

(No. 16.)



1861.

T A S M A N I A.

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## SURVEY OFFICE REPORTS.

Rough Notes of a Journal of Expedition to the Westward in 1832.

Remarks upon the North Coast of Van Diemen's Land : 1824-6-7.

Report on Coal at South Cape Bay and Adventure Bay : 1826.

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*ROUGH NOTES of a Journal of Expedition to the WESTWARD,  
(from Bothwell to the Frenchman's Cap,) by W. S. SHARLAND,  
Esquire, Assistant Surveyor, A.D. 1832.*

1832.

STARTED this day from Bothwell, and encamped at the Shannon.

28th February.

Crossed the Shannon at Dr. Ross's, afterwards passed over the Ouse up Cherry Tree Hill (which would be better called Bashan Hill); very steep. Road might be made up a gully on the left. Country good on the top of the hill, being a succession of beautiful small marshes well calculated for cattle. Encamped at Bashan Plains.

29th February.

Proceeded westerly, passing Boggy Marsh and Turnham Green, rented by Mr. Thomson as a sheep-run—very good marshes; afterwards passed along the slope of the tier to the east, through thickly wooded land affording good pasturage for cattle. Crossed a small marsh into Brown Marsh, and thence over a small tier into Three Mile Marsh,—very beautiful and rich, with water in the centre; favourite resort for cattle. Followed this marsh to Lake Echo, passing along the northern side; and encamped, at dark, at the foot of the tier on the Lake. Very bad road for cart to pass along, owing to the large stones and dead timber. A small creek empties itself at the termination of the marsh. Trees beautiful and very luxuriant, there being many cider trees.

1st March.

Loaded the pack horse and six men with provisions, it being very difficult (if not impracticable) to take the cart further. Passed through the Echo Marsh, bearing west to the tier. Crossed a small tea tree rivulet near a hut lately occupied by Mr. Robinson,—Lake Echo  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south, bearing southerly. Bore north west along the side of a tier called Belle Vue Tier. Afterwards bore more northerly to the Tea Tree Rivulet; followed it along nearly to the summit of the tier, where it became scrubby. Ascended the top at a small marsh over a saddle. Considerable quantity of warratah in the rivulet, the seed nearly ripe. Saw the Table Mountain bearing east, Lake Echo (northern point) S.  $80^{\circ}$  E. Two miles from Lake Echo, entered a marsh called Middle Marsh, where we encamped for the night. Marked a tree. Gave orders, on starting, for the cart to advance this day to the Echo Marsh, and there await further orders.

2nd March.

Started this day at daylight to descend the tier, passing through Second Middle Marsh. An appearance all along of cattle having passed across the tier at this point; and heard the bulls during the night, without seeing any. In entering the marsh bore S.  $70^{\circ}$  W.—a point bearing S.  $85^{\circ}$  W. we thought it to be the Frenchman's Cap, although the bearing is incorrect. Arrived about 9 o'clock at a small marsh at the bottom of the tier; called it the Breakfast Marsh. The appearance of the country much improving. At about half way down the tier, had a perfect view of the Frenchman's Cap, bearing S.  $75^{\circ}$  W.—an appearance of snow on the

3rd March,

1832.

<sup>1</sup> Afterwards called the *Serpentine* by Mr. Frankland.

<sup>2</sup> Now the *Nive*, a branch of the *Derwent*

<sup>1</sup> *Serpentine*.

top (query). The former high peak was not the Cap. After breakfast, proceeded in advance about four miles, following a small river which came from the north east (probably from Lake Fergus). Called this river the Reform.<sup>1</sup> This river, after passing through a very beautiful marsh, entered a large river, which undoubtedly is the Derwent,<sup>2</sup> bearing north and south. The bed of the river about 50 yards wide. Crossed, and followed it up north about two miles, where the hills came in close to the sides both steep and rocky. Saw a native's hut, with two pieces of blanket, not recently occupied. Crossed over a tier, bearing west, into a marsh, which I followed down about two miles southerly. Then bore east to the Derwent, which I again crossed, on to a grassy hill, and thence into a beautiful luxuriant plain of considerable extent, leading north to the Reform River,<sup>1</sup> and southerly as far as the eye could reach. Saw about 50 head of cattle in this marsh. Galloped round them, but could see no brands. Shot at a calf, but missed. Returned at night to the party at the Breakfast Marsh. This morning I despatched four men of the party for an additional supply of flour from the depôt at Lake Echo, with directions to return to-morrow. There is stone near the Breakfast Marsh of a calcareous nature, composed of marine shells. Also picked up a good specimen of black marble.

4th March.

Capt. Wentworth and myself proceeded this day, southerly, along very extensive marshes for about seven miles; then bore easterly, where the marshes still continued good. Saw two herds of wild cattle, and got within thirty yards, and fired at a calf without effect. Capt. Wentworth also fired without effect. No brands. The country still appeared open to the southward and south east as far as a high tier, which I think is the \*, on the eastern side of the Dee. Saw quantities of kangaroo in every direction. In returning, crossed a rivulet which came from an opening in Belle Vue Tier. This stream becomes absorbed in the marshes, which renders them boggy. The party returned with supplies from the depôt, with the exception of James Barrett, who, in returning, left the party, saying he would take a shorter cut, and bore southerly near Lake Echo, where they separated. Caught three kangaroos this evening. Fine weather. The water from the marshes in this vicinity apparently flows into the Dee from the south-eastern extremity. Wrote letters to Mr. Frankland and Mr. Sharland, (J. F.) Passed through a fine stringy-bark forest, about six miles south.

The *Nive*.

<sup>3</sup> Now called *Marlborough*.

<sup>4</sup> *Nive*.

<sup>5</sup> *Nive*.

<sup>6</sup> *Nive*.

<sup>7</sup> Probably the *Nivello*.

<sup>8</sup> *Nive*.

<sup>9</sup> *Nive*.

<sup>10</sup> Since called the *Power*.

Capt. Wentworth and Mr. W. Roadknight (the latter was kind enough to show me the best track over the Belle Vue Tier, which he had recently crossed with a man named Stanfield, who had been with Mr. Robinson,) left this morning on their return to Bothwell. Started this day with the whole party, consisting of five men, bearing west. Crossed the Derwent<sup>2</sup> about a mile below where I had returned across it on the 3rd instant, passing through very good land. The ground on each side being low banks to the river. A good place for a township.<sup>3</sup> The land very good, having a most luxuriant herbage. The Derwent<sup>4</sup> still running in a southerly course. After passing the Derwent,<sup>5</sup> still bore west, passing through some tolerable forest land, with occasional marshes—one large one bearing north and south, which is a general feature,—and still continuing open to the south. At 2½ miles from the Derwent<sup>6</sup> crossed a river<sup>7</sup> about the size of the Clyde, bearing south east, apparently, by its course, joining the Derwent.<sup>8</sup> A marsh extending up this river. Saw a herd of about 50 head of wild cattle, and a large red and white bull. After passing some more forest land, entered a marsh bearing northerly, terminating about half a mile south. Again entered some grassy forest land, being quite flat for about a mile; then entered a small marsh, passing over a small hill into a large long marsh not very good, which we followed westerly to a river about 30 yards wide, bearing S. E.—a considerable body of water, with a rocky bottom. Stopped at this point an hour to refresh the party,—about five miles from the Derwent.<sup>9</sup> Called it the Clarence. Crossed, still bearing west, through a boggy marsh; great difficulty in getting the pack horse through. A low range of hills on the south. Opened into a large beautiful marsh, bearing northerly for a great distance, and apparently continuing still further between the hills in that direction. A river passes through this marsh, and apparently joining the Clarence. Called this river the \*<sup>10</sup>. Crossed it, coming round from the south, and afterwards another small stream which joins it. At a mile and a half from the former point again arrived at the same river,

\* In the original MS. there are many blanks like this one, obviously intended to have been filled in at leisure. On asking Mr. Sharland, recently, if he could fill up the omissions, he stated that so many years having passed since he wrote his Journal, he could not now recollect the names which he then meant to give to the various places he discovered.—J. E. C.

where rocky hills bound it on each side,—bears south east, and then round to the north. Followed it up along the southern bank after crossing. Very rocky and scrubby;—obliged to cut a road for the horse close along the bank for some distance. It then opened into a very extensive marsh, where the river divides into several streams,—a considerable one coming from the southward from between the tiers. The marsh extends northerly, apparently passing round a hill to the east,—a high bluff which I had seen from Belle Vue Tier, about two miles south west: called it D'Arcy's Bluff. A remarkable sugar loaf, bearing N. 70° W., 2½ milés distant: called it Mount Charles. The country to the west appears open and flat. High bluff N. 80° W. Encamped on the south side of this marsh. The trees look luxuriant and healthy throughout the whole of the country I have passed; nor did I perceive the least symptom of that decay so prevalent with the black gum in most other parts of the Colony, and which I observe Dr. Ross attributes to the "*increased severity of the climate.*" The circumstance I have just related, of the healthy nature of it in this part, must therefore defeat the Doctor's hypothesis.

A threatening of rain during the whole of this day. Saw several native huts during the day. Advanced in the whole 11½ miles.

Rain during the night, and continued the whole of the day without any cessation. 6th March. Towards the evening it commenced snowing, and lasted the whole night, with considerable wind, and very cold. Passed a most unpleasant night, owing to the snow beating in and wetting the stores of tea and sugar, not being well prepared for so unexpected and heavy fall of snow. I am fearful that the rain will render it impracticable to pass over some of the marshes which I before crossed, and also cause the rivers to rise.

This morning dawned with a most disheartening aspect, the ground being 7th March. covered with snow nearly a foot deep, and still continuing to fall very heavily. My frail habitation nearly broken down with the weight of snow. Fires all out; and, from the wood having become quite saturated with wet, and the continuance of sleet and rain, we were unable to obtain any fire before 10 o'clock. About 11 o'clock the clouds dispersed, but continued showery through the day. The snow fast disappearing from the marsh, but still remaining on the high hills. I was unable to make any advance during this day. Men employed drying their clothes, &c., and making better provision for the night. Sent two men hunting. Caught three kangaroos, which was a very seasonable supply, having no fresh meat left. The underwood being still very wet, and the clouds hanging on most of the prominent hills, I was unable to gain any additional knowledge of the land in this vicinity. There is no appearance of cattle on the western side of the Clarence. I perceived the wattle growing on most of the hills, but not very abundantly. Sassafras trees in various parts between the tiers. This evening closed with rain.

