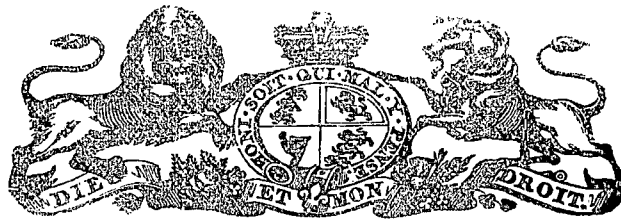


(No. 44.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**EXPEDITION FROM VAN DIEMEN'S LAND
TO PORT PHILLIP IN 1835.**

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



EXPEDITION FROM VAN DIEMEN'S LAND TO PORT PHILLIP, 1835.

Hobart Town, 25th June, 1835.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of reporting to Your Excellency, for the information of His Majesty's Government, the result of an Expedition undertaken by myself, at the expense and in conjunction with several gentlemen, inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, to Port Phillip, on the south-western point of New Holland, for the purpose of forming an extensive Pastoral Establishment, and combining therewith the civilization of the Native Tribes who are living in that part of the country.

Before I enter into the details I deem it necessary to state, for the information of His Majesty's Government, that I am a native of New South Wales, and that for the last six years I have been most actively employed in endeavoring to civilize the Aboriginal Natives of Van Diemen's Land, and in order to enable the local Government of this Colony to carry that important object into full effect, I procured from New South Wales eleven aboriginal Natives of New Holland, who were, under my guidance, mainly instrumental in carrying into effect the humane objects of this Government towards the Aborigines of this Island.

I also deem it necessary to state that I have been for many years impressed with the opinion that a most advantageous Settlement might be formed at Western Port, or Port Phillip, and that, in 1827, Mr. J. T. Gellibrand and myself addressed a joint letter to the Colonial Government of New South Wales soliciting permission to occupy land at Port Phillip, with an undertaking to export to that place Stock to the value of £5000, and which was to be placed for a certain number of years under my personal direction and superintendence.

This application was not granted by the Sydney Government because the land was beyond the limits of that territory, and the occupation of Western Port had been altogether abandoned.

It occurred to myself and some of the gentlemen who are associated with me that, inasmuch as the Sydney Natives who were living with me had become well acquainted with the English language and manners, and had acquired habits of industry and agricultural pursuits, they might therefore be considered partially civilized, and as the available lands in this Colony were occupied by flocks of sheep, and fully stocked, it would be a favorable opportunity of opening a direct friendly intercourse with the Tribes in the neighbourhood of Port Phillip, and by obtaining from them a grant of a portion of that territory upon equitable principles, not only might the resources of this Colony be considerably extended, but the object of civilization be established, and which in process of time would lead to the civilization of a large portion of the Aborigines of that extensive country.

In pursuance of arrangements based upon these principles, I proceeded, on the twelfth day of May, 1835, in a vessel from Launceston, accompanied by seven Sydney Natives, and proceeded to Port Phillip, on the South-western extremity of New Holland, where I landed on the twenty-sixth day of May.

On the evening of our arrival at Port Phillip we saw the Native fires at a distance of about five miles. I then made my arrangements for the purpose of opening an intercourse with the Natives by means of those under my charge. I equipped them in their Native dresses, and early in the morning we landed. I desired the Natives to proceed unarmed, and they preceded me a few hundred yards. When we had advanced within half a mile we saw the Native huts and smoke. My Natives then proceeded quietly up to the huts, expecting that we should find the tribe asleep, but when they had got to the huts it appeared that the Natives had fled a few hours previously, leaving behind them some of their baskets and other articles.

I concluded from this that the Natives had discerned the vessel and had quitted their huts through fear; and as I thought it probable they might, in consequence, quit the Coast for a season, I determined immediately to put my Natives upon the track, and if possible overtake them and at once obtain their confidence.

My Natives followed the track, which appeared to have been very circuitous, and after we had proceeded about ten miles we at length saw a tribe consisting of twenty women and twenty-four children.

My Natives then made to them some of their friendly signals, which it appeared were understood, and in the course of a few minutes my Natives joined the tribe; and after remaining with them, as I judged, sufficient length of time to conciliate them and explain my friendly disposition, I advanced alone and joined them, and was introduced to them by my Natives, two of whom spoke nearly the same language and so as to be perfectly intelligible to them.

The two interpreters explained to them by my directions that I had come in a vessel from the other shores; that I was, although a white, a countryman of theirs, and would protect them, and I wished them to return with me to their huts, where I had left some presents for them.

After some conversation, the whole party—women and children—returned with me and my Natives towards the huts, until they came within sight of the shore. They then stopped, and hesitated in proceeding, and, as I understood from the interpreters, were afraid I should take them by force and illuse them, as some of their tribe had been already.

After the strongest assurances on my part of my sincerity and friendly disposition, and that no harm should be done to them, they then proceeded to the huts, where I gave them a pair of blankets each, tomahawks, knives, scissors, looking-glasses, and I affixed round the necks of each woman and child a necklace.

As soon as I had distributed the presents they were informed by the interpreters that they might depart and join their friends, and I left them and proceeded on board the vessel. They appeared, by my conduct towards them, highly gratified and excited, and showed by their manners that the fullest confidence existed.

On the next and five following days I employed myself in surveying the country, and although I saw several Native fires I abstained from intruding upon them, leaving the interview I had had with the women to have its full effect upon the tribes before I visited them again.

On the seventh day I proceeded towards the place where I had seen the fires, and where I had reason to believe the tribes were, and I sent my Natives forward with the same instructions as upon the first occasion. We remained up the country all night, and proceeded early the next morning under the expectation of reaching the tribes. After we had proceeded about seven miles we fell in with a Native man, his wife and three children, who received my Natives with apparent cordiality, and informed them that the women to whom I had given the presents, although belonging to another tribe, had communicated to them the reception they had met with from me.

I learned from this Native where the Chiefs of the tribes were stationed, and also their names, and this man most readily offered at once to act as our guide and take us to the spot. We then proceeded with the man, his wife and children, towards the huts of the Chiefs; but it appeared that the guide took us past the spot where the Chiefs were, and some of the children having observed a white man gave the alarm, and almost immediately we found the tribe in our rear, advancing towards us with spears, and in a menacing position. My Natives, with the man, woman, and children, then called out to the tribe, and they immediately dropped their spears and other implements in the grass, that the two sable parties advanced towards each other, and I shortly followed them.

Some conversation then took place between my Natives and the tribe. The object of my visit and intentions were then explained to them, and the Chiefs then pressed me to proceed with them to see their wives and children, which is one of the strongest demonstrations of peace and confidence. Upon my assenting to this request, the Chiefs then enquired of my interpreters whether I would allow them to take up their implements of war, which I immediately assented to, and the principal Chief then gave me his best spear to carry, and I in return gave him my gun.

We then proceeded towards the huts, and when a short distance from them the Chief called out to the women not to be alarmed, and I was then introduced to the whole tribe, consisting of upwards of twenty men, containing altogether fifty-five men, women, and children.

I joined this tribe about 12 o'clock, and stayed with them until about 12 o'clock the next day, during which time I fully explained to them that the object of my visit was to purchase from them a tract of their country; that I intended to settle amongst them with my wife and seven daughters,

and that I intended to bring to the country sheep and cattle. I also explained my wish to protect them in every way, to employ them the same as my own Natives, and also to clothe and feed them, and I also proposed to pay them an annual tribute in necessities, as a compensation for the enjoyment of the land. The Chiefs appeared most fully to comprehend my proposals, and much delighted with the prospect of having me to live amongst them. I then explained to them the boundaries of the land which I wished to purchase, and which are defined by hills to which they have affixed Native names; and the limits of the land purchased by me are defined in the chart which I have the honor of transmitting, taken from personal survey.

On the next day the Chiefs proceeded with me to the boundaries, and they marked with their own Native marks the trees which were at the corners of the boundaries, and they also gave me their own private mark, which is kept sacred by them, even so much so that the women are not allowed to see it.

After the boundaries had been thus marked and described I filled up, as accurately as I could define it, the land agreed to be purchased by me from the Chiefs, and the Deed when thus filled up was most carefully read over and explained to them by the two interpreters, so that they most fully comprehended its purport and effect. I then filled up two other parts of the Deed, so as to make it in triplicate, and the three principal Chiefs and five of the subordinate Chiefs then executed each of the Deeds, each part being separately read over, and they each delivered to me a piece of the soil for the purpose of putting me in possession thereof, and understanding that it was a form by which they delivered to me the tract of land.

I have the honor of enclosing herewith a copy of each of the Deeds executed by the Natives to me, which I confidently trust will most clearly manifest that I have proceeded upon an equitable principle; that my object has not been possession and expulsion or, what is worse, extermination, but possession and civilization; and the reservation of the annual Tribute to those who are the real owners of the soil will afford evidence of the sincerity of my professions in wishing to protect and civilize these tribes of benighted, but intelligent people; and I confidently trust that the British Government will duly appreciate the Treaty which I have made with these tribes, and will not in any manner molest the arrangements which I have made, but that I shall receive the support and encouragement of not only the local Government, but that of the British Government, in carrying the objects into effect.

