present memoir. Mention has been made of his brother being with him at the first settlement of the colony. This brother was Thomas George Shortland, and on 1st March, 1802, was raised to the dignified office of post captain in the level of the Lord Nelson. In 1810 he commanded H.M.S. Iris, and commanded other vessels for some years afterwards, till the death of his brother, Captain John Shortland, he and his mother and two sisters became very disconsolate, and within a short period of time followed him on to the other world. The first discovered at Newcastle. Various have been the theories and speculations of ingenious writers on the coal discovery, and from their researches establish beyond doubt that the bay near Port Stephens where the fisherwomen in June, 1796, secured near the beach a cargo of coal, could not have been any other harbour than the one on which the second city in the colony was founded. Several circumstances confirm this belief, and the writer has recently discovered additional proof in the diary of Captain Collins, the Colonial Secretary of the colony. It appears that the fame of the fisherwomen had acquired by the coal discovery, spread through the settlement at Sydney, and apparently inspired some others with a spirit of enterprise to retrace the scene of the El Dorado. Under date July, 1796, Captain Collins writes about the natives at Sydney being less troublesome than they have months past, and these he proceeds to detail the following interesting event:—"The people of a fishing boat which had been cast on shore in some bad weather near Port Stephens met with some of these people (the aboriginals), who, without much ceremony or any hope of reward, readily put them into a path from thence to Broken Bay, and conducted them the greatest part of the way. This was probably due to the fisherwomen being authentic and imme-

gaters, and after it was first settled in June, 1801, by Lieutenant-Governor Phillip, to the orders of Governor King, there can be little or no exaggeration in thinking that these fishermen were escorted by the natives. If an unfortunate female was conjured to be Mary Morgan, a prisoner, who it was now said had failed in her attempt to get on board the Government storehouse, which sailed from hence in 1794. There was indeed a woman, and a slave. Some ran away a few days after our sitting down in this place, and whose fate was not exactly ascertained; if she could have crossed the hardships and wretchedness of such a life as must have been here during so many years amongst the natives of New Holland, such information must it have been in her power to afford! But humanity shuddered at the idea of pursuing it at so dear a price."

To be continued on Friday.

Tuesday, September 21, 1897.

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ports being again circulated respecting the situation of Mary Morgan, the woman said to be detained among the natives to the northward of Broken Bay, a boat with some people who had volunteered the service was sent to the north part of that harbour where it was said she had lately been seen with some of her black friends. The people were directed, if possible, to bring her away unless she preferred the life she now led, upon which more than three years' experience of it would certainly enable her to decide. They were absent about 10 days and returned without success, not even having heard anything of her.”

THE WOMAN IN ENGLAND ALL THE TIME.

The search for the wild white woman, Mary Morgan, was a failure. How could it be otherwise when she was domiciled in London, where she preferred to lead a “gay” life than to rusticate among the half-starved black and white people of the antipodes. It appeared that on 9th November, 1794, two ships, the Resolution and Salamanca, left Sydney Cove on a whale-fishing voyage, and soon after they left Mary Morgan and John Randall and his wife were missing. Lieutenant-Governor Paterson sent a boat down the harbour to the heads to search the Resolution, on board of which they were alleged to be concealed. Sergeants William Day and David Jones searched the vessel, but found no stowaways. They told the captain (John Locke) that they had sent the pilot to the Lieutenant-Governor for further instructions, and that the ship could not go to sea without having a certificate of the number of persons he had on board belonging to the colony. The captain had been permitted to ship some convicts as seamen. With many extortions the captain said he would not furnish the sergeants and their search party of four privates with a boat from the ship, but that he would land them on some desolate part of the coast if they persisted in waiting for the boat from Sydney. Fearing he would put his threats into execution, the sergeants called a boat belonging to the Salamanca, who took their party aboard. The captain swore he would sink the Sydney boat if there was any attempt made to board him, and Dr. Blackburn and the ship's officers prepared the fire-arms for an expected attack. All this happened while the ship was eight miles from Sydney Heads. It afterwards transpired that Captain Locke had clandestinely taken from the settlement not only Mary Morgan, but 13 convicts whose terms of transportation had not expired.

DISCOVERY OF TUGGERAH LAKE.

The search after the wild white woman was not without some good and useful information concerning the geography of the northern coast. The search party were landed at the north part of Broken Bay in the vicinity of Brisbane Water. They marched along the coast line, when their progress was stopped by the waters of a “lagoon within the sea beach, of about 20 miles in length, and running parallel with the sea coast.” This lagoon is now called Tuggerah Lake, and those who know the locality will readily understand how their effort to reach overland any place near Port Stephens would be frustrated.

THE MISSING WOMAN SMITH.

With respect to the Colonial Secretary's remark about a woman named Ann Smith having left the settlement soon after it was founded, Governor Phillip reported to the Home Secretary in July, 1783, that “eleven male and one female convicts have been missing since we landed,” while another official, Dr. Arthur Bowes, in his diary under date, March 11th, 1788, records—“This day two of the women eloped with their beds and baggage, and it is supposed they have gone towards Botany Bay to join some other runaway convicts.” The writer has many accounts of white men as well as women exhibiting with the blacks in the early days, and it can hardly be a subject of surprise to the student of early colonial history to find a wild white woman among the natives to the northward of Broken Bay.