The rain continued through the whole of the night; and though the clouds in 8th March. the morning showed some inclination to disperse, there was very little cessation between the showers. Being determined to proceed, we packed the horse, and decamped from our comfortless bivouac. Had great difficulty in passing the marshes, the horse being frequently bogged, owing to the weight of his load. At about a mile, passed D'Arcy's Bluff, being about a mile and a half on the south. Also avoided a very thick scrub on the left, bearing towards the bluff. Bore away towards Mount Charles to obtain better ground for travelling. After passing through some scrub, again opened into marshes under the mount, on the south-eastern side. The ground from between D'Arcy's Bluff and Mount Charles falls to the westward. After passing through about a mile of scrub, again opened into a very extensive marsh,—running close under Mount Charles on the western side, and falling to the westward. Continued along the edge of the marsh; found it very bad travelling, owing to the late snow and rains. A very heavy mist still continuing. Again entered the scrub (not very thick), the marsh continuing about half a mile up the north. The weather, about 12 o'clock, much improving. Frequent gleams of sunshine. The mist only hanging on the tops of the mountains which were still covered with snow. After traversing the scrub about two miles (making in the whole four and a half miles), opened into a very extensive marsh. Found it very boggy. Proceeded in advance; and, at about half a mile, arrived at a very fine river—undoubtedly the northern branch of the Gordon,<sup>1</sup> its course evidently being from the north and bearing south. <sup>1</sup> The Derwent. This river is about the same width as the Derwent (50 feet), but has a much better appearance, owing to its having a fine gravel on the banks, with a bed of the same,

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<sup>1</sup> *Lake St. Clair*,  
(which it now appears  
that Mr. Frankland  
was *not* the first  
discoverer and de-  
scriber of as is  
generally believed.)  
<sup>2</sup> *Derwent*.

instead of the large stones and rocks which the Derwent has. Halted the party; and, with two men, proceeded to explore the Gordon upwards along its eastern bank. After following it about three miles, the marshes terminated, and it became scrubby. I ascended a tier leading from Mount Charles, and obtained a view to the northward. By the hills, it is probable that the Gordon divides at about two miles north. From this point, I was gratified with a view of a very extensive lake bearing N. 30° W., from which there is no doubt the main branch of the Gordon proceeds. Between the lake<sup>1</sup> and my point of observation, I saw more marshes along the banks of the Gordon.<sup>2</sup> The lake—which I called the *Gordon Lake*—is surrounded, as far as I could see, with almost inaccessible mountains, upon which the snow still remained. The lake appeared to extend between these high mountains in a north-westerly direction, the first point being about three miles distant. As nothing could be gained by proceeding to the lake, I returned to the encampment. Saw quantities of warratah and sassafras on the tier last mentioned. Caught three kangaroos in the Gordon Marshes on returning home, which are plentiful in this vicinity. Saw two native huts during the day, but very old, near Mount Charles. The grass on the marshes appears to have been burnt during the early part of the summer.

The view of the Gordon from the hills, as it meanders through the marshes to the southward, has a most pleasing appearance; and the weather now becoming fine, it had the effect of reviving the spirits of the whole party, which—from being compelled for the last two days to keep under our blanket huts—had become much depressed; and I felt some anxiety, should such weather continue, for the fate of the expedition. But the view of the Gordon and the lake reanimated our hopes; and, finding there were considerable marshes to pass over in our course westward, I determined on leaving the pack horse, and to proceed with two men the following day.

In looking south down the Gordon at about seven miles, I perceived an opening through the hills to the westward and the south east, which I conclude to be the confluence of the southern branch of that river.

*The Gordon Marshes*, as far as yet examined, are very boggy; but I have no doubt they might be made available and productive if drained and artificial grasses substituted: the great moisture would certainly have the effect of producing an abundant pasturage. Adverting generally to the County of *Albany*, I do not think it will ever be a sheep country, excepting during the summer months,—the hills not affording sufficient pasturage for them during the winter months. I am not disposed to think there are many wild dogs in these parts, having only heard one since I started, which was during the night at the Breakfast Marsh. I have not observed any recent traces of the natives whatever. The drainage of the marshes from Mount Charles falls into the Gordon, forming a rivulet about a mile north of my present bivouac. The Gordon is fordable in many places; but, in the winter, there must be a great accumulation of water, and the marshes near the river must be principally under water. I was unable, even from this point, to obtain any view of the Frenchman's Cap, nor have I been able to see it since passing Belle Vue Tier.

9th March.

Started this day with two men, and six days' provisions in our knapsacks. Advanced S. 70° W., crossing the Gordon. Found the marshes on the western bank very boggy, and partaking generally of the same kind of peat soil as on the eastern side. At a mile and a half, being upon a small hill, I obtained a view of the Cap, bearing S. 65° W.; ——— Bluff (four particular rocks), S. 50° W.; high bluff, called ——— Bluff, W.; high bluff, called ——— Bluff, N. 55° W.; ——— Bluff, N. 35° W.—under which the Gordon Lake lies. At two miles, crossed a river which was up to our waists in water, but not wide. This river drains the marshes and tiers above mentioned, and runs in a S.E. course towards the Gordon, which it undoubtedly joins. Open to the south. At four and a half miles, marshes still continuing on the north to a considerable extent. A scrubby rise on the south leading to ——— Bluff, upon the sides of which, after advancing some distance, the same kind of marsh ground continued. ——— Bluff, N. 72° W.; ——— Bluff, N. 33° W. Marshes still continuing, extending between the tiers on the north. At five and a half miles a very remarkable rock is seen, with another on its summit resembling a lion,—called it the Lion's Point. Bearing—N. 33° W., S. 22° E. to first point of ——— Bluff, and S. to the western point of that bluff. From this point I had a most extensive view of a vast range of mountains to the northward, ascending to a very considerable height, whose craggy summits appeared

to vie with each other in their fantastic structure:—one, exactly resembling two steeples; a second, ascending to a most acute cone, with a high dead tree resembling a flag-staff on its summit,—called the latter Mount Piggott; and others of a similar nature. The slopes from some of these stupendous hills were evidently the same kind of ground as the Gordon Marshes. At about six miles the marshes appeared to drain to the N.W. as far as the tiers.

After advancing this day about ten miles across the marshes,—latterly with an ascent,—we halted on a rocky point, where we had great difficulty in finding a place sufficiently dry to sleep upon, and also in getting timber for a fire and to construct a habitation for the night to protect us against the weather, which appeared very threatening. The hills in these parts (on the western side of ——— Bluff,) are composed of that kind of white flinty stone called quartz, and have the appearance, at a distance, of being covered with snow. I regret being compelled to observe that, in my advance westerly, the marshes did not improve in quality, but rather the reverse; and the more elevated we became, the worse they appeared. I do not think they can be rendered available generally for agricultural purposes. They more resemble the Welsh mountains than any land I have ever seen, but more wet. This feature is general to the west of the Gordon. It is very apparent that this part of the country is subject to frequent falls of rain, the clouds appearing always hanging on the high peaks of the adjacent mountains, by which they are attracted and impeded in their advance easterly.

I should suppose my eye must have compassed within this day's march land of the kind before mentioned to the extent of 30,000 acres.

Very wet and cold during this last night. Started at dawn of day. The rain 10th March. still continuing. Bore northerly, as the hills now descended most abruptly to the west. The point we descended was composed of a most disheartening thicket of sassafras, fern tree, &c., which made our progress very slow and very difficult. From the nature of the ground before we descended, I had an idea that our elevation above the sea must be very great; but I hardly calculated upon so sudden and precipitous a descent as we now met with. Had it not been for the underwood, it is questionable whether we could have let ourselves down its sides.<sup>1</sup> At the termination of the hill,<sup>2</sup> we breakfasted; and we then viewed the hill we had descended as it really was—a stupendous mountain, with a most appalling aspect to the west. We still bore northerly, to avoid considerable hills and scrub which were in the more direct course for the Cap. After breakfast, advanced westerly. At about half a mile, arrived at a very considerable river, whose exceeding rapidity seemed to defy our crossing (the bearing was from the N.E. towards the Gordon), having been much increased by the late rains. Attempted to wade through; but, although not higher than the middle, and using every means practicable to keep our feet, Pierman (the soldier—a very strong powerful man), being a little in advance, was nearly washed away; fortunately he recovered himself, or his fate must have been inevitable. From the rocky nature of the river's bed, swimming was quite impracticable. At this moment,—whilst in the centre of the river, and with the most dangerous point still to cross,—on looking up the river, I saw a tree which, extending quite across the whole, formed a perfect bridge at about 20 feet above the water, which enabled us to surmount this difficulty. After crossing the river, we entered a very thick scrub, passing over a hill on the southern point. The wood is composed of sassafras, pencil wood, gum, &c., and quantities of the fern tree, which throw out so much foliage at the tops, and are so close together that, on penetrating, it exactly resembles entering a dark room—the sun's rays being always totally excluded. Fortunately got through this scrub to an open point, which had been burnt; and then followed a small marsh,<sup>3</sup> where there was only low scrub; but on each side the same impervious scrub still continued, which—though to the traveller who has to pass through it it presents a most serious obstacle in his advance, still, viewing it as we did (passing along its extremity),—had a most pleasing effect. The splendid richness of its variegated foliage, without a single branch being visible, and many of the shrubs even at this time bearing flowers, offered such a striking contrast to the general feature presented by the gum and the more common trees that, although we were thankful to have escaped such an obstacle to our progress, we could not refuse our admiration of its beauty.

<sup>1</sup> Named by Mr. Calder, "*Fatigue Hill*"; by Strzelecki (afterwards) "*Mount Arrowsmith*."

<sup>2</sup> The place called by Sir John Franklin, "*Wombat Glen*."

<sup>3</sup> *Painter's Plains.*

We followed the said Marsh and some burnt ground until it brought us out to a bare hill where a fire had been made by the blacks; and I am inclined to suppose

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that the track I had followed is that which they pursue in passing through this part of the country.

After proceeding about two miles in our course, we again came to the same river we had before crossed, which I before thought must be a branch of the Gordon, (there being a small one shown on the maps as coming from this direction,) therefore I attempted to bear still more northerly to avoid again crossing it; but, after proceeding about two miles along its eastern bank, I discovered that its course was nearly north west, having made a very sudden bend and passing between two high tiers. It immediately occurred to me that it must be King's River, which, though represented as passing north of the Frenchman's Cap, is not shown so far as this point.

After considerable difficulty, we discovered a place where the stream appeared less rapid than where we had before attempted to cross; but, the banks being so high, and such thick scrub for a considerable distance on each side, we had much labour in getting even down to the river. With some hazard we happily succeeded in fording at this point, which we were compelled to risk, as it would have given us a day's additional labour to have returned to the tree. I do not recollect any river in the Colony of such rapidity, and embedded within such high banks and thick underwood, which totally conceal it until you are on its brink, where you are struck with apprehension at its ferocious velocity amongst the rocks and stones. After leaving this river, crossed a marsh with a bare hill on the left, and halted at a spot where we discovered some old huts built by the natives. Much fatigued with this day's march, owing to the trouble of crossing and recrossing King's River, and it having been wet all the first part of the day.

There are several bare hills in this vicinity, but all composed of the same kind of soil as the high land extending from the Gordon. Did not see any recent traces of the natives. Kangaroos plentiful in the open ground. The bare hills extend on the N.E. bank of King's River.

11th March.

<sup>1</sup> *Loddon Plain*  
contains 3500 acres by  
survey.

<sup>2</sup> This river was afterwards called the *Loddon* by Mr. Calder in ignorance of Mr. Sharland having previously named it.

