

Journal of Henry Bunbury, 1837 [manuscript].

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MS 3072.

Western Australia. 1837.

From the Murray River to the Vape.

In December 1836

I crossed the country from Pinjarup, a township at the head of the boat navigation of the "Murray", ~~for the first time in December 1836.~~ to the "Vape" a small settlement near the head of Geographe Bay; this was the first time that any white person had ~~crossed~~ ^{traversed} through the bush in this direction or had opened a direct communication with the "Vape" from the "Swan". I first made Port Leachurst being guided thereto principally by a native who took me by the best route to cross the Harvey River, from thence I proceeded, partly by compass & partly by information derived from Natives, to the Estuary; from whence Natives guided me to the fords of the different rivers & finally to the settlement at the Vape. It took me four days to perform the journey the first time but since then I have done it in three with ease, the distance is by my reckoning about eighty miles with four considerable rivers to cross. -

~~I have unfortunately lost my notes but with observation on the route I pursued, with the wind turned, bearing so & so the information I can now give is necessarily imperfect & derived from recollection, but as I have now traversed this ^{country} poor twice I know the principal places crossed~~

& what is best worth observing. - ^{of the 16th Decr.} 2
Leaving Penjarrup early in the morning we pursued about a SSW course, deviating occasionally to avoid the numerous swamps in the country between the Murray & the Harvey. My party consisted of my servant & another soldier together with a Native named Monang, who had lived a good deal with me & whom I found honest but like most of them lazy & gluttonous and he was by no means so good a tracker or so intelligent in the Bush as many I knew but however, he was willing and anxious to go, a point of some importance when most were afraid of going so far from home amongst strange tribes. - I had two horses, one to ride & the other to carry provisions for ten days & the blankets; my stock of grub consisted of biscuit, about 1lb each per day, two or three pieces of pork, some tea & sugar, tobacco, pipes & each man a tin pannikin to serve as cup or glass. - Each of us had a gun, except the Native, with ball cartridges & I carried a little shot besides. The wants in the Bush are few & the lighter one travels the better, for cover one small blanket or cloth cloak is quite sufficient as in case of rain one can in a few minutes make a hut of boughs or grape tree leaves, the latter of which, properly made in the Native fashion is impervious to any rain, as it throws off all the water even when so thin that the light is seen through. In the summer time it is even an unnecessary luxury to have a blanket, my usual plan was to put a few boughs behind me to break off the wind & with a fire in front I could alternately warm each side as it became cold. It is a bad plan to lie with ones back to the fire as the heat dries up and destroys ones shoes besides.

heating ones feet, previously wet, so as to make them swell & become tender while ones head & body too far from the warmth are chilled. - ³ Lying side ways to a large cheerful fire with a good bed of ~~black~~ ^{grape tree} leaves under me I envy no man his soft bed & curtains even in frosty weather, & in rain ten minutes work will put me under shelter. - Bread, tea & tobacco are the most necessary articles in the bush. I care very little for salt meat and only eat it ~~at~~ ^{in the} evening, as it makes one too thirsty in the daytime when above all things drinking water should be avoided if one has a walk before one. The man who drinks at every brook he crosses will never stand hard work in a warm climate, it makes him perspire & weak & moreover becomes a necessary, when deprived of which in the Australian Bush, as frequently happens, he knocks up. ^{From} ~~After~~ Pinjamp we proceeded about 17 miles through a low flat country to th. Harvey River the ~~which~~ ^{exact} course of which was not hitherto known. - The country we had traversed varied very much in character & quality of soil, sometimes being sandy with Banksia & other low trees & stunted Mahogany, sometimes stiff clay plains without any timber except occasional Red Gums & covered with broom & other low bushes & blackboys; this sort of land which occurs frequently in the neighbourhood of the Murray country is impassably wet & deep in the winter, & full of small patches clear of black boys or bushes, which a little experience shows to be most dangerous quagmires in winter though in summer perfectly dry dry clay. These plains covered with grass & good feed for cattle & horses toward the end of the wet season dry up & parch much sooner than the lighter qualities of land which imbibe the dews & other slight moisture while the stiff clay dries & cakes to the hardness of rock, & in it the roots of plants can neither force their way or find

