boys, who were staying at the house of our acquaintance, durst not venture off the road, into the adjacent brush, lest they should be killed by their countrymen, who, on account of some pique, had destroyed all the rest of their tribe. The impression among the settlers is, that the Blacks spear the cattle to eat; and as the locating of the land by Europeans, has greatly diminished the Kangaroo, and other food of the Natives, this seems highly probable. Maize is the principal crop now grown on these plains, which are liable to be flooded, and were naturally clear of timber or scrub. A few years since, the Government tried the growth of sugar upon them. The canes came to good perfection, but before arrangements were made for harvesting them, they were injured by frost, and the growth of sugar was abandoned. The land here has been sold by the Government, to the persons who have located it, at from 7s. to 67s. per acre.

8th. Hoar frost was strong in the night, and the open grounds were very white in the morning. While the

house of the settler with whom we lodged, was got ready, the room used as a dormitory at night being the sitting-room during the day, as is often the case in a newly-settled country, I walked into a copse, for shelter from the cold, and met with a beautiful little palm, resembling a South American *Geonoma*, in form. It was from six to ten feet high, and had pinnate leaves, three feet long, and bore its minute flowers, in long, simple spikes.

The vegetation here is very striking. On our return to Port Macquarie, we noticed a shrubby, white-flowered *Helichrysum*, two species of *Cassia*, *Tasmania insipida*, *Ficus macrophylla*, *ferruginea*, and another species, *Hibiscus splendens*, with blossoms six to nine inches across, *Hibiscus heterophyllus*, and a shrub, with white flowers, allied to *Sida*, but of a distinct genus, having five red glands at the base of the common filament, also a singular, climbing plant, belonging to the *Aroideæ*, adhering to the trees along with *Dischidia nummularia*, *Polypodium quercifolium* and *attenuatum*, *Dendrobium tetragonum*, *linguiforme*, *æmulum* and *calamifolium*. In some places the country is undulating and grassy. It is adapted for horned cattle, and suffers less from drought, than many other parts of N. S. Wales.

9th. I took a walk into the wood, on Tacking Point, on the coast, south of Port Macquarie. The road from Lake Cottage lay through the Cathi Marsh, part of which was crossed by a long and imperfect bridge of logs. *Blandfordia grandiflora* decorated some of the open forest, in which several of the Gum-trees were supporting a variety of parasitical Figs. A grass-tree swamp, intervened between the bridge and the shore. On the borders of the swamp, where the ground was sandy, with a small mixture of vegetable matter, several species of *Boronia*, *Epacris*, and *Euphrasia*, were in flower, along with *Sowerbea juncea*, a handsome *Comesperma*, a species of *Sprengellia*, &c. On the drier sand-hills, there were *Banksia serrata* and *spinulosa*, *Platylobium formosum*, *Ræperia pinifolia*, a species of *Pultenæa*, which formed dense patches, and *Kennedia ovata* and *rubicunda*, &c. Close upon the coast, *Pandanus pedunculatus*, was of inferior growth to that at Moreton Bay.

In a marsh, at Tacking Point, chiefly occupied by *Melaleuca paludosa*, and bordered by a large, silver-flowered, willow-leaved *Helichrysum*, *Todea africana*? had become arborescent, and formed a beautiful tree-fern, with fronds six feet long, on a trunk three feet high. It was growing with an *Alsophila*, the trunk of which was much slenderer than that of the *A. australis* of V. D. Land, and with a large *Crinum* and *Calladium glycyrrhizon*. In the forest, there were many noble trees, similar to those in the neighbouring woods, but here, they were intermingled with abundance of *Seaforthia elegans*, a noble, feather-leaved Palm, forty feet in height. The small Palm already noticed, was also here, and a tall, cyperaceous? plant, growing into the trees, and again bending toward the ground, with a stem as thick as a Ratan. One of the parasitical Figs had sent a root down from a lofty bough, remote from the trunk, and the root, which must have swung like a rope, had a diagonal direction, and was adhering at its lower extremity to the foster tree! Some *Casuarinæ* were encircled by masses of *Acrosticum alcicorne*. This fern retains much moisture in its dead, sterile fronds, which form large scales, rising one over another, it generally grows on the upper portion of the trunks of the *Casuarinæ*, and in stormy weather, they are sometimes thrown down by the weight of water and vegetable matter, thus accumulated about them. Many thus circumstanced, were lying in the forest, having a profusion also of *Davallia pyxidata*, growing out of the masses of *Acrosticum alcicorne*. Other trees, ferns, and flowering plants, were here in great variety.