Considerable rain during the night and in the morning, but cleared away about 11 o'clock. Passed through an exceeding thick scrub, over a hill rendered much worse by the late rain, and the scrub (from the effects of the westerly winds) inclining towards us. After much fatigue in getting through, we suddenly, on reaching the top of the hill, opened into ground recently burnt, with a most beautiful valley<sup>1</sup> extending S.W. beneath us. The whole of this ground had been burnt, apparently immediately before the late snow, and, I conclude, by the natives. The valley had the appearance, at a distance, of undergoing all the various processes of agriculture,—some parts (the most recently burnt) looking like freshly ploughed fields; and again, other parts possessing the most beautiful verdure from the sprouting of the young grass and rushes. We rapidly descended to so inviting a spot after the late dismal scrub, and arrived at a river flowing from the S. and S.W. through the valley and bearing away towards King's River, where it undoubtedly forms a junction. I called this river the Adelaide,<sup>2</sup> and the valley before described Queen's Valley—from its beauty. But I regret to observe, on a more minute examination of Queen's Valley, that its beautiful appearance was not substantially good, as the soil all partakes of the same kind of peat which abounds in this quarter. In this valley I discovered a heap of bones of a larger kind than could belong to a kangaroo or any other animal inhabiting these parts, and they may probably be the remains of some of those unfortunate wretches who have absconded from Macquarie Harbour to seek this melancholy termination of their existence. The Frenchman's Cap, from this point, bore S. 80° W., distant about five miles. We crossed the Adelaide, and advanced rapidly up some bare hills—which appeared the first commencement of the tier leading to the Cap,—in the hope of arriving at its base that night and ascending the following morning. These hills, at a distance, have all the appearance of downs; but, when approached, are found very deceptive—partaking of the same kind of soil which I before described as being peculiar to this part, and bearing only a sour kind of herbage, which I think would not be sufficiently nutritious even for cattle. I perceived traces of kangaroo; but the wombat seems to be the principal inhabitant of this part, though I was much surprised at not seeing any. I am inclined to conclude there must be almost daily rains near the Cap, for the summit of the highest hills abound with water standing in holes, besides innumerable streams in every trifling valley. After ascending the top of the first tier of high hills next the Cap, I was surprised at looking down upon a very large pond of water, which, from

its appearance, I judge to be very deep. From this pond alone there proceeded a body of water, rushing down between the hills, equal to turn four or five mills. Nor did I perceive from whence this accumulation of water arose, except by passing through the rocks under the surface, as there did not appear to be any external drains capable of supplying so much. Had great difficulty in finding a place sufficiently dry to encamp upon, being fearful of lying upon ground through every pore of which water appeared to be gushing. Finally encamped within a quarter of a mile from the pond before mentioned, and about two and a half miles from the peak of the Cap,—which did not appear any very considerable height above us; bearing west.

Considerable rain during the night, and towards the morning. Towards the morning, I was suddenly roused by a most awful blast of wind from the Cap passing over our heads like a whirlwind, threatening not only to sweep our frail habitations to destruction, but to overwhelm us with the branches of trees which it appeared to be whirling along in its course: again all was quiet, and we had no repetition of it. When the sun rose, the clouds dispersed, though still hanging on the top of the Cap. Started with high expectations of ascending the Cap in about two hours at furthest, there appearing to be a connecting ridge which would lead us to the point,—beyond which no other hill was perceptible. We commenced ascending the hill about 7 o'clock, following up the ridge,—which proved very deceptive, constantly terminating in a precipitous descent which more than once almost compelled us to retrace our steps. After eight hours' incredible fatigue, without a single halt,—by dint of winding our knapsacks and guns up precipices, and the most hazardous climbing ourselves, where one slip would have hurled us some hundreds of feet into a chasm below,—we reached the long-expected height, being then about a quarter of a mile or less from the immediate peak of the Cap. On ascending, I had the full anticipation, on reaching the top, of looking down upon Macquarie Harbour, knowing that the first point of the bay could not be more than ten miles from me. My disappointment was great when, on advancing a few steps, I discovered that not only was there another tier which obstructed our view of the harbour, but that an impassable chasm existed between us and the peak of the Cap. Nevertheless, I was much gratified with having a very full and extensive view of the ocean below Macquarie Harbour, where the tier did not impede our prospect. 12th March.

Between the tier we were upon and the one before us, there was also a ravine of so great a declivity and so impervious a scrub, that I am convinced it would have occupied a day and a half longer to have gained that point; and even then, there did not appear any possibility of making the Cap. In this ravine there are three ponds resembling the former which I mentioned, the water from the one passing to the other. These large ponds are so remarkable that I am much inclined to doubt whether any of the runaways have passed over this part of the tier, otherwise they certainly would have observed them. Indeed, I question whether it would have been possible for them to have made the exertion requisite to gain this point. I think they must generally pass over this tier more to the southward, where they would also obtain a good view of the Peak of Tenneriffe, which appears the point generally made for. From the point I was then upon, I had a very perfect view of the above Peak, which I should suppose to be about 25 miles distant. There did not appear to be any very considerable hills between us; but, from our great elevation, and the elevation of the Peak itself, I might be deceived in this idea. I feel convinced it must ever be a matter of chance—without some leading point of this kind—for any man, without a compass, to proceed from Macquarie Harbour to any of the settled districts; but, with the knowledge I have now gained of that part of the country, I feel satisfied I could go from Bothwell to the Cap in four days, provided I had the assistance of a horse for the two first days.

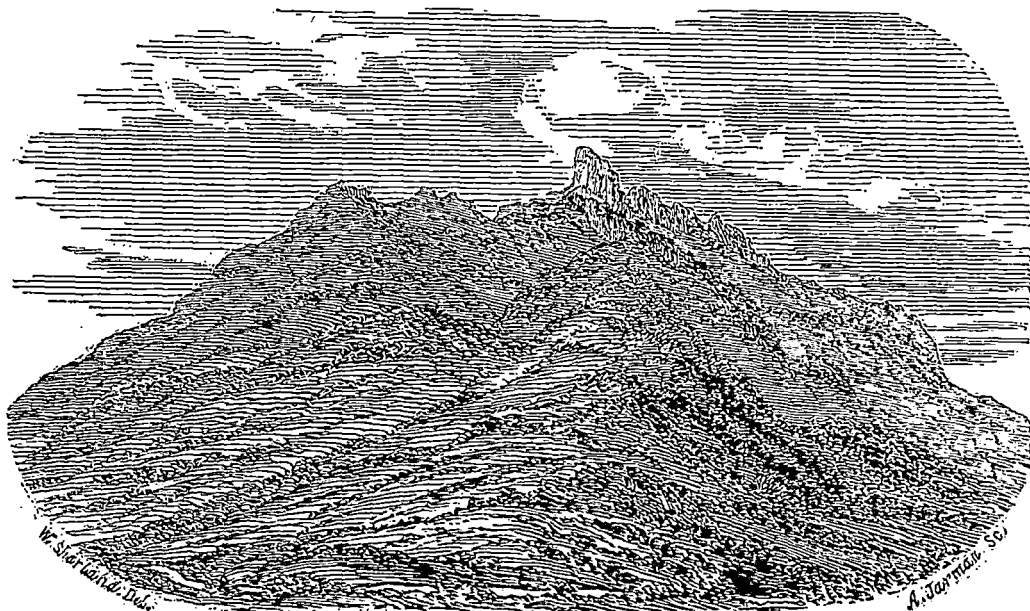
The western aspect of the mountain to ascend to the Gordon Marshes presents such a forbidding appearance, that no person unacquainted with what was beyond would attempt to ascend it.

Throughout the Colony, I never observed the Grass Tree attain the height which it does upon a hill immediately under the Cap: its head completely towered above the neighbouring shrubs. I observed Pines in this part, the first I had seen, but of small size, not being more than 15 or 20 feet high. The scrub in this vicinity, from being stunted in its growth, is exceedingly difficult to pass through. I made considerable observation as to the practicability of a better approach to the Cap. I could only observe one, which is by following the Adelaide down about



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three miles, and then taking a ridge of a tier which leads up to it from the north. I can better describe the point I gained by the following sketch. The spot itself I



[ FRENCHMAN'S CAP.\* ]

have marked W. S. on the sketch, having left the same mark with stones on the ground. After halting about half an hour, and firing a double shot at the Cap, and taking a gaze at the ocean before us, we returned the same way we ascended, not being able to discover any other at all practicable. Again we had to repeat the dangerous experiment of walking along ridges of rocks as acute as that of a house, and of lowering ourselves down the more abrupt declivities: happily we escaped any serious injury, excepting a few bruises, and returned to the preceding night's encampment more fatigued with this day's march than any we had before undertaken, though not exceeding in the whole three or four miles.

13th March.

This is the first morning which has not been ushered in by a shower of rain since I quitted the party on the Gordon, nor was there any during the night. Being now the fifth day since my departure, and only having supplies with us for six days, it became prudent to make our journey back with as much haste as possible. We therefore started this morning at break of day, wishing farewell to the Cap, which was not yet visible, nor, I imagine, ever is until the sun has attained sufficient height to dispel the vapours which accumulate on its summit. We descended the tier rapidly, and breakfasted on the Adelaide; felt exceedingly fatigued and unwell, from the effects, as I suppose, of drinking too much snow-water the preceding day, as well as this morning; revived after breakfast and proceeded, and, with much exertion reached that night the spot we breakfasted at on the morning of the 10th. In returning from the Adelaide, we could discover no better route than the one we had chosen in our advance, and therefore returned by the same track, recrossing King's River at the same points we had formerly crossed. I found the river had fallen about a foot and a half since the 10th. It is very evident that its rise and fall must be very sudden and, when past a certain height, must always be exceedingly dangerous to cross, even to the most expert swimmer. Fine weather the whole of this day.

14th March.

Wet nearly the whole of the night, and still continuing in the morning. We hastily partook of the last meal which our stores would afford us and started, ascending the mountain along a ridge more southerly than where we had descended, by which we avoided considerable scrub; but the hill was much steeper in some points. On arriving at the top of the hill, the rain descended in torrents, with a very violent wind. At the same time, we were completely enveloped by clouds,

\* The above engraving has been done on a block of Huon Pine.—J. E. C.

which were passing at a most rapid rate along the top of the hill. Without a compass, our progress here would have been quite impracticable. After a most rapid march, we arrived at the encampment on the Gordon about 3 o'clock, having effected our return in two days, which, in our advance, had taken three days, besides the day ascending the Cap. Found the party all correct, with 6 kangaroos in the larder, consisting of 3 sticks put across like a gallows, and a good steamer on the fire. In the afternoon the weather became fine, and showed some appearance of becoming more settled.

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Fine morning. I felt some desire to have explored southerly the Gordon; but, as no immediate inducement offered itself from the nature of the ground, as far as I could see in that direction, I determined on falling back, and tracing the Derwent in its course southerly. I am inclined to advise, when it may be in contemplation to explore the south-western point of the Island towards Port Davey, that it would be found most accessible by following the Gordon down to the southern branch, and then to pursue that river, which, I have no doubt, has its rise in that quarter. Accordingly I retired this day from the Gordon, and took up my quarters at my old dismal bivouac on the marsh near Mount Charles, which I had occupied on the 6th and 7th. Sharp frost during the night.

15th March.

This day I fell back to the Derwent, making the point which, in the preceding part of my journal, I mentioned as being calculated for a township, which I was inclined to examine more minutely than I was able on the former occasion. Saw abundance of kangaroo in every direction, in passing through the marshes, and also old huts built by the natives; but no recent traces whatever. After making further examination during the day, I found the spot confirmed my former opinion, being the most desirable for a township of any I had seen, having a good dry bank fronting the river. The eastern side of the river would be the most suitable.