I quitted Port Phillip on the 14th day of June, having parted with the tribes in the most friendly and conciliatory manner, leaving five of my Natives and three white men to commence a garden near the harbour, and to erect a house for my temporary occupation on my return with my wife and family.

I arrived at Launceston after a passage of 36 hours, which will at once show the geographical advantages of this territory to Van Diemen's Land; and in a few years I have no hesitation in affirming, from the nature of the soil, that the exports of wool and meat to Van Diemen's Land will form a considerable feature in its commercial relations.

I traversed the country in opposite directions about fifty miles, and, having had much experience in lands and grazing in New South Wales and in this Colony, I have no hesitation in asserting that the general character of the country is decidedly superior to any which I have ever seen. It is interspersed with fine rivers and creeks, and the downs were extended on every side as far as the eye could reach, thickly covered with grass of the finest description, and containing an almost indescribable extent of fine land, fit for any purposes.

I have now, finally, to report that the following are the gentlemen who are associated with me in the Colonization at Port Phillip, many of whom will reside with their establishments at Port Phillip, and all of whom are prepared and intend immediately to export stock, which will be under my general guidance and immediate superintendence:—C. Swanston, Thos. Bannister, James Simpson, J. T. Gellibrand, J. and W. Robertson, Henry Arthur, H. Wedge, John Sinclair, J. T. Collicott, A. Cotterell, W. G. Sams, M. Connolly, George Mercer.

The quantity of stock exported this year will be at least 20,000 breeding ewes; and one of the leading stipulations will be that none but married men of good character, with their families, will be sent either as overseers or servants, so that by no possibility any personal injury shall be offered to the Natives or their families, and it is also intended, for the purpose of preserving due order and morals, that a Minister or Catechist shall be attached to the establishment at the expense of the Association.

The Chiefs, to manifest their friendly feeling towards me, insisted upon my receiving from them two Native cloaks and several baskets, made by the women, and also some of their implements of

defence, which I beg to transmit. The women generally are clothed with cloaks of a description somewhat similar, and they certainly appear to me to be of a superior race to any Natives which I have ever seen.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

*His Excellency Colonel GEORGE ARTHUR,
Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land.*

JOHN BATMAN.

KNOW ALL PERSONS that we three brothers Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga being the principal Chiefs and also Cooloolock Bunjarie Yanyan Moowhip Mommarmalar being the Chiefs of a certain Native Tribe called Dutigalla situate at and near Port Phillip called by us the above-mentioned Chiefs Tramoo and Geelong being possessed of the tract of land hereinafter mentioned for and in consideration of twenty pairs blankets thirty knives twelve tomahawks ten looking-glasses twelve pairs scissors fifty handkerchiefs twelve red shirts four flannel jackets four suits clothes and fifty pounds flour delivered to us by John Batman residing in Van Diemen's Land Esquire but at present sojourning with us and our tribe do for ourselves our heirs and successors GIVE grant enfeoff and confirm unto the said John Batman his heirs and assigns ALL THAT tract of country situate and being in the Bay of Port Phillip known by the name of Indented Head but called by us Geelong extending across from Geelong Harbour about one south for ten miles more or less to the head of Port Phillip taking in the whole neck or tract of land and containing about one hundred thousand acres as the same hath been before the execution of these presents delineated and marked out by us according to the custom of our tribe by certain marks made upon the trees growing along the boundaries of the said tract of land TO HOLD the said tract of land with all advantages belonging thereto unto and to the use of the said John Batman his heirs and assigns for ever To the intent that the said John Batman his heirs and assigns may occupy and possess the said tract of land and place thereon sheep and cattle YIELDING and delivering to us our heirs or successors the yearly rent or tribute of fifty pairs of blankets fifty knives fifty tomahawks fifty pairs scissors fifty looking-glasses twenty suits of slops or clothing and two tons of flour IN WITNESS whereof we Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga the three principal chiefs and also Cooloolock Bunjarie Yan Yan Moowhip Mommarmalar the Chiefs of the said tribe have hereunto affixed our seals to these presents and have signed the same Dated according to the Christian Era this sixth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

(Signed)	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	COOLOOLOCK	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	BUNJARIE	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	YAN YAN	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	MOOWHIP	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	MOMMARMALAR	his + mark	(L.S.)

(Signed) JOHN BATMAN.

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us
the same having been fully and properly
interpreted and explained to the said Chiefs.

(Signed)	JAMES GUMM.
"	ALEXANDER THOMPSON.
"	WM. TODD.

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the day and year within written possession and delivery of the tract of land within mentioned was made by the within named Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga Cooloolock Bunjarie Yanyan Moowhip Mommarmalar Chiefs of the tribe of Natives called Dutigalla Geelong to the within named John Batman by the said Chiefs taking up part of the soil of the said tract of land and delivering the same to the said John Batman in the name of the whole.

(Signed)	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	COOLOOLOCK	his + mark
"	BUNJARIE	his + mark
"	YANYAN	his + mark
"	MOOWHIP	his + mark
"	MOMMARMALAR	his + mark

In presence of

(Signed)	JAMES GUMM.
"	ALEXANDER THOMPSON.
"	WM. TODD.

KNOW ALL PERSONS that we three brothers Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga being the principal Chiefs and also Cooloolock Bunjarie Yanyan Moowhip and Mommarmalar being the Chiefs of a certain Native Tribe called Dutigalla situate at and near Port Phillip called by us the above mentioned Chiefs Tramoo being possessed of the tract of land hereinafter mentioned for and in consideration of twenty pairs blankets thirty tomahawks one hundred knives fifty pairs of scissors thirty looking-glasses two hundred handkerchiefs and one hundred pounds of flour and six shirts delivered to us by John Batman residing in Van Diemen's Land Esquire but at present sojourning with us and our tribe do for ourselves our heirs and successors GIVE grant, enfeoff and confirm unto him the said John Batman his heirs and assigns ALL THAT tract of country situate and being at Port Phillip running from the branch of the river at the top of the port about seven miles from the mouth of the river forty miles north east and from thence west forty miles across Tramoo Downs or Plains and from thence south south west across Mount Villamanata to Geelong Harbour at the head of the same and containing about five hundred thousand more or less acres as the same hath been before the execution of these presents delineated and marked out by us according to the custom of our tribe by certain marks made upon the trees growing along the boundaries of the said tract of land TO HOLD the said tract of land with all advantages belonging thereto unto and to the use of the said John Batman his heirs and assigns for ever to the intent that the said John Batman his heirs and assigns may occupy and possess the said tract of land and place thereon sheep and cattle YIELDING and delivering to us and our heirs or successors the yearly rent or tribute of one hundred pairs of blankets one hundred knives one hundred tomahawks fifty suits of clothing fifty looking-glasses fifty pairs scissors and five tons flour IN WITNESS whereof we Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga the above mentioned principal Chiefs and Cooloolock Bunjarie Yanyan Moowhip and Mommarmalar the Chiefs of the said tribe have hereunto affixed our seals to these presents and have signed the same Dated according to the Christian Era this sixth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

(Signed)	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	COOLOLOCK	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	BUNJARIE	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	YANYAN	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	MOOWHIP	his + mark	(L.S.)
"	MOMMARMALAR	his + mark	(L.S.)

(Signed) JOHN BATMAN (L.S.)

Signed sealed and delivered in the presence of us
the same having been fully and properly
interpreted and explained to the said Chiefs.

(Signed) JAMES GUMM.
" ALEXANDER THOMPSON.
" WM. TODD.

Signed on the banks of Batman's Creek 6th June 1835.

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the day and year within written possession and delivery of the tract of land within mentioned was made by the within named Jagajaga Jagajaga Jagajaga principal Chiefs and Cooloolock Bunjarie Yanyan Moowhip Mommarmalar also Chiefs of the tribe of Natives called Dutigalla to the within named John Batman by the said Chiefs taking up part of the soil of the said tract of land and delivering the same to the said John Batman in the name of the whole.

(Signed)	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	JAGAJAGA	his + mark
"	COOLOLOCK	his + mark
"	BUNJARIE	his + mark
"	YANYAN	his + mark
"	MOOWHIP	his + mark
"	MOMMARMALAR	his + mark

In presence of

(Signed) JAMES GUMM.
" ALEXANDER THOMPSON.
" WM. TODD.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 3rd July, 1835.

SIR,

I AM directed to inform you that the Lieutenant-Governor having perused, with much interest, the account contained in your report of the 25th ultimo of your expedition to Port Phillip, is highly gratified with the very favorable opinion you have been enabled to form of the fertility of the adjacent territory, thus confirming the various statements which have been made respecting it since the first occupation of that country in 1803 by Governor Collins, and more especially by Messrs. Hovell and Hume and Captain Wright, whose reports have long since been in the possession of His Majesty's Government.

Though divided only by a few hours' sail from the most fertile portion of Van Diemen's Land, Port Phillip is not within the jurisdiction of this Government. His Excellency would therefore only observe that the recognition of the rights supposed to have been acquired by the Treaty into which you have entered with the Natives would appear to be a departure from the principle upon which a Parliamentary sanction, without reference to the Aborigines, has been given to the settlement of Southern Australia as part of the possessions of the Crown.