sustenance. At other times we skirted extensive tea tree & spear wood swamps near which the Red gum trees attain great size. We halted at one of these swamps to rest at noon, called Meelup, but the water was bad & difficult of access for horses & feed scanty. We proceeded in the afternoon across some alternate strips of sandy mahogany land & open flats covered with swamp tea tree & water standing on a hard black sand bottom, and then came on an extensive low plain covered with scrub & abounding in Kangaroos: crossing this where the white washed sand and stunted spear wood & tea tree bushes indicated that it was flooded earlier in the season, we came to some very thick spear wood & tea tree thickets round the skirts of which the natives took us by a very tortuous track used by them to a small flat on the right bank of the Mervay at a native ford where they have extensive weirs (manga) for taking fish & crayfish (Gonah) which are also caught in great numbers by them in their holes as the waters recede. It is curious where these animals can go to in the dry season for they abound in the clay plains where their holes are met with in thousands when the waters are out, and how they can exist during the long drought is to me inexplicable, as the clay plains, although impupable during the winter on account of their wet rotten nature, dry up entirely at the very commencement of summer & the vegetation upon them shrivels up & disappears long before it turns brown on the lighter & looser soils. We halted for the night on the small flat above mentioned on the right bank of the Mervay about fifty yards above the ford by the

side of a deep still pool of excellent water, but the banks were rotten & swampy on the opposite side, & it was evidently a difficult stream to cross except at this particular point.⁵
Monang described the river as running about NW by W. & that it was a long half days journey to "Coljerinup" where it falls into the southern Estuary of the Murray; the river appears to be very tortuous in its course, flowing through extensive and impenetrable swamps. He told me there was but one crossing place between this & Coljerinup fit for horses, & by his account I should say this must be at the head of the salt water, but a few miles from the mouth. At my present halt feed is scarce for the horses, but there is more than anywhere else I know in the neighbourhood, & the only wood within reach was the tea tree which is a very bad kind for burning, as it burns with difficulty, black & dim, & goes out readily. - We here passed the night & a magnificently fine one it was. I know nothing that conveys such a pleasing sensation of thorough liberty & independance as a bush life in fine weather. Stretched on the ground by the side of a cheerful fire beneath the mild clear light of the moon or twinkling of myriads of stars one feels the gentle cool breeze from the hills to the eastward stealing over the plain heated by the sun of the past day, & refreshed by a bathe & a tisup of tea one forgets the heat & fatigues of the day, & feels no care for the morrow as long as one haversac contains some biscuit with a little tea & tobacco. One's pipe gently

soothes one to sleep, which is unbroken throughout the night save by the necessary care of the horses or when a Kangaroo or Rat rustling in the Bush awakens one for a moment. The cares and anxieties of the world are banished far from one's thoughts: one can travel free from the fear of Brigands or the constantly recurring vexation of Douanes & taxmen bills, & with the first light of morning a tinful of tea & a crust of bread prepare one for the day's work.

Early on the following morning, the 15th December we crossed the ford of the Harvey & proceeded on our course varying from SSW to S ENE crossing strips of sandy land covered with Mahogany Banksiae, divided by numerous open spaces, covered with dwarf tea tree & thick low scrub, and in part inundated but not to any depth, with a hard sandy bottom. After crossing several miles of poor arid country we came amongst low hills of barren sand covered with Mahogany of considerable size mixed with a few of the Coast White Gum ^{which} indicate the presence of lime stone. Leaving on our left Cannanup an extensive swampy lagoon with pretty good feed round it, and thickets of large tea trees & high spear rushes on the borders we crossed the range of hills diagonally to the right & then proceeded along the western edge of a thick

but narrow belt of swamp running between two parallel ranges of hill & containing immense tea trees, with flooded gums & a great quantity of large & beautiful grass trees under which was abundance of good grass. We halted at length in this hollow at a place where feed was abundant & by making a small well we obtained water but Moreau was now out of his reckoning & fairly stated that he did not know where we were as he had always kept near the coast. The day was very hot & in this low confined spot we soon found ourselves tormented by myriads of mosquitoes & still more by clouds of sand flies which soon drove not only us but our poor horses to the protection of our large smoky fire, which we all crowded close round finding even the suffocating smoke preferable to the stings of those minute but formidable insects. We made but a short halt & then cooping the swamp to the right steered a little more to the westward than we had done in order to reach if possible the northern end of the Port de Chenault Estuary before dark. we now came into a more open country with a good deal of grass growing on a light soil under very large White Gums called by the natives "Boats". the soil evidently fertile though sandy and free from the sharp prickly scrub that had annoyed us during the forenoon. tearing our trousers & legs. - It was quite refreshing to get into this fine open forest country through