16th March.

Saw several native huts close to this spot; and one of the men whilst out hunting discovered where a dead kangaroo bitch had been carefully placed in the hollow of a tree, and stones placed round her. Caught three kangaroos.

Finding, on a survey of the stores, that we had not more than 40 lbs. flour left, I determined on sending the pack horse back to the depôt at Lake Echo, and to proceed with three men down the Derwent; being fearful that some parts of the country might be found impracticable for the horse to pass along, thereby impede our progress, which would not have been very agreeable with the present short supply of provisions.

Started the pack horse and two men for the depôt, with instructions to remove the tent to Bothwell forthwith. Myself, with three men, also commenced our journey south, having about six days' provisions in our knapsacks.

17th March.

Passed down the western bank of the Derwent, crossed at  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles, the river bearing more westerly, and the hills getting barren and rocky on each side.

Continued along a tier of hills on the eastern side, bearing south, with an appearance of open marshes on the left at the foot of the tier. After continuing this course about 8 miles, bore S.E. to a large marsh, in the expectation of finding water to halt for the night. Had great difficulty in discovering water; finally was successful, just as it was getting dark. A hole on the western side of the marsh, opposite a high hill across the marsh. The weather fine during the day, but assumed a threatening appearance towards the evening. Effected a progress this day of 9 miles south.

On rousing during the night, I discovered I had had a very narrow escape from being burnt. The fire, in spite of the usual precautions which I had taken, having caught the grass and extended to the blanket which formed my bivouac, which was quite destroyed on one side, and also the leaves and branches close to me; in fact, everything except those I was lying upon, passing in a circle round my feet, and then going out without even awaking me. I found my shot-belt burnt to a cinder, it being on the side the fire had attacked. Had it extended as far on the opposite side, it would have reached my powder-flask and gun, and in all probability must have seriously injured me, there being a pound of powder in the former. I feel

18th March.

1832.

how thankful I ought to be for so providential an escape from the horrors of such an explosion in that situation.

Much rain fell during the morning; but being desirous of advancing, on account of our provisions, we started about 9 o'clock, bearing southerly, with the expectation of again coming upon the Derwent. After travelling about a mile, which again took us upon the hill we descended the preceding night, it became very scrubby and thick; but as I did not conceive it extended far, I held my course south until the scrub became of so impervious a nature that I was compelled to bear more to the south east. In this course we encountered some of the most dense thickets I ever saw, consisting of cutting grass, tea tree, fern tree, sassafras tree, which, with the continuance of the rain, reduced us to a most wretched condition. After beating through this scrub from the morning till about 5 o'clock, without the least sign of its terminating, one of the soldiers became quite exhausted, both from fatigue and the effects of the cutting grass upon his legs, which were much swollen, having scarcely any trousers left to protect him from its effects. Compelled to halt in the midst of the thicket, where we fortunately found water. This day's march was certainly the most harassing of any we had met with; perhaps more attributable to the almost constant rain, and even when that had ceased in the afternoon, every step in the scrub had the effect of a shower-bath.

After halting and inspecting the party, the effects of this day's march quite alarmed me. The shoes of the whole party appeared to have suffered most materially. To my horror, I discovered my own were separating from the soles. The men's legs were so much inflamed that it appeared probable that such another day might incapacitate some of them from any further advance, which, in such a situation, would have been a serious circumstance.

I had remarked during the day, that any attempt to advance westerly would have been quite impracticable; nor had any circumstance occurred to induce me to suppose there was any available land between me and the Derwent in that direction. This circumstance, combined with our only having four days' provisions left, induced me to give up all idea of again bearing away for the Derwent, as it would have taken longer time through such a country than our provisions authorised our encountering. I therefore determined on continuing a south-east course, which I considered would take me to Mr. Parson's farm on the Dee.

19th March.

This morning commenced fine. The party employed at daybreak in repairing in some degree the havoc the scrub had effected during the preceding day. With the assistance of some kangaroo skins, the men were able to repair their trousers to protect themselves against our worst enemy, the cutting grass. (This grass not only cuts almost equal to a knife, but the part so affected immediately becomes much inflamed, and shows an inclination to fester, being at the same time very painful.) Men proceeding on an expedition of this kind should be furnished with trousers of a more substantial kind. The common cloth is not of the least use. They should be either leather or very strong corduroy: the latter would be best on account of the wet. After repairing garments and stitching shoes, we started this day at half-past 10 o'clock bearing south east. Although the scrub was quite as bad at the commencement of this day's march as it had been the day before, we were able to advance more rapidly, owing to its being dry. After proceeding a mile and a half, we descended the tier into a tea-tree flat, bearing S. 30° E. We followed this valley for some time, expecting it would open into a marsh, but after advancing along it about a mile and a half, I found the scrub became still thicker, so I again held my course south east, passing over a low tier of hills, which was still covered with thick scrub.

The dogs this day became so much fatigued with getting through the scrub that they laid down and could go no further; consequently we were obliged to lead or rather drag them along, not wishing to leave them to starve in such a situation after having so faithfully furnished us with so many days meals. After a long march without a single halt, we at last arrived at a tea-tree rivulet, having the appearance of the head of a river, where we determined to halt for the night, not choosing to forego the present supply of water, as we had not met with any during the day. Although we had crossed seven or eight low tiers of hills, still the hollows were all perfectly dry and rocky.

After halting a short time, whilst the party was preparing for the night, I went up the rivulet about a mile and a half, and discovered that it proceeded from a marsh which extended north east towards a high hill (which I could now discern), mentioned as being across the marsh we encamped upon on the 18th. On first reaching this rivulet, I had an idea that it must be the source of what is commonly called Black Bob's River; and on seeing this marsh I felt confirmed in this supposition. This marsh is the spot where Brady and his gang took Mr. Triffitt's horses and left them. The marsh has communication with the large marsh before mentioned, passing through some tea-tree scrub from the one to the other.

1832.

Started this morning at break of day, being resolved to make as great an effort as possible to get clear of the everlasting thicket. After a fatiguing and rapid march of six miles, we suddenly broke out of the high scrub into ground where it had been burnt about two or three years ago, consequently not so high; but even here I could obtain no view of any of the distant hills to confirm me in the course we were pursuing. I at last succeeded in gaining a clear point of a hill, and I was then exceedingly gratified with having a very distinct view of the Blue Hill, about 20 miles to the westward; and also of a round clear hill immediately opposite Mr. Parson's hut on the Dee, which I now observed was exactly in the south-east course we were following, and distant about six miles.

20th March.

With revived spirits we again started, determined, if possible, to gain the above Point that night. We still encountered a good deal of scrub at the back of Dick Brown's Tier; but, about sunset, we succeeded in reaching the banks of the Dee, above Mr. Parson's about a mile and a half. We advanced, and about dark reached Mr. Parson's hut, heartily glad to be again upon habitable ground, it being the first hut we had seen for three weeks, and for the last three days we had never been able to observe anything more than ten yards before us.

We found no water whatever between Black Bob's River and the Dee; but a succession of low scrubby tiers the whole of the way, extending north and south, totally unconvertible to any good purpose. Halted here for the night.

Started this morning, crossing the Dee opposite Mr. Parson's. Considerable body of water in this river. Passed Mr. Marzetti's, and halted at night at my own farm, where I had ordered the horse to meet me, but which had not arrived. Could proceed no further, my shoes being totally gone.

21st March.

Horse arrived this evening by the same man I despatched from the Derwent on the 17th, who reported that the cart had returned in safety to Bothwell the preceeding day. He also reported that, on the day he quitted me in passing over Bell Vue Tier, both himself and the man who accompanied him met with a native, who got up off the ground and walked away from them without taking any notice whatever. He had a spear in his hand. No others were seen by the party, nor had the men at the depôt seen any.

22nd March.

The man, James Barrett, who had quitted the party on the 4th instant, returned to the depôt on the following day, having, as he states, lost himself. It appears he returned to the party much exhausted.

Proceeded to Bothwell this day, thus terminating the expedition, it being three weeks and four days since I started from this Station.

24th March.

W. S. SHARLAND.

24th March, 1832.



*REMARKS upon the North Coast of VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, from Port Dalrymple to the North-west Extremity; and from thence Four Leagues to the Southward of West Point on the West Coast. (By Captain HARDWICKE.)*

Port Sorell, which is situate at the west end of the first sandy beach from Port Dalrymple, is about 12 miles from West Head; but it may be more distinctly known by a rocky point, which forms the West Head, and runs out a considerable distance to the eastward. The entrance of this Port is too difficult for vessels to attempt, without having a previous knowledge of its dangers; although, with a pilot on board, it can be safely entered in any weather, and may run up into good anchorage in three fathoms water. I found no bar\* on entering this Port as is generally supposed to exist, as I sounded in 20 feet at low water, with a channel of sufficient width to admit of vessels as large as 200 tons burden.

The tide runs very rapid—occasionally a ripple in the deepest channel—and rises to about seven or eight feet, running ebb seven hours.

From the entrance of the Port on both sides the beach is generally sandy up to the head,—which is about six miles in a southwardly direction, where there are two extensive streams that empty into the salt water. The shores are well wooded, and I found several convenient places on the west side for vessels to water at.

The flats, at about half ebb, were covered with sand. Mullet, and a great quantity of other fish, are to be caught in different parts of the river: oysters and cockles are plentiful: swans and ducks are in immense numbers: and the shores on both sides abound with forest and brush kangaroo; and emu are but thinly scattered.

Port Sorell is divided from Port Dalrymple by a chain of high hills, (more generally known by the name of the Sea Mountains,) which gradually descend to the water's edge, (Port Sorell) and which afford, for a considerable extent, tolerable good pasture for feeding cattle. The head of the river is bound up with high rocky hills, covered with stringy-bark, box, and tea-tree brush. To the westward, as far as the second western river, the country is rather flat; and to the extent of about 6 miles inland, it contains, within this distance, good and sufficient pasturage for a large herd of cattle and a considerable quantity of sheep; with the advantage of a perfectly dry plain at all seasons, containing about 600 or 800 acres (well watered) of soil of the first quality, excellently well adapted for cultivation, and within two miles of Port Sorell. There is an inexhaustible forest of good timber, consisting of lofty gum spars, stringy-bark, box, and lightwood, on the S.W. edge of this plain.

The picturesque appearance of this situation; the view it commands of the sea; and great extent of coast to the westward; with the advantage of a navigable River within so short a distance, make it a very desirable situation.

The second western river I judge to be situated about 12 miles from Port Sorell; and may be known by two remarkably rocky bluffs, divided by a small circular sandy beach—which forms the west head,—the east shore being flat and sandy. This river is only sufficiently large to admit of small sloops. The land on both sides is thickly wooded; but good water is extremely difficult to obtain.

From this river, to Rocky Cape, the land is mountainous; extremely barren, and totally unfit for habitation. There are four small inlets that cannot be entered (even by boats) excepting at high water.

In this extent of coast there is no appearance of its being frequented by natives; and kangaroos are extremely scarce.

\* This is quite different from Hobbs' statement, who says there are only 4 feet at neap tides.—J. E. C.

From Rocky Cape to  
Circular Head.