The Lieutenant-Governor will have great pleasure, however, in forwarding your report to H.M. Government, and in representing the enterprise manifested by yourself, the respectability of the parties interested in the undertaking, and the humane consideration which, His Excellency is informed, it is their intention to extend towards the aboriginal inhabitants of Iranrooe, and which justice and humanity alike require as a preliminary in the occupation of every new country; but, at the same time, the Lieutenant-Governor would remark, for the reasons he has assigned, that he considers it would not be prudent in the gentlemen associated with you to incur expense in any reliance upon a confirmation from the Crown of your title to the land under the agreement into which you have entered,—an opinion which His Excellency cannot avoid expressing, although he is very sensible that the colonization of the country you have examined would, on account of its proximity, be highly conducive to the prosperity of Van Diemen's Land.

I am also to observe that in reference to the application of Mr. Henty to be allowed, under certain conditions, to locate a grant of land on the Southern Coast of New Holland, H.M. Government declined to accede to his proposal, conceiving that to have done so would be to deviate from the principles involved in the Act for the settlement of Southern Australia.

I remain, &c.

JOHN BATMAN, *Esq.*

JOHN MONTAGU.

MEMORANDUM.

10th August, 1835.

AGREEABLY to the Lieutenant-Governor's directions, copies of Mr. Batman's letter relative to his visit to Port Phillip, and my reply thereto, have been forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, New South Wales, for the information of Governor Sir Richard Bourke.

JOHN MONTAGU.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales,
1st September, 1835.*

SIR,

I DULY received and submitted to His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke your letters of the 7th and 12th ultimo, transmitting a communication from Mr. John Batman reporting the result of an expedition undertaken by him at the expense and in conjunction with several gentlemen, inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, to Port Phillip, on the south-eastern coast of this continent, for the purpose of forming an extensive Pastoral Establishment, and combining therewith the civilization of the Native Tribes who are living in that part of the country.

The same communication also states the result of a Treaty Mr. Batman has made with the Native Chiefs for the purchase of a certain tract of land on the payment of an annual tribute, with a hope that not only the British Government, but the local authorities, will ratify its conditions.

In submitting these papers before the Executive Council, Sir Richard Bourke at the same time laid before it a Despatch received from the Right Honorable the Earl of Aberdeen, dated 25th December, 1834, stating the opinion of His Majesty's Government upon the proposition to extend the location of settlers beyond the present authorised limits, and directing the Governor to discountenance any plans which may be hereafter proposed for settling the territory beyond those limits.

As the result of the deliberations of the Council, I do myself the honor, by the command of Sir Richard Bourke, to transmit to you the accompanying copies of a Proclamation he has issued, notifying that any bargain or contract made with the Aboriginal Natives of New Holland for the possession of any lands within the limits of the Government of New South Wales will be held to be null and void as against the rights of the Crown, and that all persons found in possession of any such lands will be considered as intruders and dealt with accordingly,—with a request that you will move His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Arthur to cause copies to be furnished to Mr. Batman and the other parties associated with him, with a communication to the effect that though this Government is fully satisfied of the great respectability of the parties, and highly approves of the regard expressed for the welfare of the Aboriginal Natives, it has, nevertheless, been deemed necessary to announce in the most formal and public manner the right of the Crown of England to the territory in question, and the absolute nullity of any grant for its possession made by any other party.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ALEX. M'LEAY.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.



PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Major-General SIR RICHARD BOURKE, K.C.B., Commanding His Majesty's Forces, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

WHEREAS it has been represented to me that divers of His Majesty's subjects have taken possession of vacant Lands of the Crown within the limits of this Colony, under the pretence of a treaty, bargain, or contract for the purchase thereof, with the Aboriginal Natives; Now therefore I, the Governor, in virtue and in exercise of the power and authority in me vested, do hereby proclaim and notify to all His Majesty's subjects and others whom it may concern, that every such treaty, bargain, and contract with the Aboriginal Natives as aforesaid for the possession, title, or claim to any Lands lying and being within the limits of the Government of the Colony of New South Wales, as the same are laid down and defined by His Majesty's Commission,—that is to say, extending from the Northern Cape or extremity of the coast called Cape York, in the latitude of ten degrees thirty-seven minutes south, to the southern extremity of the said Territory of New South Wales, or Wilson's Promontory, in the latitude of thirty-nine degrees twelve minutes south, and embracing all the country inland to the westward as far as the one hundred and twenty-ninth degree of east longitude, reckoning from the meridian of Greenwich, including all the Islands adjacent in the Pacific Ocean within the latitude aforesaid, and including also Norfolk Island,—is void and of no effect against the rights of the Crown; and that all persons who shall be found in possession of any such Lands as aforesaid, without the licence or authority of His Majesty's Government for such purpose first had and obtained, will be considered as trespassers, and liable to be dealt with in like manner as other intruders upon the vacant lands of the Crown within the said Colony.

Given under my hand and seal, at Government House, Sydney, this twenty-sixth day of August, One thousand eight hundred and thirty-five.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALEXANDER M'LEAY.

(L.S.) RICHARD BOURKE.

GOD SAVE THE KING!

Launceston, 23rd October, 1835.

SIR,

I HAD the honor in the month of July last of transmitting you a report of my proceedings at Port Phillip for the purpose of effecting an amicable settlement with the Natives of that part of New Holland, and of the Treaty concluded by me for the occupation of a certain tract of country under a certain annual tribute, and to be used for pastoral purposes, and in that report I communicated to Your Excellency the names of the gentlemen who are associated with me in forming the settlement.

At that time it was considered by the members of the Association that the territory in question was beyond the jurisdiction of His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, and the report was therefore addressed to Your Excellency for the purpose of being transmitted to the British Government, under the expectation of the Crown confirming the land thus ceded, upon such terms as might appear equitable and just, and for that purpose full instructions were transmitted by the gentlemen of the Association to responsible agents in London to represent their interests with the British Government, and to fulfil such conditions as they might agree with the Crown for a full

confirmation or grant of the territory in question; but as it now appears by the Governor-in-Chief's proclamation that His Excellency exercises jurisdiction over the territory in question as part of New South Wales, I have the honor to solicit that you will be pleased to fully inform His Excellency Governor Bourke of the proposed plans of the Association, their capacity to carry them into execution, and the principles under which they wish to establish a Colony at Port Phillip.

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the Association does not possess any community of interest, but the stock will be the separate property of each party shipping, and be placed upon separate establishments, and that so soon as the pleasure of the British Government is known with respect to the terms upon which the territory may be granted, that a division of the lands will then be formally made, and from that period each party will have a separate and distinct permanent establishment, furnishing a proportion of quit rent or tribute payable for the same, and also of other expenses which will be necessarily imposed in carrying the objects of civilization into effect.

The parties have engaged two ships for the transmission of stock and supplies, and in the course of six months they will have property there to the value of Twenty-five thousand Pounds at least; and there can be little doubt that in a very short space of time a Colony of great importance, not only to the Mother Country but to both the Colonies, will be established.

The Association has already felt some inconvenience by individuals who have recently quitted the port of Launceston, and, in defiance of our occupation of the land from the Natives, have fixed themselves on part of the territory, and serious apprehensions are entertained that they will materially check, if not destroy, the principle of civilization unless controlled by a competent authority; and I am therefore requested most respectfully to suggest the propriety of proper authority being given to some individual for the purpose of enabling the members of the Association to carry on unimpeded the principles of colonization and civilization until the pleasure of the British Government may be communicated and maturer plans adopted; and I am authorised to add that the members of the Association will most cheerfully defray such portion of the expense attendant upon this measure as the local Governments may consider fair and reasonable.

I propose immediately to proceed with my family to Port Phillip to take, with Mr. Wedge, the direction of the affairs of the Association and the arrangements with the Native tribes; and as the vessels will be engaged for the next six months in conveying stock from this port to Port Phillip, the Association will be happy to carry into effect any arrangements for buildings for such persons as the Government may think fit to send.

I have the honor of reporting the progress made by the Association since July last with the Native tribes. From that period up to the commencement of this month, when Mr. Wedge left Port Phillip, the intercourse has been kept up upon the most friendly terms, and from eighty to a hundred Natives have been clothed and supplied with daily rations at the expense of the Association. The Natives have been partially occupied in habits of industry, and I have not the least hesitation in affirming that if no unforeseen obstacles occur, a gradual system of civilization will obtain.

In the report the Association communicated their intention of engaging a Surgeon and Catechist. This pledge has been realized, and Doctor Thomson proceeds with me to execute those duties.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN BATMAN.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

MEMORANDUM.

4th November, 1835.

THE Lieutenant-Governor requests that the Colonial Secretary will remark, in transmitting a copy to the corresponding department in New South Wales, that it appears to be very evident that the Port Phillip Association is already suffering from the want of some superintending authority competent to protect as well as to control the parties who may settle in the adjacent territory.