Whilst admiring the rich profusion of the vegetable productions, and conversing with some wood-cutters, I insensibly got turned round, and toward evening, on referring to my compass, found myself making rapid progress, in a direction opposite to the one I ought to have pursued. What gave to this place the name of Tacking Point, I know not, but its name harmonized with my present circumstances; and to use a sea phrase, I "tacked," without delay, being desirous to escape from the dense forest, before sunset.

I had become hungry, and looked longingly to the tops

of the majestic palms, without the hope of reaching one of them; but at length, I came at one, which, from some accident, had turned its head downward, so that it seemed to be put exactly into my path. I cut it off, stripped away the base of the leaves, to the tender heart, and went along, enjoying my grateful meal, thankful to Him who had brought me and the crooked palm, as by accident, into contact. The supply was so ample, that when I reached my friends, at the Lake Cottage, after a toilsome journey through the marsh, in the dark, I had a piece, as thick as my wrist, and a foot and a half long, under my arm, reserved for supper, in case I should have found it impracticable to reach my quarters, and have been under the necessity of remaining among the bushes of the sand hills, on the coast, during the night.

Among the sedgy plants, in the margin of Lake Innis, there is a large species of *Eriocaulon*. Several other species of this genus, occur in N. S. Wales, and one in the west of Scotland, but its maximum is in America. Plants are subject to a remarkable, geographical distribution, which it is very interesting to trace out. The remarkable section of the genus *Acrosticum*, which includes *A. grande* and *A. alvicorne*, has at least one species in India, and another in Western Africa. *A. grande*, which is represented in the accompanying cut, grows to a large size, on trees bordering on Lake Innis. One measured, had the upper, or barren fronds, three feet across, and as much in height. There were two mature, barren fronds, that had strong, black nerves, and the same number of fertile ones. From the opposite extremities of the appendages of the latter, the measurement was seven feet. Some of these appendages were of ten, ribbon-like divisions, many of which were bifid. The central portion might be compared to a jockey's saddle, attached by the pommel. From this point, to the extreme margin, was a foot and a half, and this portion was two feet across. The fructification formed a half-moon shaped patch, under the exterior portion, that extended one foot from the margin, toward the point of the attachment, and was a foot and a half across. A young,

white, barren frond, almost circular, was placed in front of the two older ones, to which it was closely pressed. Behind these, there were several dead, spongy, old fronds, that retained much moisture, and were penetrated by numerous, spongy roots, such as were also spread behind them, on the bark of the tree that supported this remarkable fern, the colour of which was bluish green, covered with a whitish powder.



10th. We again visited Port Macquarie, where we were glad to find that an individual, in an influential station, had resolved to adopt temperance principles. The use of intoxicating drinks is a sore evil here, as well as in other parts of N. S. Wales. It is the bane of all classes of society. The number of educated prisoners, called Specials, at this depôt, is about 160. Of these, only 25 can be considered as orderly or thoughtful men. About as many more are of equivocal character. The residue are dissolute and drunken. The prisoners who are operative mechanics, are allowed to earn money, at least by connivance; but they have no private places, in which to keep anything, and if they even purchase clothes, to give themselves a more respectable appearance than that of prisoners generally, they are sure to

have them stolen, by those with whom they are associated. To avoid this risk they therefore, almost universally, spend their earnings in rum and tobacco.

14th. After a solemn parting from our friends at Lake Cottage, with whom we have sympathized in their affliction, by the loss of a beloved sister, who devoted herself much to the good of others, we proceeded to Port Macquarie, and embarked, on board the *William the Fourth*, which left the wharf about noon, the day being beautifully fine. Shoals of fish in some places darkened the water, out of which many of them were continually springing. They were followed by numerous Gulls and Terns, notwithstanding the fish themselves, seemed quite too large for these birds to prey upon.

15th. We were off Newcastle early, but unable to enter the Hunter for some time, in consequence of a dense fog. At noon, we again put to sea, and entered Port Jackson late in the evening. Passing the new floating-light, on the shoal, called *The Sow and Pigs*, we came to anchor in Darling Harbour, after ten o'clock, and quietly retired to our berths for the night.