The coast from Rocky Cape to the westward begins to have a more pleasing and fertile appearance. The hills gradually descend, and the country in every direction, west of this place, appears level. There are heathy plains intersected with thickly wooded forests along the shore, which afford good summer food for cattle, and are well watered.

Circular Head is a very conspicuous high bluff, and may be seen distinctly five or six leagues. It projects out so far to the northward as to form a deep bay on the east side where vessels may lie in three fathoms water, (sandy bottom,) sheltered from all winds except from E. by S. to S.E.: but a vessel that would not draw more than 12 or 14 feet might run into a river that is two miles to the southward of the Circular Head,—the entrance to which cannot be mistaken.

There are situations in this inlet well adapted for laying vessels on shore that might want undergoing any repair.

Wood and water.

Wood can conveniently be obtained in any quantity; but water for the use of shipping would require to be rafted off.

Description.

Circular Head, which is a peninsula joined to the main by an isthmus half a mile wide, is about 12 miles in circumference, and contains a very large proportion of land of the first quality, free from timber; but there is a sufficient quantity of good wood within the circumference, suitable for all purposes to any extent for building or fencing that this situation would require. It is watered by a small stream on the north side, and a lagoon on the east and south sides. Kangaroos are very numerous, and easily caught. Quail are much larger than they are to the eastward, and fly in larger coveys. Fish are to be caught in great abundance off any of the rocky points. It is much frequented by natives, who seem extremely wild, as we saw one party running away at a great distance. There were several shells of lobsters or crayfish at their fires. Nature has done everything in variegating this place with hill and dale, and with making it the most picturesque and best adapted soil for cultivation, on the north coast of this Island.

Kangaroo, quail, and  
fish.

Natives.

From Circular Head:  
to the west end of  
Robinson's Passage.

From Circular Head to the west end of Robinson's Passage the country is flat; and the whole distance along the sea shore there are plains extending from three to four miles inland, covered with small heath rather more than ankle deep, with innumerable streams of water running through them. They lie perfectly dry, and are sheltered with clusters of lofty trees growing a little above the sea beach. They are much frequented by natives, and kangaroos are in great abundance.

Sandy Island:

Sandy Isle, which forms the north side of Robinson's Passage, has a pleasing and fertile appearance, although the soil is generally very sandy. Vessels sailing into the entrance into Robinson's Passage, must keep Sandy Island on board, and be cautious of a reef which lies nearly mid-channel off the S.E. end of the Island; and may run up until the water shoals to three fathoms, where they can lie shut in from all winds.

Sailing into Robin-  
son's Passage.

The channel farther to the westward, is too intricate to be attempted by vessels of the smallest description, without previously sounding in a boat. The tide runs extremely rapid, and there are very extensive sand flats—which are only covered at high water—which give this passage a dangerous appearance; although, if the sailing through should ever become a matter of importance, I think that, by being properly surveyed, a safe channel could be found to admit small vessels.

Remarks.

West Coast.

The point of land which forms the north-west part of Van Diemen's Land, and four leagues to the southward of West Point, on the West Coast, is covered with a rich grass pasture, intermixed with a plant precisely similar to red clover, only something more diminutive.

But this description of country does not extend from the sea coast more than one mile. Beyond that distance inland, there are very extensive plains, thickly covered with a herbage a foot high, having a resemblance to heath, but of a very fine description. There is a great diversity of soil, but the greater part is a rich vegetable mould, intermixed with a small proportion of sand of a colour nearly black. They lie rather high, and are well watered with running streams. About four leagues to the south of West Point there are plains extending about 12 miles inland.

Kangaroo and birds.

Kangaroos are very plentiful, and unusually fat. There are various descriptions of birds of a different kind from any of the East Coast or other parts of this Island.

The natives are numerous, and appear disposed to be friendly with Europeans, as we had communication with them.

## No. 2.

*EXTRACTS\* from Mr. HOBBS's Report of a Boat Survey round the Island of VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, from 5th February to 10th July, 1824.*

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WHILST I was here (Macquarie Harbour), I made two excursions into the Country ; one to the Dagular Range,† and another to Mount Sorell. From the former, nothing appeared but one mountain towering over another. From the view I had from the highest part of Mount Sorell, I am perfectly satisfied there is not more than 20 miles of a mountainous country in an easterly direction. Plains might be entered by passing over the south corner of the large lake,‡ and keeping in sight a high table mountain, laid down in the chart as near Macquarie Harbour. When I read the account of Pearce's Travels to the High Plains, I was still more confirmed in this opinion. James Carritts, who was with me, relates that he was upon these plains many years ago, when Mr. Beaumont returned, and could not find the way. This is the good land which Carritt mentioned to Captain Montague.

Pieman's River is in latitude  $41^{\circ} 40' 13''$  south. The mouth of it is totally unfit to approach, even with a boat, from the very heavy swell that immediately runs in upon the Bay ; and, in fact, all along this coast there is as much sea in fine weather as there is on the East Coast in a gale of wind. I was obliged to carry the boat into the river. I proceeded up 18 miles before I met anything to impede my progress, when I arrived at numerous falls, and hauled the boat over them. This is as far as any boat can go. The falls are 21 in number. This river runs from a swampy plain about Mount Heemskirk. Its banks abound with pine of the very best quality ; also lightwood and myrtle. At some distance, towards its source, is a very high clear hill, from the top of which I had a full view of all the country around ; but notwithstanding the dangerous entrance, it still is practicable to get timber there should it become scarce at Macquarie Harbour. The land about is sterile, but not so much so as all to the southward of it. Being anxious to know if much land did exist to the northward of this river, as has been represented, I sent Carritts, accompanied by two men, to examine the land, and travel as far as Cape Grim, while I proceeded along the coast with the boats.

Near West Point, on the south side, there is a river § in latitude  $41^{\circ} 3'$  similar to Pieman's River, with a bar-mouth, and an entrance equally dangerous. We carried the boat along the beach into the river, and then went up 15 miles to the falls. The water, like that of Pieman's River, is deep and salt up to the first falls, even at this dry season. The river rises from the low country around Mount Norfolk. The timber here consists of very fine stringy-bark, gum, and a few lightwood trees. The soil is barren, and little fit for any purposes, with the exception of a few patches, nearly a mile inland, of light sandy soil covered with grass.

The point of land called Cape Grim, is composed of light sandy soil, with good grass and fern in parts, but not in such quantity as to be of much use.

At this point I took in Carritts, whose report perfectly coincided with what I had seen myself,—that the land from Pieman's River to Cape Grim is wholly unfit for any agricultural purposes, except in very small spots, not extending a mile from the sea coast. The inlet, called Robinson's Passage, is dry in parts from the main to the Sandy Island at low water spring-tides. Under the south-east point of the Island there is good anchorage, in 3 fathoms, as is pointed out in Flinder's Chart.

There are extensive sand flats, caused by the meeting of the tides, which set around Van Diemen's Land. Circular Head, and the 'neck of land adjoining, is about 3 miles long : the narrowest place is about half a mile broad ; the soil is all of the best quality. Several clear spaces from about 20 to 50 acres are to be found. The other parts are as thickly timbered with lofty gums and stringy-bark trees as they can well grow together.

Water is extremely scarce here. I found some, with difficulty, in a large lagoon almost dried up by the unusual dryness of the weather. I found no fresh-water stream on either side of Circular

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\* The paper from which this is printed is only a collection of Extracts ; where the original is to be found I know not.—J. E. C.

† I cannot make out what mountain Mr. Hobbs means, none of our old charts notice it under this name.—J. E. C.

‡ The nearest lake of importance to Macquarie Harbour is Lake St. Clair, 50 miles off at least.—J. E. C.

§ I do not know what river this is.—J. E. C.

Head. From reports I had heard, I expected to find a river two miles south of the head; but it turned out to be a bar-mouth lagoon, which has only three feet on it at low water, but is deep when inside the sand-spit: in fact it is a chain of lagoons, or perhaps, more correctly speaking, a link of salt-water ponds round to Rocky Cape, commencing seven miles west of Circular Head.

The anchorage in the Bay cannot be better described than in Flinder's Chart. Bring the head to bear north, and anchor in any water desired. This would make a most excellent estate for one or two persons, with capital, who would engage in the whale local fisheries, in addition to agricultural pursuits; since fish are to be caught in great abundance. The country from Circular Head to Port Sorell is very mountainous and barren. That quantity of good land which was expected about the north-west part of the Island is not to be found.\* I consider that, from Circular Head to Port Sorell, the water side is the best road, as the natives travel that way and keep it burnt. The interior of Port Sorell I did not examine, as I merely stopped to ascertain if the report of there being no bar was correct. If there is any good land here it cannot be more than six miles in extent; for between the second western river † and Port Sorell there is a rocky mountain which appeared to me to be nearly as high as the Table Mountain at Hobart Town; indicating, by its barren aspect, the nature of the country around it. The Port itself is merely a large lagoon or inlet, with a bar across its mouth, having 4 feet at low water neap tide; but inside it has 15 or 20 near its mouth.

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\* Mr. Hobbs, like Mr. Adey, could be no good judge of soil. Let the reader ask any one who has travelled through the Counties of Wellington and Devon, which are here described, if Mr. Hobbs' statements are accurate, and he will soon learn that they are *not*. The extent of country now in private possession, depicted so unfavourably by Hardwicke, Hobbs, and Adey, is immense, and its excellence is not to be questioned. There are, of course, large unfertile tracts here as elsewhere; but, looking at the Districts generally, they are wonderfully fine ones, but very heavily wooded.—J. E. C.

† Now called the Mersey.

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## No. 3.

*REPORT of MR. ALEXANDER GOLDIE, of his Journey from GEORGE TOWN to CAPE GRIM and the WESTERN COAST, dated 28th November, 1826.*

At your request, I beg to state that I left Frogmore, accompanied by Mr. Fossey, in the whaleboat, with six men, and Frederick as steersman, on Saturday, the 29th July. Owing to the state of the tide, I was unable to get further than the Third River\* that night. On Sunday morning we breakfasted at a small creek a mile to the eastward of the Leven. A heavy swell setting in from the north west I was obliged to put into Parish's Boat Harbour, about six miles to the east of Table Cape. Next morning (Monday, the 31st, before 8 o'clock), we were again off; and, with great difficulty, got to the west side of Table Cape, where we were obliged to put up for a short time; expecting the swell would abate a little. We made a second attempt, but were glad to steer for the nearest harbour we could.

1826.

29th July.

30th &amp; 31st July.

It began to blow very hard at night, and continued so all the next day, which prevented us proceeding. On Wednesday, the 2nd of August, at day-break, we again got into the boat; and, although the sea was much abated, yet there was a heavy swell from the north west. About 2 o'clock we reached Circular Head, where I found the schooner *Nelson* at anchor. We had scarcely got under the lee of the bluff when it began to blow excessively, and continued for the next two days, so that the schooner durst not put to sea during these two days. Mr. Fossey and I examined this place, and found a considerable tract of good land in many places quite clear, and in others very thinly timbered.

1st &amp; 2nd August.

3rd &amp; 4th August.

The timber is chiefly small gum, tea tree, and a little blackwood, very small. It is, generally speaking, a good sheep-run. The soil has rather a tendency to sand than clay, so that I scarcely expect brick-earth will be found here. The bluff is composed of dark grey granite, of excellent quality; and the rocks around are generally of the same description.