His Excellency has recently conferred with Mr. Wedge, formerly an officer in the Survey department, who resigned his appointment for the purpose of settling on the Coast of New Holland. It appears from his statements that the Aborigines are cannibals and addicted to infanticide. They are also in other respects in the lowest possible state in reference to civilization. Little dependence, therefore, can be placed upon them unless impressed with the appearance of strength and determination among the white settlers, which the latter will not be able to present if they are not united among themselves, and if their intercourse with the blacks be not marked by uniformity of purpose as well as by a mild and conciliatory spirit.

It is at the same time perfectly evident to His Excellency that a consistent course of such conduct cannot be expected from the settlers at Dutergalla unless the district be placed under some form of government.

The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that the Association are not, in strictness, entitled to any protection from the Government, as they are unauthorised intruders upon the lands which they now occupy.

Nevertheless, from considerations of humanity, and in order to prevent the commencement of an exterminating war between them and the Aborigines, the evil consequences of which would certainly extend to any more regular settlement which His Majesty's Government might afterwards establish, His Excellency would take the liberty of drawing the attention of the Government of New South Wales to the present situation of these emigrants; and the Lieutenant-Governor is further induced to do so because the vicinity of the territory of Dutergalla to Van Diemen's Land, and the easy navigation between the opposite coasts, will, it may be feared, hold out strong inducements to the convicts to endeavour to escape thither in the hope, if no Government be constituted, of leading a lawless life, or of receiving high wages in a situation where labour will unquestionably for a long period bear a very high value.

The Lieutenant-Governor would have great pleasure in co-operating with Sir Richard Bourke for the purpose of conferring upon the white settlers at Dutergalla some of the more indispensable advantages which can only be enjoyed when there is a power to carry laws into force, and to protect the lives and properties of the individuals constituting the community.

A. T.

21, Campbell-street, 14th December, 1835.

SIR,

I PROPOSE sending the bearer, William Linfield, who holds a conditional emancipation, to Port Phillip in the character of principal shepherd; and as he has been in my service for several years I am induced to hope His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor will give him permission to proceed to that Settlement.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. T. GELLIBRAND.

The Chief Police Magistrate.

I RECOMMEND, provided that a bond be entered into that he shall return to this country when ordered by the Government to do so.

The Colonial Secretary, &c.

M. F.
14 Dec. 1835.

THE Lieutenant-Governor approves, and the Principal Superintendent will take care that the usual bond is entered into.

JOHN MONTAGU.
15th December, 1835.

MR. GELLIBRAND entered into recognizance of £200 that Linfield should be produced after notice.

The Colonial Secretary, &c.

J. SPODE.
22nd December, 1835.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 23rd December, 1835.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th ult., enclosing a communication addressed to His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Arthur by Mr. John Batman, one of the members of the Society recently formed for the purpose of taking possession of land at Port Phillip.

His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke has submitted the papers to the Executive Council, together with a copy of a Despatch which he forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State representing the unauthorised intrusion of Mr. Batman and those associated with him on the land in question, as well as the measures which he deemed it necessary to take on the occasion for securing the right of the Crown, and which were communicated to you in my letter of the 9th September last.

And I have now the honor, by the direction of His Excellency, to inform you that the Council fully concurred in the opinion expressed in the above-mentioned Despatch to the Secretary of State, and therefore recommended that no measures be taken for affording the protection requested by Mr. Batman until His Majesty's commands be received as to the ultimate disposal of the settlement.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ALEX. M 'LEAY.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Van Diemen's Land.

MEMORANDUM.

7th March, 1836.

HIS EXCELLENCY requests that a copy of the notice founded upon Mr. Wedge's letter reporting the outrage upon the Aborigines by the barkers at Western Port may, by the vessel which will sail this afternoon, be transmitted to the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales for the information of Sir Richard Bourke.

A. T.

Bearpurt, Port Phillip, 15th March, 1836.

SIR,

SINCE my late arrival at this place I have learnt that a flagrant outrage has been committed upon the Natives at Western Port by a party of men employed in collecting mimosa bark, the details of which I feel myself called upon, as one of the parties associated for their protection, to communicate to you for the information of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the hope that His Excellency will recommend to the Governor-in-Chief to take such steps as he may deem necessary to prevent a repetition of such acts of aggression on a harmless and unoffending race of men—men who have evinced the most earnest desire since our intercourse with them (upwards of nine months) to maintain the friendly understanding that has been established.

A few weeks since William Buckley heard that the men employed in collecting bark had attacked the Natives and wounded several of them, but doubts being entertained by some of the correctness of the report, Buckley despatched messengers to request that the wounded Natives might be brought to this place, and on the 11th inst. the families arrived, and on visiting their huts I found that four individuals had received gunshot wounds. It appears that the Natives were fired upon soon after sunrise, whilst lying in their huts, and one young girl, about thirteen years of age, was wounded in both her thighs, the ball passing through one into the other, grazing the bone in its passage, which has so far disabled her at the present moment that her parents were obliged to carry her on their backs from Western Port to this place, a distance of about thirty-five miles, and it is apprehended that she will not recover the use of one of her legs. To rescue this poor girl the mother took her in her arms, and in carrying her away was fired at and wounded in her arm and shoulder with buckshot. Notwithstanding this inhuman attack the Natives persisted in removing the girl, and two more of them, a girl and a boy, also received wounds. About a year and a half ago a similar attack was made upon the Natives, and four of their women were taken from them, and it is to be lamented that the like outrages have been committed upon the Aborigines at Portland Bay and other whaling stations; and unless some measures be adopted to protect the Natives a spirit of hostility will be created against the whites which in all probability will lead to a state of warfare between them and the Aborigines, which will only terminate when the black man will cease to exist. Trusting that the necessary measures will be adopted to prevent a recurrence of such scenes,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JNO. H. WEDGE

JOHN MONTAGU, *Esq., Colonial Secretary.*

MEMORANDUM.

INFORM Mr. Wedge that I have read his letter with very painful feelings. Enclose a *Gazette* containing a copy of the Government Notice, and observe that I hope every measure will be adopted by him to obtain any information likely to trace out and bring to trial the individuals who have been guilty of these inhuman outrages.

G. A.

31st March, 1836.

MEMORANDUM.

WITH respect to the outrages committed at Western Port said to have been by barkers, address the Attorney-General for information whether we have the power, in case the parties should arrive at George Town, to apprehend them on sufficient evidence being given that they are indeed the parties.

G. A.
31st March, 1836.

Colonial Secretary.

11th April, 1836.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter respecting certain outrages committed at Western Port, I must beg to state that I assume the facts on which you put the question hereinafter answered by me to be in substance as follows:—

2. Some persons have, at a place in New South Wales within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of that Colony, deliberately and without sufficient justification, on the ground of self-defence or otherwise, fired at and wounded one or more of the aboriginal Natives there,—one or more of the persons thus offending, it is hypothetically assumed, being within this Island; and sufficient *prima facie* proof of the facts stated being obtained,—Can this Government apprehend such parties and cause them to be sent to Sydney for trial?

3. I am of opinion that this Government has the powers in question, and that, as in the case of Callaghan, sent to that Colony some years ago for a supposed murder, it may exercise such powers either by the Colonial Secretary or of any Warrant of ordinary Magistrate.

4. A copy of the Warrant prepared by me in Callaghan's case is, I presume, in your office.

5. The subject leads me to submit to His Excellency that in the new Act to be passed for these Colonies the authority conferred by the previous Act on Members of the Legislative Council of Justices of the Peace for both Colonies, indifferently should be renewed. Considering the nature of the population in each Colony, and the proximity of the Colonies to each other, the existence of such a power vested in some persons in *each* Colony extending equally to the *other* Colony and their dependencies respectively, would be highly beneficial.

6. The power might preferably be conferred on other persons than Members of the Legislative Council. It might be given to Members of the Executive only; or (severally) to the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Chief Police Magistrate of each Colony. It might be provided that where a Warrant should be transmitted from one Colony to the other such Warrant should invariably be exhibited to and be backed by some Justice of the Peace of the last-mentioned Colony as soon after its arrival therein as practicable.

7. I hope also that some provision may be deemed expedient as to the search for and capture and removal of persons at New Zealand reasonably suspected of being runaway convicts. Such a power exercised in all cases by consent of one or more of the Native Chiefs, and after oath made as to such suspicion before the British Resident or his Assistant, would, I conceive, be unobjectionable.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED STEPHEN.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Hobart Town, 2nd May, 1836.

SIR,

THE proceedings of the gentlemen who have established themselves at Port Phillip having hitherto been communicated to Your Excellency through the medium of Mr. Batman, the duty of further correspondence with the Colonial Government is now, by that gentleman's absence, devolved upon us; and we have the honor of informing Your Excellency that Mr. Simpson and Mr. Batman have quitted this Colony for Port Phillip for the express purpose of residing at the Settlement and personally assisting to carry the objects of the Association into full effect.

The inconvenience arising from the want of any judicial authority, or of any mode of settling and adjusting disputes between the masters and servants, has been already experienced; and for the purpose of obviating that and other evils, a Deed or Declaration for the temporary management of the Colony has been prepared and transmitted to Port Phillip for the purpose of being executed by every person resident in the Colony.

We have the honor of enclosing a copy of such Deed, and which, we trust, will fully manifest our anxious desire and determination to carry as far as possible into effect the leading principles upon which the Settlement has been formed.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

C. SWANSTON.

J. T. GELLIBRAND.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, &c.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME the several persons whose names and seals are hereunto affixed SEND GREETING Whereas by a certain Indenture bearing date the twenty-ninth day of June one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five and made between John Batman therein described of the one part Charles Swanston Thomas Bannister James Simpson Joseph Tice Gellibrand John Robertson and William Robertson Henry Arthur John Helder Wedge John Sinclair John Thomas Collicott Anthony Cotterell William George Sams Michael Connolly and George Mercer therein respectively described of the other part After reciting that an amicable intercourse had been established by the said John Batman with the Tribes of Aborigines at Port Phillip And also reciting two several grants made by the Chiefs of the said Tribes to the said John Batman of two several tracts of land situate at Port Phillip and one of which is known by the name of Geelong and the other by the name of Dutigalla And also reciting that the said John Batman stood seized of the said tracts of land in trust for himself and the several persons above mentioned in certain shares It is by the said Deed declared that the two principal objects of the said Association should be the Civilization of the Native Tribes and Pastoral pursuits And also that a Code of Rules and Regulations for the better government of the said Settlement based upon those principles should be subscribed by the said parties when the state of the Settlement should in the judgment of the major part of the proprietors be considered requisite And whereas in pursuance of the original intention of the said parties a Colony has been formed at Dutigalla and the said parties have various servants and other persons stationed in several parts of the said tract of country And whereas other persons have also proceeded to Port Phillip and have located themselves beyond the boundaries of the said two tracts of land ceded to the said John Batman And whereas a report of the proceedings of the said Association has been transmitted to His Majesty's Government in Great Britain and an application hath been made for the appointment of proper persons to put in execution the laws for the better government of the said Colony And whereas it is considered expedient in the meantime to provide so far as the circumstances will admit for the protection of the Aboriginal Tribes and also for the adjustment of all disputes and controversies which may arise between any of the parties hereto in the said Colony saving and excepting any question relating to land and for that purpose to appoint a Board consisting of not less than two nor more than five persons who shall have power to award and determine all such disputes and differences And whereas it is intended forthwith to provide proper persons not only to inculcate upon the Native Tribes the habits and manners of civilization but also to combine therewith religious instruction Now we whose names are hereunto subscribed do hereby severally covenant promise and agree to and with each other and each of us that from and after the date hereof and until some proper and suitable provision is made by the King for the legal operation of British Laws that all controversies disputes quarrels or other matters of that description except as aforesaid shall from time to time be referred to the judgment award and determination of the said James Simpson the said John Batman the said John Helder Wedge together with such person or persons as shall with the approbation of the Association be appointed as or in the nature of a Missionary or Missionaries at Port Phillip That such matters and disputes shall be openly heard and discussed and that the said referees or the majority present shall then pronounce their judgment upon the matter in dispute either orally or by a written judgment as they may think proper and which shall be binding and conclusive upon the said parties That in case of any act of aggression on the part of the Natives the persons who may consider themselves so aggrieved shall not unless in case of actual defence of his life or property be permitted to retaliate in any manner upon the Natives but shall refer the matter to the said Board who are to enquire into the matter complained of and afford such redress as in their judgment the nature of the case will admit That in case it shall be made to appear that any of the said parties signing these presents shall be guilty of any act of cruelty or injustice towards any of the Natives that the said Board shall have power to award such compensation as they shall think fit or to order and direct the removal of the parties so offending from the said Colony of Port Phillip and for that purpose to have him conveyed to George Town in Van Diemen's Land and for which purpose these presents together with such award shall be taken and considered in evidence as a licence and authority for such removal That inasmuch as experience teaches that no State or Colony can flourish where the principles of Christianity are only acknowledged but are not fully acted upon each and every of the persons signing these presents pledge themselves and himself and herself to a due regard of the Sabbath and also to the furtherance of the religious objects of the Missionaries and also to afford them every protection and support And it is hereby agreed that the powers hereby given and created shall be in force for the space of twelve months In witness &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 19th May, 1836.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Lieutenant-Governor to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd inst., addressed to His Excellency, in which you state that the duty of corresponding with the Local Government respecting the proceedings of an Association of gentlemen who have established themselves at Port Phillip has devolved upon you, and enclosing copy of a Deed or Declaration having for its object the settlement of disputes, which you represent has been transmitted by you to Port Phillip for the purpose of being executed by the persons residing there.

In reply I am directed to acquaint you that the Lieutenant-Governor received with great interest the early reports of Mr. Batman containing an account of the country around Port Phillip, and of the communications which have been made with the Native tribes, more especially in connection with the history of "Buckley;" but with regard to any subsequent proceedings with reference to your Association and settlement in that part of New South Wales, highly gratifying as it is to observe how much your attention is addressed to the introduction of measures for the protection of the Native tribes, His Excellency is of opinion that no steps whatever should be taken without the previous approbation of His Excellency Sir Richard Bourke. The country which you have occupied is included within the territory of New South Wales, and the Lieutenant-Governor cannot discover that any persons who have emigrated there are exempted from the laws and regulations which prevail in that Colony.

By the earliest opportunity your communication will be transmitted to Sir Richard Bourke in continuation of the course the Lieutenant-Governor has adopted with all previous correspondence received by him relative to Port Phillip.

You are aware from the republication by this Government of Sir Richard Bourke's Proclamation of the 26th August last (copy of which I enclose that your attention may be again directed to it) that you are thereby considered as trespassers, and liable to be dealt with in like manner as other intruders upon the vacant lands of the Crown within the Colony of New South Wales.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MONTAGU.

C. SWANSTON and J. T. GELLIBRAND, *Esqs.*

19th May, 1836.

MY DEAR SIR,

As you expressed a wish to see my letter to Mr. Gellibrand in reply to his about Port Phillip, I forward it herewith, and shall feel obliged if you will return it to me by the bearer, with your corrections, in order that I may despatch it to-day. I ought to have attended to it sooner, but until this morning my time has been otherwise too much occupied.

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

JOHN MONTAGU.

Naremnew, Port Phillip, 2nd June, 1836.

SIR,

At the request of the inhabitants of the Settlement of Port Phillip, I have the honor to enclose for the information of His Excellency Governor Arthur the following papers; viz.—

1. Questions propounded by Sir Richard Bourke, and submitted by George Stewart, Esq. (a Magistrate of New South Wales, who lately visited this port in the Revenue cutter *Prince George*), with answers thereto.

2. An Address to Governor Bourke from the inhabitants of Port Phillip. And

3. The Resolutions adopted at a public meeting held here on the 1st inst.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN MONTAGU, *Esq.*

A THOMSON.

ACKNOWLEDGE, and say I am much obliged to Mr. Thomson for the information. Furnish me with copies of these papers.

G. A.

30th June, 1836.

ANSWERED accordingly.

J. M.

5th July, 1836.

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. STEWART.

1. Resident proprietors claiming under Mr. Batman's treaty with the Natives in June, 1835?
2. Servants of ditto?
3. Non-resident proprietors claiming under the treaty concluded by Mr. Batman with the Aborigines?
4. Servants of the above?
5. Residents unconnected with the Association?
6. Families and servants of the above?
7. Total residents?
8. Number of cattle?
9. Number of sheep?
10. Number of horses?
11. Value of farming stock, farming implements, stores and live stock?
12. Quantity of land in cultivation, and likely to be so next season?
13. Distance the whites are scattered over the country?
14. The direction they have taken?
15. Capability of soil within the limits of location, and general description of country?
16. Description of country, as far as known, beyond?
17. Name and situation of Township?
18. Number and description of buildings?
19. Number of Aboriginal Natives frequenting the country occupied by the whites?
20. Names of the principal tribes, countries, and chiefs?

ANSWERS.

Four; viz.—Mr. Batman, Mr. Simpson, Mr. John H. Wedge, and Mr. Sams, jun.

Thirty-five (35).

Five (5); viz.—Mr. Solomon, Mr. Cotterell, Mr. Gellibrand, Captain Swanston, and Mr. Henry Arthur.

Thirty-two (32).

Twenty-four (24).

Seventy-seven (77).

Males one hundred and forty-two (142), and thirty-five females (35).

One hundred (100).

Twenty-six thousand five hundred (26,500).

Fifty-seven (57).

Eighty thousand pounds (£80,000).

Sixty (60) acres now in cultivation. Quantity next season uncertain, but all the stock-holders have brought out the means of cultivating to the extent they deem expedient.

One hundred (100) miles.

Westerly.

Generally available for all pastoral and agricultural purposes, and for the most part open grassy plains or downs.

A very considerable tract of fine country extends to the westward of Port Phillip. The land in other directions beyond the limits ceded by the Aborigines not known to any extent, but there is every appearance of an available country extending to the north and north-west, as well as to the eastward, as far as the western extremity of the Australian Alps.

Naremnew, between three and four miles up the River Yarro Yarro.

Three weather-boarded houses; two slab houses; eight turf huts.

Supposed to be about eight hundred (800); upwards of four hundred (400) have assembled at one time at the Township.