There is a good anchorage on the south side of the bluff for small vessels; but Frederick could not say whether it would be equally so for large ones. It is a good deal exposed to the E.N.E. winds. It is a very inaccurate way of judging of the quantity of land, to walk over it; but Mr. Fossey and myself thought there would be 4000 acres of good clear land, and that a considerable quantity more could be made clear at a very moderate expense.

Saturday, the 5th, being a good day and quite calm, I took the opportunity of sending the boat to the river at Robinson's Passage—which we have called Duck River; and, as it was very heavily laden and deep in the water, Mr. Fossey and I, with one of the boatmen, walked there. The distance is about sixteen miles. The country, a few miles inland, is all either swamp or wet heathy plains; and, within a mile of the shore, light grey sand. We encamped about three miles from the mouth of the river, and next day (Sunday, the 6th) I went up four miles farther to look for the best way to Cape Grim. Having fixed on the course (which was W. by S.), I returned to the tent. Early on Monday morning I ordered Frederick to take the boat with four men to Cape Grim; and Mr. Fossey, two men and myself, started for the same place by land. I kept the course I have stated for about three miles, across open heathy plains (a good deal covered with water), and then entered a very swampy forest of stringy-bark and gum trees. We continued that course for some hours, but there being nowhere for a person either to sit or lie down, I altered to W.N.W., expecting that would bring us to the plains; instead of which, it only kept us along a ridge of hills about six miles inland, from which we could see nothing. I again changed to north, and got out of the forest into the plains, as it was dark. All the ground around was very wet, and we had little fire; but it was a fine night, and we all slept soundly after our day's exertions.

5th August.

6th &amp; 7th August.

Tuesday, the 8th, after breakfast, we started and kept N.W.; and at mid-day made the coast. I varied our course from one to three miles inland, and found nothing but extensive wet heathy plains, with a considerable extent of tea-tree scrub in many places. On Wednesday, we passed over a similar country, and crossed two considerable rivers.

8th August.

9th August.

\* Now called the Forth.

1826.  
10th August.

On Thursday, the 10th, we reached the tent about two miles east of the most northerly part of the Island. On that day we had very great difficulty in crossing a river; and, there being no trees near, we had no means of making a bridge. During the whole journey from Circular Head to within three miles of where the boat lay, I did not see any land at all calculated for the Company's use,—being all either thick forest, or low heathy swampy plains, composed of hungry grey sand. I am not certain that sheep would eat the heath in the plains; but it would be quite impossible to have stock of any kind on them in the winter.

11th, 12th, 13th, and  
14th August.

Friday, the 11th, and the three following days, I examined the land within a day's walk of the tent (in the neighbourhood of Cape Grim), and found it to be all good sheep land, with the exception of a low plain of considerable extent, which would make a good run for cattle. The land has generally a tendency to sand; but at one part, about seven miles down the West Coast, there is strong clay which I think would make bricks. I did not see any freestone; but there is sandstone close by Cape Grim. The timber is chiefly bad curly gum, honey suckle, tea tree, and a little blackwood. It is very hilly and dry, and thickly covered with kangaroo grass.

There is a small island about two miles from the main, called Trefoil Island, which is very beautiful, with good timber, and apparently covered with grass. I made an attempt to get to it, but did not, the weather was so stormy.

15th August.

Having seen the land around Cape Grim, I returned in the boat to the river I have already mentioned (in which I had so much difficulty in crossing), on Tuesday, the 14th. The following day, with Mr. Fossey, Frederick, and one boatman, for a very remarkable hill on the coast near West Point, and on Hardwicke's map called Mount Cameron. In crossing the country to the West Coast, we saw a great deal of good land quite adapted for sheep, but before reaching Mount Cameron it becomes very narrow, not exceeding half a mile in width; and, in the immediate neighbourhood of the hill, it is all heath and scrub. The hill itself is of excellent quality, with very good feed upon it, and may contain about 1000 acres in all. The view from the top is very extensive, but unimproved, surrounded by heathy plains, and they are bounded by low swampy forests of tea tree, both in the east and south. Thursday, the 17th, we returned to the tent in the same direction, till we came to the river where the boat lay, about twelve miles, and, seeing the country all around was grey sand, covered with heath and scrub, I determined to reach the tent by the shortest road I could find, it having proved nearly the whole day. Mr. Fossey attempted to cross first, and was soon in the water, when he was obliged to swim, and luckily got safe over. I kept low, and followed him; and, by cutting trees &c., we made a bridge, on which we crossed. On the other side, Mr. Fossey was not to be found, and did not make his appearance till next morning, having lost himself in the extensive plains.

7th August.

I next began to make preparations for starting for the Pieman's River, but owing to the unfavorable state of the weather, I did not get off till Sunday, the 20th.

20th August.

Mr. Fossey, Frederick, two boatmen and myself, were to compose the expedition,—each to carry ten days' provisions: and, in order to guard against our running short, I took two more of the boatmen to carry provisions for two or three days, and then to return to take the boat to Circular Head, there to await our arrival. The first day we got to Mount Cameron, it rained excessively; and, from the quantity that had fallen the two preceding days, I found the plains much deeper in water, and in some places difficult to get through.

21st August.

Monday, the 21st.—On leaving Mount Cameron, there is a honeysuckle bank running along the West Point covered with kangaroo grass. At this place there is a pretty extensive range of hills, of the same quality as Mount Cameron, with very little scrub—chiefly fern and indigo. After we had crossed the hills, we came to wet heathy plains, mixed with tough tea tree; and, at this season, fully knee deep with water. We encamped about four miles from the shore, and could see the same kind of good feed run all along the coast, varying in width in different places.

22nd August.

On Tuesday, the 22nd, we continued our route; and, after walking some hours, saw some rising ground to the south and west; and thinking it might be Hardwicke's South Downs, we made for them; but it turned out to be of the same description as what we had already seen along the coast, only a little wider. In a very few minutes we came to a river, which I thought was Pieman's, from the description I had got of it. It was as wide as the Mersey at the mouth; apparently much deeper, and a bar river.

There was a heavy sea breaking over it. We attempted to cross, but found it was impossible. I therefore determined to keep up along its banks a good way; but seeing there was no chance of ever being able to get across, I struck inland south by east. On the opposite side of this river, I could see that the good land became much wider; and also that Mount Norfolk was covered with heath, and clear of wood: our distance from it might be fourteen or sixteen miles. We continued along these wet heathy plains till near dark. I then encamped on the edge of a forest.

1826.

Wednesday, the 23rd, the two boatmen returned; and we continued our course south by east, in order to ascend a heathy ridge. On reaching the top, I could see the plains extended for a considerable distance north east and south west, and were bounded by low forests. We entered the forest in a south-east course, expecting to make what we thought was a high ridge, but which turned out to be only high trees along the side of a low tea-tree plain. We had the greatest difficulty in getting through the forest, owing to the fallen timber, scrub, and soft mud, in which we sunk nearly knee deep. We continued in this way, it pouring with rain the whole time, till about 4 o'clock, when Frederick ascended a tree, and said there were plains before us. That intelligence roused us a little, and we made another exertion; but, instead of finding open plains, they were covered with water and tea-tree ten feet high, and so steep and thick that it was next to impossible to get through. After all were exhausted with fatigue, we came to a small spot a little higher than the rest, which we cleared of brush, and pitched our tent upon it. The ground was so wet we durst not lie down; and to add to our discomfort, we had only two or three logs to make a fire. At night, the rain fell up to a very keen frost, which we all felt excessively.

23rd August.

Next morning, the 24th, seeing the country all around, and swampy, and not knowing how far it might extend, I determined to return. Considering it was more than any person was able to endure at that season of the year. It took us four hours to get out of the forest, although we came back by the same course; and I am sure we were not more than four miles from the plains. But I looked all around to see if there was any better place by which we could get out of the country; but it all looked equally low and swampy. I therefore returned to the place we had left the day before.

24th August.

Friday, the 25th, finding it was impossible to cross at this season as far inland as I could wish, (although I think it is practicable at another time of the year,) I returned to Mount Cameron; and from that, by the same course, to Circular Head, which I reached on Tuesday night, the 29th. That fatiguing walk I did not see any land at all suitable for the purpose. I have already mentioned around Cape Grim, and the narrow strip that runs along the West Coast. It rained and blew so hard from the north east, that the boat did not come to us till Saturday, the 2nd September. During that time Mr. Fossey and I again examined this place, and the two greatest disadvantages attending it are, the small portion of good land, and being so far separated from any more of a similar quality; and the other is, the want of water. There is no running stream; but I think water can be found by digging. At Cape Grim there is certainly a much greater extent of good land; and there is a very small creek, which I understand is never dry; but there is no anchorage for vessels of any size nearer than under the Hunter's Island, which is four miles off; and that I am afraid is not so good as at Circular Head.

25th August.

29th August.

2nd September.

Monday, the 4th, being the first calm day after the arrival of the boat, I left for Rocky Cape, with the intention of proceeding inland from that place. The three following days it rained very much, which prevented our starting till Friday, the 8th. Our course was south by west, by an observation taken from one of the neighbouring mountains to another clear hill about 12 miles inland. Mr. Fossey, Frederick, two boatmen and myself, took seven days' provisions, and made for a river about four miles to the west of Rocky Cape. We kept up along its banks four miles further, and then crossed it on a tree, and entered the forest about south west, varying according to circumstances. The scrub and fallen timber were very difficult to get through, and it was impossible for us to get on more than one mile an hour.

4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Sep.

8th September.

It had poured with rain for two hours, and as it was getting dark, I determined to encamp by the side of a small river that empties itself into the one we have crossed, and which ran at the bottom of the hill we wished to reach. The ground, although so wet we could not lie down, was clear of brush, and the hill on the opposite side was very scrubby. We had the greatest difficulty in procuring fire; and after we had succeeded and finished supper, the rain increased so much that the river rose and extinguished it in

1823.

a very few minutes. We were then obliged to move away to a little eminence about thirty yards off; but, before we could reach it, we had to wade to our middles in water. There we sat the whole night on the side of a stringy-bark tree with our blankets over our heads. It never ceased raining for one minute during the whole night; and the river kept rising so much we were under considerable apprehension of being swept away.

9th September.

At the first appearance of light the next morning, we were all on our legs; but were unable to move for some minutes from the excessive wet and cold.

The river, which was not above eight or ten yards wide the night before, was now swollen to about the eighth of a mile, and running so rapidly it was impossible to cross it. It had also burst out where we were; and the small spot on which we stood had become an island; so, in order to return to the forest through which we had passed the preceding night, we had to wade to our armpits, and it was with the utmost difficulty we could stem the current. On reaching the main river, it was about a quarter of a mile in width, so that it was useless to attempt to cross it. We therefore encamped on a small eminence at some distance until it should subside, to allow us to return to the boat. Our flour and sugar were very much spoiled with the wet, the kangaroo knapsacks being quite wet through. We erected a bark hut, and soon made ourselves very comfortable, happy at having escaped with our lives.

10th September.

Next day, Sunday, the 10th, we saw that the river had fallen considerably, and we luckily succeeded in getting across.

14th September.