<i>Tribes.</i>	<i>Countries.</i>	<i>Chiefs.</i>
You Wham-geete	Between the Weariby and Yaloak Rivers	Murradonna-nuke
Wodewarrou	Barrabull Hills	Coralcurke
Gerarlune	West of Lake Modewarrie	Bodedonen-nuke
Beirgalite	Indented Head	Nullamboir
Odeboligit-corong	East of the Weariby River	Engait
Dutigalla	North of the Yarro Yarro River	Jagagaga
Boatnarro	Between the Yarro Yarro and Western Port	Wodelanenuke

QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MR. STEWART.

21. Number each tribe consists of?
22. Names of individuals who perpetrated the outrage upon the Natives at Western Port in March last, and where they are now supposed to be?
23. Names of individuals who perpetrated the outrage upon the Natives at Western Port about eighteen months ago?
24. Whether any other outrages of a like nature have been committed on the Natives?
25. Number of vessels employed in bringing over stock, &c.?

ANSWERS.

Unknown.

Supposed to be a man of the name of Tomlins (a half-caste) now residing at Portland Bay.

——, since killed by the Natives on the South Coast of New Holland, in the vicinity of Spencer's Gulf.

One act of violence to a female by a servant of Mr. Solomon's, for which offence he was sent out of the country by Mr. Wedge and Mr. Batman.

Eleven; viz.—

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Number of Trips.</i>
Enterprise	55	} belonging to the port..
Adelaide	100	
Norval	300	7
Caledonia	300	4
Champion	110	3
Vansittart	110	2
Gem	80	3
Hetty	100	1
Chili	200	2
Henry	150	2
Edward	60	1
Total tons . . .	1565	Number of trips 48

JOHN H. WEDGE.
2nd June, 1836.

At a Meeting of the residents of Port Phillip held on the first day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six,

Present—

John Batman	David R. Pitcairn	Alexander Thomson
John Helder Wedge	William Diprose	Joseph Sutherland
John Pascoe Fawkner	Thomas Roadknight	William Roadknight
John Chas. Darke	W. G. G. Sams	James Simpson
John Wood	John Aitken	G. Mackillop
Frederick Taylor		

It was proposed by Alexander Thomson, seconded by G. Mackillop, and carried unanimously,—That Mr. James Simpson should take the Chair.

It was proposed by John Pascoe Fawkner, seconded by John Wood, and carried unanimously,—That Mr. James Simpson be appointed to arbitrate between individuals disputing on all questions excepting those relating to land, with power to him to name two assistants when he may deem fit.

It was proposed by John Chas. Darke, seconded by John Helder Wedge, and carried unanimously,—That the Arbitrator or Arbitrators be empowered to impose any fine that he or they may think just and proper, proportional to the injury complained of.

It was proposed by John Pascoe Fawkner, seconded by Alexander Thomson, and carried unanimously,—That all subscribing parties to these Resolutions bind themselves not to raise any action at Law or Equity against the Arbitrator or Arbitrators for any act he or they may perform in the execution of the duties hereinbefore imposed on them.

Proposed by John Helder Wedge, seconded by John Aitken, and carried unanimously,—That the residents not present at this meeting be invited to become parties to these Resolutions.

Proposed by David Ramsay Pitcairn, seconded by Alexander Thomson, and carried unanimously,—That all parties do bind themselves to communicate to the Arbitrator any aggression committed upon or by the Aborigines that may come to their knowledge, by the earliest opportunity, and that he be empowered to proceed in the matter as he may think expedient.

Proposed by John Helder Wedge, seconded by John Pascoe Fawkner, and carried unanimously,—That all subscribing parties pledge themselves to afford protection to the Aborigines to the utmost of their

power, and, further, that they will not teach them the use of firearms or allow their servants to do so, nor on any account to allow the Aborigines to be in possession of any firearms.

Proposed by Alexander Thomson, seconded by John Batman, and carried unanimously,—That the Arbitrator collect all fines and hold them until the next general meeting of the settlers, on the first day of September next.

Proposed by Thomas Roadknight, seconded by John Aitken, and carried unanimously,—That the destruction of wild dogs being of great importance to the Colony, a reward of five shillings be given for the production of every head of the same, and that a fund be raised by subscription for that purpose, the master's certificate being sufficient proof of the destruction.

Proposed by John Pascoe Fawkner, seconded by John Helder Wedge, and carried unanimously,—That a Petition be prepared to Governor Bourke, praying him to appoint a Resident Magistrate at Port Phillip, and that he will be further pleased to appoint from among the residents here other gentlemen to assist him when required.

JAMES SIMPSON, *Chairman*.

Mr. Simpson having vacated the Chair, and Dr. Alexander Thompson being called thereto, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Simpson for his kind and able conduct in the chair, and for his so promptly undertaking the duties imposed on him.

A. THOMSON.

John H. Wedge
D. R. Pitcairn
John C. Darke
John Batman
J. Sutherland
William Roadknight
Henry Batman
Wm. Winberey
Michael Lennard
Wm. Chapter

B. G. Hollins
William Davis
William Buckley
G. Mackillop
J. Wood
W. G. G. Sams
William Diprose
Fred. Taylor
Robert McLeod
Ed. Ferguson

J. Solomon
Michael Carr
John Hyland
William Parker
James Gumm
David Thomas
John P. Fawkner
Thomas Roadknight
John Aitken

To His Excellency Major-General SIR RICHARD BOURKE, Governor of New South Wales and its Dependencies.

WE, the undersigned residents at Port Phillip, beg humbly to represent to Your Excellency that, having lately arrived here with flocks of sheep and other stock, find ourselves exposed to serious inconvenience from the want of a constituted authority.

We therefore humbly beg to solicit Your Excellency to appoint a Resident Magistrate, with a competent Police.

We beg to lay before Your Excellency the following statement:—That the community now consists of One hundred and seventy-seven persons, with a capital of nearly One hundred thousand pounds, and with the certainty of a very extensive addition thereto.

The quality of the land is such that it must cause this Settlement to become, in a very short period, of the utmost importance to the British Crown.

Exciseable articles are at present smuggled into this place. We would therefore suggest to Your Excellency the expediency of appointing an Officer of the Customs at this port.

We beg most humbly to thank Your Excellency for having sent Mr. Stewart to report on the present state of this Settlement, as we are satisfied his report must be highly favourable to our interests.

The necessity for appointing a Resident Magistrate will be apparent from the following fact—That notwithstanding all our care and vigilance some runaway convicts have found their way here from Van Diemen's Land.

We are perfectly aware that we are residing here without the sanction of Your Excellency; but as we are only doing what has been practised for many years at the Morumbudgee with the knowledge of the Government, we therefore trust Your Excellency will not think we are acting in any way in contempt of your authority.

We humbly hope the circumstances above recited will induce Your Excellency to comply with our request not only to appoint a Police Magistrate, but also to nominate from the residents here a sufficient number to the Commission of the Peace to constitute a Bench when required.

Edward Wedge
Richard Wedge
James Connor
Ed. Ferguson
J. Solomon
J. T. Sutherland
Henry Batman
John Batman
M. Lennard
W. Winberey
W. Chapter
Jas. Gilbert
M. Carr
F. Murray
M. Malony

George Goodman
Luke M'Mann
J. S. Stanton
Wm. Watkins
J. C. Moodie
J. Hyland
J. Armitage
James Simpson
J. P. Fawkner
J. H. Wedge
T. Roadknight
J. Wood
W. Roadknight
J. C. Darke
W. G. G. Sams

John Aitken
Fredk. Taylor
Wm. Diprose
D. R. Pitcairn
Jas. Fleet
J. A. Cowie
David Stead
A. Thomson
G. Mackillop
Wm. Parker
Wm. Davis
Jas. Gumm
Wm. Buckley
David Thomas
Geo. Slater.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Colonial Secretary will be so good as to intimate to Captain Swanston, for the information of the parties comprising the Association for the purpose of forming an Agricultural Establishment at Port Phillip, that I have received by the *Red Rover* a reply to my Despatch transmitting to the Secretary of State the report and copies of the contracts entered into by Mr. Batman with certain Chiefs of the territory of Dutigalla for the acquisition of 600,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Port Phillip on behalf of the Association, in which Lord Glenelg observes that, without entering at present into the question of the rights possessed by the Chiefs (who were the contracting parties) to the territory of which they agreed to dispose, or of the justice and fairness of the terms of the arrangement, he will simply advert to the practical question at issue,—namely, the expediency of confirming the grant to the Association.

All schemes for making settlements by private individuals or companies in the unlocated districts of Australia having of late years been discouraged by His Majesty's Government, as tending to push establishments involving the Mother Country in an indefinite expense, and exposing both the natives and new settlers to many dangers and calamities; and as Lord Glenelg conceives there is so much of prudence and of justice, as well as of humanity in this policy, His Lordship does not feel disposed to depart from it in the present instance.

His Lordship further observes that the conduct of Mr. Batman towards the Natives has been such as to make him regret that he finds it his duty not to advise His Majesty to sanction the proceedings of that gentleman and his associates.

The Colonial Secretary, &c.