We had scarcely got back to the tent, when it began to blow and rain excessively; and continued so till Thursday, the 14th, when we started for the Mersey. We reached the Leven that night, and next morning got to the Mersey to breakfast, where we found Mr. Adey.

15th September.

ALEXANDER GOLDIE.

E. CURR, *Esq.*

## No. 4.

*REPORT of Mr. JOSEPH FOSSEY,\* dated Circular Head, 26th May, 1827.*

CONFORMABLY to your instructions of the 3rd April last, I have to acquaint you, that I proceeded from Launceston on the 6th, for the purpose of making a tour overland by way of the Western Marshes, to the coast near Table Cape. 1827.  
3rd April.

I left the cart at the Mersey, near Rolland Mountain,† on Monday, the 23rd April, having been confined there by indisposition from Wednesday, the 18th. 23rd April.

The whole country, in the line of my route from Moleside to Hounslow Heath, is (with the exception of three small marshes, and the Emu Plains, as laid down on the accompanying sketch) entirely forest; comprising almost every kind of timber usually found in the Colony, and which in this part is principally of a mountainous description. Hence it may be inferred that a road for carriages in this direction will, from the character of the country, be very circuitous, and consume much time in finding out; yet, I do not entertain the most distant doubt of its being ultimately discovered.

The Mersey and the Forth have both sound beds, and are fordable; and the small marshes just mentioned, being situated at easy distances, will, together with the Emu Plains,‡—which are of considerable extent,—form convenient resting places by the way, affording both good feed and water.

From the Emu Plains to the Heath, the difficulties will be very great; but when once overcome, all trouble will comparatively cease.

The Heath is apparently unbounded; and will be a great acquisition to the Surrey Hills as a summer sheep-run. In winter it is covered with snow, and thereby rendered unavailable for any useful purpose.

The Vale of Belvoir next presents itself, bounded on the north by an arm of the Black Bluff, on the south by gently rising mounds,—with some extent of clear land running in a direction towards Rollands. It has a large lake at the east end, with a fine rivulet meandering through its centre; and an indescribably beautiful waterfall on its south side, near the west end, completes the picture. It is from two to three miles long, and of considerable breadth.

The numerous situations which present themselves as suitable for any kind of machinery requiring to be worked by water, afford a great variety for selection.

Crossing the arm of Black Bluff, I ascended May-day Mount; from which I obtained a first view of the lands discovered by Mr. Hellyer, lying to the S.W., S.E., W., and N.W. of Valentine's Peak; and which combines a very large tract of open forest ground, thinly timbered, with extensive intervening plains. This evening, May the 1st, I took up my quarters upon a very large one, lying to the S.E. of the Peak, of exceedingly fine soil and good grasses, and overrun by kangaroos. 1st May.

May, the 2nd. Passing over a little heath, and some forest land, I came upon another part of the Surrey Hills, through which the Leven winds its course to the northward. I forded it, middle deep, at a point where it has two branches, and is about twenty yards wide. The country in the vicinity of this river is so admirably laid out by nature, that it assumes very much the appearance of a nobleman's domain,—both as to extent and good quality,—particularly that part lying to the east of the river. On west, it is of marshy description; yet not in the least degree objectionable on that account, inasmuch as it will furnish a profusion of feed, in the event of any particularly dry season occurring; and it 2nd May.

\* A Surveyor in the employ of the Van Diemen's Land Company.

† Properly Rowland's Repulse.

‡ I do not know what the extent of these fine plains is, but they are still the property of the Crown. The Field family renting 1000 acres of it only.

1827. lies well, for drainage, to the river and rivulets which intersect it, should such a measure, at any future period, be deemed expedient.

The Green Forest, which divides the Surrey from the Hampshire Hills, comprises myrtle, sassafras, celery-top pine, with a little stringy bark,—all of large circumference. There was also the pepper tree, and fern tree, with musk and dogwood; through which last it required great perseverance to penetrate; inasmuch, that I was reduced to crawl through it on my hands and knees; and even in this posture, all my efforts were necessary to extricate me from the trammels by which I was encompassed.

5th May. On the 5th, I reached the Hampshire Hills, through the heart of which the Emu takes its course, in a northerly direction, to the coast near Round Hill. The land on the banks of this river—and of which there is a great extent running in a line for the Dial Mountains,—is similar, both in quality of soil and herbage, to that of the Garden Plain at Circular Head; and this remark will equally apply to the greater part of the clear lands throughout my route; the heaths of course excepted.

8th, 9th, & 10th May. The weather being now exceedingly unpropitious, rather than enter Arden Forest under such unfavourable auspices, I remained on the hills,—chiefly subsisting on Kangaroo thickened with a little flour, (this being the most economical mode of extending the remains of that article),—until Thursday, the 8th, when the wind veered from the N.W. to the south, and it became very clear and fine again. This induced me to proceed: and in three days I reached the coast, within about seven miles to the eastward of Table Cape, and between two or three to the westward of the River Cam, late the Emu.

The whole distance from the Hampshire Hills to the coast is forest; like the Green Forest before described, except two small plots of grass land, as noted in the sketch. A considerable portion of this forest is very flat and dry; and is as rich in soil as nature can well make it, and tolerably open to within about three miles of the coast; when immensely high fern, and much fallen timber, greatly obstructed my route.

Slate and freestone are both to be obtained in the neighbourhood of the Surrey Hills; the former upon the Heath, the latter at May-day Mount.

A minute examination of the recently discovered open country will occupy much time; but, as far as I have been able to ascertain from actual observation and appearances, it is a tract, both as to extent and other qualities, likely to suit the purposes for which it is required, and is therefore worthy the search.

From the numerous huts that present themselves, I inferred it was a part of the country to which the natives frequently resort; and, on the heath, I came so near them that I distinctly heard their call for the assembling of their forces.

11th May. Friday, the 11th. I this morning proceeded, at day-break, to the mouth of the River Cam, and then continued along the shore to the Emu River, on the west side of Round Hill Point; where I was highly gratified by meeting Mr. Hellyer. On the 12th, I arrived at Circular Head; and here I beg leave to state, that both Richard Frederick, and Isaac Cutts who accompanied me in this tour, have proved themselves worthy of any encouragement you may bestow.

JOSEPH FOSSEY.

## No. 5.

*EXTRACTS from a Report of STEPHEN ADEY, Esquire, of his Progress along the North Shore of VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, dated 27th July, 1826.*

I ALSO went up the Third Western River, as far as it was possible for the boat to proceed, and landed on the right bank. Mr. Goldie, and two of the men, ascended a hill, which afforded a view between two of the high hills of the ridge running S.W. from the coast; but could discover no appearance of a passage into the interior. Indeed, so entirely wretched is the country in this neighbourhood that, were I to attempt to describe to you the dreary and desolate tract which extends along the coast, forty to fifty miles, as far as Rocky Cape, and thence to Circular Head, it would cost you more time to read than the whole place is worth. 1826.

On the 9th June, the weather being fine, I proceeded to examine such of the rivers and ports on the coast as might possibly afford an opening into the interior. At Round Hill Point, there is a small bar river, and a similar one at Table Cape: and at each of these places I attempted to discover such an opening, but in vain. At Rocky Cape—whose name gives some idea of its formidable aspect—we arrived on the 11th June. A line of clear hills here extends, in different directions, twenty to thirty miles into the interior; but they are of the worst description, and totally useless. I think it possible that this line of hills may end in some plains towards the south west, affording some better country; or that the quality of these hills themselves may improve at a distance from the coast. 9th June. 11th June.

The change (at Circular Head), from a dreary and forbidding to a comparatively open and beautiful country,—from a bad to a good soil,—could not fail of being delightful to us all. Tracts of from 200 to 500 acres of clear and grassy land, and hills not so heavily timbered as those about the Western Rivers, seemed to indicate an approach to a better country; but till you arrive at Cape Grim, the small quantity here comprised—consisting altogether of not more than 2000 acres—I fear would make up the sum total of the good land on this part of the coast. Sandy swamps and scrub forests constitute the residue of the peninsula. From a high cliff on the east side of Circular Head—consisting of a stupendous rock of granite, whose area is upwards of 40 acres, with good soil on the top, and whose height is six or seven hundred feet,—a somewhat level extent of country appears to extend between the ranges of hills on each side, about twenty or thirty miles south from the bluff; and, on the south west, I saw considerable tracts of clear ground, eight or ten miles distant; and, just behind them, a range of hills, from which I thought it possible that a communication might be made with some heathy hills (but of a better description), which one of the men stated he had been upon, being from fifteen to twenty miles south from Cape Grim. Mr. Goldie, and two men, started on the 1st July to examine them; but returned on the 4th, having found the intermediate clear ground to be up to their knees in water.

STEPHEN ADEY.

EDWARD CURR, *Esq.*

NOTE —The writer of the above narrative, who many old Colonists will still remember as being connected with Captain Swanston in the management of the Derwent Bank, must have been as sorry a judge of land and country as even Colonel Collins himself was.\* The wide tracts of territory here denounced as not worth a moment's thought, are generally second to nothing in Tasmania, in point of fertility and suitableness for the settlement of agricultural farmers. The same are being occupied very rapidly; so much so, that no less than *twelve* survey parties are now working there, who are wholly unable to keep pace with the demands of settlement; in other words, the land is being taken up faster than so large a force of surveyors can mark it off. Indeed, the chief part of the Land Revenue, which is now produced from private selections, is derived from this particular quarter, which includes much of the best lands of the fine counties of Devon and Wellington.—J.E.C.

\* This gentleman was the first Governor of Tasmania, where he arrived on the 19th of February, 1804. In a "Garrison Order" of his, dated "Port Phillip, 31st December, 1803," he gives what will now be considered an amusing, rather than a truthful account of the infertility of the land around Port Phillip Bay; and the certain miseries to be encountered by any one remaining there. He says (in half apologetic language to the crew and convicts then on board, for making them work on a Sunday), "that it has never been his wish to make the Sabbath any other than a day of devotion and rest; but circumstances compel him to employ it in labour. In this the whole are concerned, since the sooner they are enabled to leave this unpromising and unproductive country, the sooner will they be able to reap the advantages and enjoy the comforts of a more fertile spot."—J. E. C.

## No. 6.

*EXPLORING REPORT, by C. P. LORYMER,\* Surveyor, &c. to the Van Diemen's Land Company.**Circular Head, 29th January, 1827.*

THIS day I proceeded from hence, in the whale-boat, across the bay to the Crayfish River; at which point I landed. The following morning I took the coast to Rocky Cape, entered the plains, and proceeded to the south point. Here I commenced my route, for the purpose of exploring the country in the direction of the large tier of mountains bearing S.S.E. from Circular Head, and distant about 30 miles.

This range extends in a north and south line from the sea. I ascended the hills which presented themselves from the Plains. Upon reaching the summit, I clearly discerned Circular Head to the N.N.W., Rocky Cape N.E. by N. From these heights the country to the S.W. appeared to be one entire forest; to the east, and along my intended route, a clear, open, but a healthy and hilly country. The valley to the east of the plains below (over which I had passed), is very scrubby and heavily timbered. Through the vale a river takes its course, and empties itself into the sea at Rocky Cape.