G. A.
1st September, 1836.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 13th September, 1836.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by the direction of Sir Richard Bourke, to apprise you, for the information of Lieutenant-Governor Arthur, that His Majesty's Government has authorised the location of Settlers on the vacant Crown lands adjacent to the shores of Port Phillip, and that His Excellency will immediately forward a proper establishment there, having appointed Captain Lonsdale, of the 4th, or King's Own Regiment, to be Police Magistrate for the District; upon which subject I beg to enclose copies of a notification published in this Colony.

I have further the honor to inform you that the Secretary of State has referred the application of Mr. Batman and Company to the consideration of this Government, and that to conclude the business satisfactorily and speedily, it is expedient that one or two of the principal persons of the Company should attend at Sydney any time after the first of October. Sir Richard Bourke therefore requests Governor Arthur will have the goodness to cause this to be made known to any of the parties who may be within his reach.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

The Hon. Colonial Secretary, Van Diemen's Land.

ALEX. M'LEAY.

Hobart Town, 4th October, 1836.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 1st instant, enclosing copy of Sir Richard Bourke's Despatch of the 13th ult., requesting that two of the principal persons of the Dutigalla Association might proceed to Sydney and meet His Excellency in order that the applications of the Association might be speedily and satisfactorily adjusted; and I beg to inform you, in reply, that the Committee for the Association will proceed to Sydney by the first vessel, in accordance with the wishes expressed by His Excellency.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. SWANSTON.

JOHN MONTAGU, *Esq.*, Colonial Secretary.

NARRATIVE OF AN EXCURSION AMONGST THE NATIVES OF PORT PHILLIP, ON THE SOUTH COAST OF NEW HOLLAND,

By J. H. WEDGE.

ON landing at Port Phillip on the 7th of August, 1835, at the encampment of the party left for the purpose of maintaining the friendly intercourse which had been established with the Aborigines of that part of New Holland, I found seven families of the Natives residing in their huts around. The greater part of their tribe were absent at the time on a hunting excursion, but a boy came down with the white men to welcome us on our arrival. An old man (Pewitt) and his two wives were at the huts, together with some young girls who had been promised in marriage to the Sydney Natives left by the first party. I soon learnt that the most friendly understanding existed with the Natives,—indeed I scarcely needed this information, for it was evident from the light-hearted playfulness of the boy, and the cheerfulness of the old man, and the vivacious loquacity of the females, who came and shook hands with me on my arrival. They were evidently anxious to inform me by signs that the families who inhabited the several huts were out hunting, and that they would come home in the evening.

On the return of the various families with game which they had obtained during the day, the members severally welcomed me by a shake of the hand, and a grin in their countenances devoid of suspicion.

The only married female of our party, and her four little daughters, with whom the Natives were much delighted, particularly attracted their attention. Although they brought home with them a plentiful supply of provisions, consisting of various edible roots, kangaroo rats, and calkeit (the young ants in a fly state, taken from the hollow trees), yet they soon began to importune us for bread and other things, not even excepting the cutlery. From this I inferred at once that to satisfy their newly acquired appetite for our food and other things which we brought with us, such as knives, tomahawks, and blankets, was a sure way of conciliating them. In this conclusion at which I thus arrived I was fully confirmed by Buckley, who gave me a general outline of the characters of the different Natives as they arrived, one of whom (Murradonnuke) he pointed out as being more to be dreaded, on account of his treachery, than any of the other Chiefs. As one of the main objects I had in view, besides examining the country, was to make myself acquainted with the habits and dispositions of the Natives, I devoted the first few days after my arrival to studying their characters. For this purpose I went out hunting with them daily, and spent the greater part of my time amongst them. I soon satisfied myself that by a little tact and management there was no danger to be apprehended from them, although I learnt from Buckley that in the treatment of each other they were treacherous. To command their respect I found it was necessary to make them fully understand that it was in our power not only to minister to their wants and comforts, but amply to avenge any outrage. In impressing them with this idea Buckley was of great use to us by making known to them the ample means we had of furnishing them with food, blankets, &c., and explaining the object we had in view in settling amongst them, and our desire to be on friendly terms with them, which was mainly compassed by evincing a confidence devoid of fear in our deportment towards them, and by abstaining from any act which might lead them to doubt the sincerity of our intentions. I learnt from Buckley that they were cannibals. His statement on this head was confirmed by the two youths who attached themselves to me during my stay in New Holland, and who accompanied me on the several excursions I made into the interior; but they do not seem to indulge in this horrible propensity except when the tribes are at war with each other, when the bodies of those who are killed are roasted, and their bones are infallibly picked by the teeth of their enemy. Of this custom they make no secret, and on being questioned speak of it as a matter of course, and describe the mode of preparing their victim for the repast. Disgusting as is this practice—the process of which is too revolting to commit to paper—a still more horrible one, if possible, prevails,—that of the mothers destroying many of their infants at their birth. The cause by which they appear to be thus influenced is the custom the women have of nursing their children till they are three or four years old. To get rid, therefore, of the trouble and inconvenience of finding sustenance for two, should a second be born before the

eldest is weaned they destroy the youngest immediately after it is born. Although this explanation was given me by Buckley—and I have no doubt this is in most instances the case—yet some women perpetrate the murder of their infants from mere wantonness, and, as it would seem to us (and which is found even in the brute creation), a total absence of maternal feeling. One woman in particular, the wife of Nullamboid, I think, was pointed out to me, who had destroyed ten out of eleven of her children, one of whom she killed a few days previous to my arrival at the Port. Notwithstanding the increase of the tribes is thus kept down, polygamy is common amongst them, few of the men having less than two wives, and some of them four or more.

The women, as is the case with most savages,* are quite subservient to the men, and are kept in excellent discipline. Chastisement promptly follows the least offence, and a firestick is not unfrequently the instrument of correction. The wealth of the men may be said to consist in the number of their wives, for the chief employment is in procuring food for their lords. On one occasion I was witness to a scene that afforded me some amusement, although it was no fun to the four women concerned. My attention was attracted by the outcry of the women, who were undergoing chastisement from their husband (Murradonnuke), who punished them by throwing firesticks at them in the most furious manner. On enquiry I learnt that the only cause of their offence arose from the poor creatures not having brought home that evening a quantity of provisions sufficient to satisfy his insatiable appetite. In the regulations which prevail respecting their wives they have one which seems to have some connection with, or similar to, the Mosaic Law: on the death of a husband his wives, whatever be their number, become the property of the eldest of his brothers, or his next-akin. The men are jealous of their wives. Should any intrigue be discovered it would probably lead to the death of one or both of the offending parties; although if the husband receives what he considers to be an adequate compensation he is accommodating to his friends in allowing them the favours of his wives, and I have understood that these indulgences are always to be purchased by bestowing upon the husband a liberal supply of food. The women are not allowed to have a voice on these occasions, but must obey the dictates of their tyrants. I do not believe that infidelity is frequent amongst the women, unless sanctioned by the husband. During the whole time I was amongst them I never observed any advances or levity of conduct on their part, although it is not at all improbable that they are restrained by the dread of the consequences that would ensue were they to be detected in an illicit amour. In bestowing daughters for wives, they are promised as soon as they are born, and on these occasions the parents receive presents of food, opossum and kangaroo rugs, clubs, spears, &c. from the person to whom she is betrothed; and this arrangement is considered to be binding, although it sometimes happens that these promises are broken by the parents, especially when the man who has received the promise belongs to another and distant tribe. When this occurs it creates a feeling of enmity, and it is not unfrequently taken up by the whole tribe, who make common cause with the aggrieved party. If they once determine on being revenged they never lose sight of their object till they have satisfied themselves by a general conflict with the tribe to whom the offending party belongs; or it sometimes happens that the poor girl and her husband are singled out, and at the dead of night the unerring spear gives both a passport to that land where the inhabitants live without hunting. Their revenge thus satiated again they become friends. The men are prohibited from looking at the mother of the girl given to them in marriage. This singular custom is observed with the strictest caution. On passing the huts of the mother-in-law, or any place where they suppose her to be, they carefully turn their heads in another direction, and evince great concern if by any chance they should see her, although I am not aware of any penalty being attached to the offence, save that of incurring the displeasure of the parents. On meeting with Nullaboin I took notice that a young girl who had just entered the married state carefully avoided to look at him, for what reason I can't divine, unless it was that the old man had been promised her first daughter. From enquiries which I made on the spot I am induced to believe that feeling of enmity does not exist permanently amongst the different tribes, as it is terminated by a battle royal, something after the style of a row at an Irish fair.