From the heights, I commenced examining the country to the south. Found it impossible to make much progress, in consequence of the wire scrub, and the ground being intersected by deep and perpendicular ravines; to penetrate which, could not be effected without encountering many difficulties, not only in labour and fatigue, but expending much time without gaining anything. Perceiving the obstacles I had to encounter on this line of route, compelled me to return to the heights, and continue my course S.E. along the range. After traversing about a mile, reaching the side of a very deep gully, (about a mile in width) thickly entwined with the wire scrub, I crossed it; which occupied me five hours. Before I reached the foot of this ravine, I had to descend a precipice of nearly 200 feet; and it was with much difficulty I effected my descent in safety.

Having crossed the river at the bottom,—which, from its course, must be the same described as passing through the valley,—I entered a flat piece of ground, about 200 yards wide, consisting of light soil, growing a quantity of fine timber, consisting chiefly of blackwood, pine, stringy-bark, and sassafras; also a tree of large dimensions, the wood of which is white in its nature, close in its texture, fit for every kind of building purposes, and inside lining for furniture, &c.

I am fully of opinion an easy road can be made from this part of the river to Rocky Cape Plains,—through which it runs,—where the timber could be shipped on board of small craft, and conveyed to Circular Head.

The next morning I ascended the opposite rise, which was thickly wooded. After encountering much scrub, I again entered upon the hills; which consist chiefly of sand, growing quantities of heath, coarse grass, as well as the grass-tree. Continuing a S.E. course for a few miles, I once more changed my route to the southward and westward. Upon leaving the hills, I entered a thick forest; in which I found several trees of the celery pine, also the narrow-leaf gum, of large dimensions. In this forest I continued travelling four days, when my efforts were again frustrated by deep ravines or gullies surrounding me on every side, excepting the line I had traversed.

The range, which I was desirous of attaining, bore S. by E. The country between me and the hills, and also to the S.W., appeared to be one entire forest, intermixed with scrub, and impass-

\* This gentleman was drowned when attempting to cross the Duck River, on April 6th, 1827; or about three months after the date of this report. A very detailed account of this accident is given at page 258 of a Hobart Town periodical, published in 1828, called *The Colonial Advocate*; it is as follows:—"On the following morning, by a strange fatality, Mr. Lorymer altered his resolution, and again went down to the mouth of the river where he thought it not unlikely to cross at a shallow place. He had for two days past been extremely uneasy; he reflected that had he not shot the dog (in a moment of anger), the party would not now have been in a state of absolute starvation, and he was therefore anxious as soon as possible to get to Circular Head; and if the party could not follow, to send out provisions and horses. He therefore, at low water, with the blanket round his waist, went into the river. The party could not help being anxious for Mr. Lorymer's safety; but, as he contended that he could swim a little, and as there could only be three yards out of his depth, he was suffered to make the attempt. He had no sooner reached the middle than he went down—the rope was now pulled, but it broke. \* \* \* After waiting for a considerable time to see whether Mr. Lorymer might make his appearance, the party travelled upward with the utmost speed, and about five miles higher up, and within a mile of the very spot where they had encamped the night before, they found a fallen tree across the river, on which they got over with much ease. They now followed the river downwards on the opposite side, to see if they could learn anything further of Mr. Lorymer's fate, but he was gone for ever."

The above is contained in a very lengthened paper of about 66 small newspaper columns, called the "History of the Origin, Rise, and Progress of the Van Diemen's Land Company," containing many details of the numerous journeys of the Surveyors of the Company. It was written I believe by the once well known Jorgen Jorgenson.—J. E. C.



able. Perceiving I should have a difficult task in advancing, I came to the resolution of returning to the edge of a valley over which I had passed, and endeavour, if possible, to make my course to the S.E.. Here I met with a strong opposition from the wire scrub, which was fifteen feet high. In making the attempt, I was two hours accomplishing a distance of 200 yards. This compelled me to retrace my steps to the hills I had left. Upon regaining them, I proceeded in a S.E. direction, ascended a rise of ground which commanded a view of the surrounding country.

Circular Head bore 320°; Table Cape 60°; very distant hills to the east 100°; Dial Hills 105°, 115°, and 120°; and the ranges S.E. by S. (by the Pocket Compass.) In descending this hill, I kept the latter course. Before attaining the foot, I entered another scrub, and continued two days traversing through it; when a tremendous ravine or gully presented itself, of so terrific a nature, I could not, with propriety, make the attempt to go down it without running a great risk, it being nearly perpendicular, and its depth about 300 feet. Had I been successful in crossing this gully, I should have ascended the mountain range, and have accomplished the object of my route. It was with great reluctance I abandoned the attempt.

I commenced my return to Circular Head, at which place I arrived on the 14th February; the whole of my provisions being consumed.

The range of the hills appears to run about six miles in extent. Soil sandy. Vegetation—heath, coarse grass, and the grass-tree. The intervening falls from the hills, woody. The summit of the range, stony, and, in places, thickly wooded. The south end of the tier appears to terminate with a gentle declivity into a valley, through which there appears to be an opening on the other side to the south.

Not having it in my power to speak more favourably of the country, I must beg to conclude; and recommend to your notice, and also to Mr. Adey's, the good conduct of my men, in this and my former route, as deserving of every encouragement for their endeavours and exertions to facilitate the object of my wishes.

C. P. LORYMER.



## *REPORT on Coal at South Cape Bay and Adventure Bay.*

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*Survey Office, Hobart Town, 25th October, 1826.*

SIR,

In obedience to the instructions received from you and from the Colonial Secretary, dated 22nd September, we proceeded to examine the Coal at South Cape Bay, and Adventure Bay; and now have the honor to forward to you the observations we have made while out upon this duty.

The nearest harbour where it will be possible for a vessel to approach the Coals at South Cape and to anchor, is in a bay or harbour called Rocky Bay, (*La Baie des Roches* by the French) forming the south west part of Recherche Bay. At the south angle of this bay we landed our provisions and pitched our tent, proceeding to examine the country in the direction of where the Coal is to be found, which is distant in a south-west direction from where we landed five miles.

This harbour affords excellent shelter for vessels, and has deep water to the upper end, almost close to the beach. Here there is an inlet of salt water, extending in the direction of south west about a mile inland; boats only can enter it, and at high water, may be taken to the head. This inlet, by a little expense in driving stakes on each side of the channel, might be made navigable at all times for boats of a small burthen.

From the head of this inlet commences a swamp or marsh, which bears up south west for two miles further, bounded on each side by high, barren, rocky hills. The surface of this marsh is, for the first six inches, composed of peat; below which, for three feet, is clear sea-sand with layers of shells. The marsh at this season being so wet, (it raining more or less every day we remained here) we were unable to dig deep enough to get through the sand. The marsh is formed by numerous drains from the hills on each side, which, spreading over it in all directions, form a considerable stream at the lower end. I was able to get the exact level of the marsh. The rise is gradual all the distance, one foot in every sixty-seven yards, or, twenty-six feet in a mile.

Beyond this marsh, in the same direction, commences a ridge of sandy hills, along which the road must pass for about a mile; from which distance it must be taken to the spot which will be determined as the best for sinking to work the Coal: the Coal Cliff extending about two miles along the sea-beach opposite to where the road would branch off. At present the country being covered with such an impenetrable bush, it was found impossible to fix on a proper place for sinking.

There will be no material obstacle in the way of a road being made from the head of Rocky Bay to the Coals, except the swampy nature of the ground through which it must pass.

Provided it should be considered eligible for carrying on the works at the Coal Cliff, we deem it our duty to observe, that, since leaving Rocky Bay, from what we could perceive of the appearance of the country towards the head of a considerable stream which falls into the west side of Port D'Entrecasteaux, we are led to believe that a road much more eligible than the former might be found from the north side of the Coal Cliffs to where a vessel might be loaded with less trouble.

Accompanying this Report is a Section of the face of the Coal Cliff as it at present appears on the sea-beach. The specimens brought up to town in the boats were taken from the lower vein, after digging in about seven feet. This seam, No. 8 on Plan of Section,

admeasures three feet four inches in thickness, and dips an inch and a half in a yard towards the north east. It is composed of alternate layers of Coal and a hard black stone. The latter predominates in the whole of the three feet; the remainder being excellent grained Coal. The great length of time which must have elapsed since the face of this Coal has been laid open to the action of the atmosphere, has here, as in all other instances, rendered the Coal dry and completely divested of the bitumen that constitutes the inflammable properties of Coal. In order further to ascertain the quality of this seam, we perforated a heading or level, the height of the vein horizontally inwards, and found the Coal greatly crushed, from the great weight of the incumbent rocks pressing from above; the rock being in places excavated by the perpetual lash of the undermining surf below. As time and means at this juncture were rather circumscribed, we could excavate no further than seven feet; and, in the space of this short distance, we observed a considerable improvement, by the appearance of a few bright and gaseous blazes, which indicates that, at a proper distance from the fracture and long-exposed surface, the existence of a good and brilliant burning Coal.

The Section shows the lay of the different strata from the summit downwards. To the left appears the fall of the hill and a stream, where is seen the lower seam of Coal rising to the surface; and, should it be considered desirable to ascertain whether a better vein exists under No. 9, the margin of this stream offers a most eligible position for the sinking of a shaft for trial, by avoiding the whole of the hill, as a shaft here would at once commence upon the stratum No. 8.

We have every reason to believe, from the appearance of No. 9, that below it a better vein of Coal may be found than that above ground. We consider that, without such a vein being found, the present vein No. 8, would not be equal to clear the expense of working, owing to the rugged nature of the country in which it is situated, and the length and difficulty there would be in forming a road to a seaport, from whence it could be shipped.

After leaving South Cape we visited Adventure Bay, and found strong indications of Coal on the west side, in one place only, about three miles from the anchorage, and the same distance south from Isthmus Bay Neck. This appears to be the upper stratum, as there is only a very small portion of Coal in the vein, being about 20 feet below the surface, and ten feet above sea-mark. It would be attended with difficulty and expense to work the Coal here, it being exposed to the lash of the sea, so that no boat could land nearer than about two miles; which distance along the coast, both to the north and south of where the Coal is found, being composed of high rocky cliffs, with deep ravines intervening, over which distance the making of a road would be attended with much trouble. Coal may be found here, but a shaft must first be sunk to ascertain the quantity and quality below.

On visiting Southport and the Huon River, we found no good land available for the purposes of settlers at either of those places. At Southport, where Major Honnor formerly settled, the land is of a poor sandy nature: no grass is to be seen, the ground being covered with a short stunted scrub. At the head of the Port is a considerable stream of water, where the timber is composed of an immense number of small trees, denominated "spars," growing so close together they do not seem to attain a great size in diameter; but, for straightness and height they surpass any trees we have seen in that part of the Island.

In the Huon, we observed in one place, the Huon Inlet, indications of Coal by the same sort of stone which is found to abound at the other Coal Districts; and on Satellite Island we found a sample of the very best Limestone.

From Coal and Limestone being found at Hobart Town, and also at New Norfolk, we conceive that a vein of these minerals runs from this all the way to South Cape, showing itself in the different fractures and dislocations of the strata; and it yet remains to be found how far this extends into the interior.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

THOMAS SCOTT, *Assistant Surveyor.*

R. A. ROBERTS.

J. HOBBS.

E. DUMARESQ, *Esq., Surveyor-General,*  
*Van Diemen's Land.*