A short time previous to my departure a few men with their wives, from an adjoining tribe, came to that amongst whom I was living, with an invitation to join them in a conflict which they meditated with an adjoining tribe. They sent two or three young men to a tribe to the westward, inviting them also to join them in their warlike excursion (or foray) on the occasion. I learnt that this hostile feeling had been created by one of these men having lost one of his eyes in a scuffle with a man belonging to the Western Port tribe. This accident happened about eight months previously, and although the party who thus sought to avenge himself was the aggressor, having wounded his antagonist with a spear, he nevertheless had determined on having satisfaction, and had succeeded in inducing his own tribe and that with which I was living, and probably would influence the other also to whom the embassy of young men had been despatched, to espouse the cause of his odd eye, in fighting for which some lives would in all probability be lost, and a few heads broken, without enabling him to see a whit the better. They also gave especial invitation to the seven Sydney natives, and requested they would take their guns with them. This of course I discouraged, and I was not without hopes that they might be induced, through the influence of Buckley, to forego their intention of taking their revenge, although from what he said I concluded there was not much chance of such a result. Buckley said the time of their meeting was very uncertain; that it might happen in a week or two, or it might be put off for some months, but that the collision was almost certain to take place sooner or later. In these conflicts it does not often happen that many lives are lost—seldom more than one or two—and frequently all return from the fight alive, and no other mischief is done save a few heads broken, or an impression made on their coatless backs by a club or a spear, so expert are they in avoiding the missiles of their opponents. All feeling of hostility ceases with the battle, and cordiality again prevails till it is interrupted by the impulse of their feelings, which are extremely sensitive; in fact, they are nearly as pugnacious as though their birthplace had been the Green Island.

* Although they are designated "savages," in contradistinction to ourselves, who are called civilized beings, yet no people upon earth in a state of nature so little deserve the appellation, if kindheartedness has any influence on our minds in wiping away the stigma of our refined expression, which in this narrative is merely used for the purpose of description.

Like others uncivilized and in a state of nature, they are astonishingly dexterous in the use of the weapons employed by them in the defence of their persons and in procuring food; and in tracking each other, as well as the kangaroo and other animals, they are very expert. The most trifling disarrangement of the grass, a broken twig, or the slightest thing which indicates the direction of the object of pursuit, is at once perceived by them, and they follow the track with ease at a brisk pace. On several occasions I witnessed their adroitness in this respect. In fact, their perceptions in seeing, hearing, and smelling are surprisingly acute, and in the pursuit of their game they evince that patient perseverance so peculiar to man living in a state of nature.

Their food consists principally of kangaroo and other animals, fish and roots of various sorts, black swans, ducks, and many other birds, and, in fact, there is scarcely any animal or bird that comes amiss to them; and many reptiles, amongst others a species of snake, comes within their bill of fare. In their appetites they are quite ravenous, and the quantity they devour at one meal would astonish even a London alderman, although they are not quite so fastidious in the quality of their viands.

I could not learn that they have any religious observances, and, indeed, from the information I gathered from Buckley I am led to believe that they have no idea whatever of a Supreme Being, although it is somewhat difficult to reconcile the fact of their believing in a future state, for they certainly entertain the idea that after death they again exist, being transformed into white men. This is obviously a new idea since they have become acquainted with us, and is an evidence that the friendly intercourse we have established with them will by degrees operate upon their minds, and gradually work an amelioration in their condition. Of this being ultimately effected I entertain very sanguine expectations, and I think I am warranted in doing so by the result of the experiments I made to induce them to habits of industry whilst residing amongst them. The men on several occasions rendered assistance in carrying sods for the erection of our huts, and many of the women were almost constantly employed in making baskets during the last week or ten days previous to my departure. In repayment for these and other services I gave them bread on the completion of their tasks, with which they were well satisfied; and I have but little doubt, if proper arrangements were made and attention paid, that great progress might be made in a short time towards establishing more civilized habits.

Their whole time may be said to be devoted to procuring food during the day; all their thoughts seem to be directed towards ministering to their appetites. The women are the drudges of their husbands, and are seldom idle during the day, being for the most part employed either in getting the various edible roots with which the country abounds, or in making baskets and nets, and any other occupation dictated by their husbands.

Their habitations are of the most rude and simple construction, the materials with which they are made being the branches of trees, laid with tolerable compactness, and pitched at an angle of about 45 degrees. In shape they form a segment of a circle, and their size is in proportion to the number of inmates of which the family is composed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRY AROUND PORT PHILLIP,

BY J. H. WEDGE.

IN traversing the interior of the country my attention was directed to that part of it from the Northern extremity of the Port round to the westward, including Indented Head, and embracing about forty miles inland. In describing the country I will take the several parts in the order which I examined them.

The Peninsula of Indented Head first attracted my attention. Its extent is about one hundred thousand acres. It is bounded on the west by the Barwurn, a river discovered by myself, which empties itself into Bass's Straits a few miles to the westward of Indented Head, and in its course passes within about three miles of the western extremity of Port Phillip. The eastern part of this Peninsula for about four or five miles from the margin of the port is a low and flat surface, the soil being light and sandy, and well covered with grass, thinly wooded with the honeysuckle, she-oak, mimosa, and eucalyptus. The land then swells into low tiers, and alternates with beautiful hill and dale. On these hills the soil is of finer quality, and the grass more luxuriant than the plains. These hills gradually trend to the westward in gentle undulations, and terminate at the Barwurn, in some places in steep banks varying in height from thirty to sixty feet. It is a great drawback to the availability of the Peninsula that the River Barwurn is subject to the tides, and is consequently salt up to where it is joined by another river, about three miles from the western extremity of the port, otherwise it would be one of the finest situations for sheep farming I have ever met with. On the Peninsula there are many small waterholes, which afford the Natives a supply of water, but it is brackish and of bad quality, although I experienced no ill effects from the use of it. At the junction of the rivers above alluded to, the one coming from the north-west is called the Yaloak by the Natives; the other coming from the westward I have named the Byron, into which, about ten or twelve

miles up, another stream falls, which I have named the Leigh. These rivers pass through very extensive open plains much further than the eye can reach, and, from Buckley's information, at least one hundred and fifty miles to the westward. About fifteen miles in a south-west direction from the junction of the Byron with the Yaloak is a lake called by the Natives Moderwarrie, the intermediate country being grassy hills (called by the Natives Barrabull), of moderate elevation, thinly covered with the she-oak trees; and around the lake an undulating grassy country, thinly timbered, extends to the westward. On approaching the coast to the southward the country gradually becomes more thickly timbered, and the quality of the soil not so good. The coast from hence trends nearly south-west to Cape Otway, the country being hilly and thickly wooded, and from its appearance I should not deem it fit for agricultural pursuits, although it not unfrequently happens that very erroneous ideas are formed by judging of the nature of a country by distant observations.

Near the northern extremity of the Port, and about three or four miles from it, two rivers form a junction, the one coming from the north and the other from the eastward, and their united waters are discharged into the port together. Both these rivers are navigable for vessels of about sixty tons for five or six miles above the junction. There is a bar at the mouth of these rivers which precludes larger vessels from entering, but up to the bar vessels of the largest burden can approach and find secure anchorage.

The country between these rivers, extending to the north forty or fifty miles, and to the east about twenty-five miles, to a tier of mountains which range from the back of Western Port in a northerly direction, is undulating and intersected with valleys, and is moderately wooded, especially to the east and north-east; to the north there are open plains. The soil is a sandy loam, and is generally of good quality, and in some of the valleys very rich. The surface is everywhere thickly covered with grass, intermixed with the ribgrass and other herbs. I think very highly of this part of the country, and consider it to be well adapted for agricultural pursuits. It will be desirable to form townships at the head of the salt water in each of these rivers. The river coming from the eastward is called by the Natives Yarrow Yarrow.

The country between the river coming from the northward and the western extremity of the Port, and from twenty-five to forty miles inland, is open, and partakes more of the nature of downs. The whole is thickly covered with a light growth of grass, the soil being in general stiff and shallow. About midway there is a river falling into the port, which comes from the north-west. I do not know whether it is navigable any distance inland, as I crossed it in the first instance about twelve or fourteen miles above its entrance into the Port, and in the second a considerable deal higher up, at the foot of the range of hills which bound the plains on the north-west. About Station Mount (called by the Natives Villamanata), the country is wooded, with this exception, and here and there along the shore of the Port, and along the course of the river just mentioned, the plains are quite open, as much so as the heaths of Cambridgeshire, and I have no doubt they will become valuable sheep stations for breeding flocks, although it is probable they are affected by the droughts in the dry summers; but there is no country without its disadvantages, and I do not think it will be worse, nor indeed so bad, in that respect as New South Wales, as it is more exposed to the south and westerly winds, from which direction the rains come; and as far as my observations went, very heavy dews are prevalent.

The country to the north and north-west of these plains is broken and hilly, and I am inclined to think from its appearance it is extensively adapted for pastoral purposes. There is a great deficiency of timber fit for building and fencing purposes, the want of which will be seriously felt in this part of the country whenever it becomes thickly inhabited. On the whole, I think favourably of the country for the general purposes of colonization.

During all my wanderings in Van Diemen's Land I never fell in with an emu in its wild state. This pleasure was reserved till my recent visit to Port Phillip. I saw them on several occasions, altogether about twenty in number. I had not before a conception of the stateliness and grandeur of these birds.

There are not many kangaroo in that portion of the country which I examined, but those I did fall in with are the largest I have ever seen, and they are very swift of foot.

There are large birds of the crane kind, and the wild goose, quails, black swans, wild ducks, and teal in abundance, and they are all, with the exception of the quails, very wild and difficult to get at. There are wild native dogs, which appear to me to be a description of small wolf, and I fear great watchfulness will be necessary to protect the sheep from their depredations.