which the travelling was quick & easy. Before we had gone very far we came upon a nearly circular lagoon of considerable extent bordered all round by high spear marshes, & on the bank of it within about a hundred yards I perceived a small party of natives assembled round their fires. There was a terrible outcry immediately they saw us & the men seizing their spears advanced towards us with violent gestures & declamations while the women & children collecting their cloaks & bags, their "Booga" & "Lotto" proceeded to decamp with the utmost speed. Halting my party I sent Monang to the front to parley with them, who advanced with his spear fixed in the "Thero" & presented shaking it at them, but approaching nearer he was recognised as an acquaintance, the points of their spears were instantly raised and they crowded round him, & he was regularly introduced by those who knew him to the others who embraced him throwing their arms round him while he stood quiet holding down his head & looking remarkably sheepish. After this ceremony the whole party came to me, men women & children and endlessly were the questions asked by all & to be answered by Monang, concerning us, our horses, arms &c before we could proceed. At length Monang telling them that we came from Pinjarup & were going by Port Deschonault called by them "Gombonup" to the Vape (Yundorup) the whole party volunteered to accompany us to the Estuary & we moved on and the left or ^{west} side of the lagoon, from whence we

came almost immediately upon the ~~wes~~^{north} border of another⁹ lagoon of vast extent, by far the largest I had yet seen & probably five or six miles in length, but all covered with the high spear bushes. This lagoon called Micllup by the Natives is said to be one of the principal resorts of the Black Swans for breeding, which they do about the latter end of the winter when the water is out to a great extent. Building upon these high bushes on the surface of the water they are comparatively safe from the Natives who can only take those which incassately make their nests where the water is shoal enough for the Natives to wade out which they do willingly up to their necks but will not go out of their depth. They say however that during the breeding season they succeed in taking a good many swans (ooljuck) both old & young, as well as eggs. (Nooro). Along the edge of this great lagoon we found a good deal of feed for cattle or horses & the soil though light is fertile. Here I saw for the first time the Peppermint tree growing to a large size. It is an extremely graceful tree with a very rough deeply grooved bark on the thick stem which soon branches out into many boughs supporting long pendant branches drooping all around like the weeping willow. This tree is common near the lagoons and along the coast all the way down to the right of Geographe Bay & I think is about the most picturesque tree in the colony. Inclining to the right from Micllup we followed our guides along Native paths visible to none but themselves through

an undulating country timbered principally with Goots with some¹⁰ Red Gum & Mahogany, & thick with the forge tree or stink wood & other bushes. Passing a small swamp surrounded by very rich soil covered with luxuriant, rank vegetation; where we watered both ourselves and our horses we soon got into a more open flat country lightly timbered with Goots, with abundance of grass & not many bushes & saw a thick tea tree swamp about half a mile on our right, forming the head of the Estuary upon which we soon arrived ourselves by a well beaten native path through a most rich & luxuriant crop of grass & low thistles. The tide was out and a considerable extent of sand & mud was left bare round the head of the Estuary upon which were congregated to feed immense flocks of Brown Ducks & Geal while the water was equally covered with Swans & Pelicans but the mud was too soft & deep to approach any of them or even to leave the solid ground along the banks. A beautiful scene now presented itself as we looked down the Estuary to the southward. The vast extent of water before us lay smooth & still like a glassy lake, the sea breeze having fallen with the setting sun which threw out in dark relief the pointed & steep sand hills on our right over which were sprinkled a few large gum trees & Peppermint, & the shadows of these hills gradually lengthening stretched across the Estuary, on the left bank of which appeared a dense thicket of tea tree & spear wood fringed with very large grass trees, & backed by a well wooded range of sandy limestone hills ahead of us point after point of land appeared jutting into the Estuary or "Derbal"

becoming gradually more & more indistinct until lost in the "dim distance while beyond a little on the right appeared a high remarkable hill or promontory forming the south head of the Port Deschenault Inlet, now glowing with the warm purple tints of evening. The natives with us kindled a large fire on the bank to announce our coming to the tribes in the vicinity & it was speedily answered by several fires from different spots the smoke of which undisturbed by any breeze rose high & straight in the air in a thick white column contrasting in a most picturesque manner with the dark foliage behind. We pursued our course along the low bank with a dense thicket on our left through a rank & rich growth of grass & sow thistles for about three miles anxiously interrogating our guides about where we could obtain sufficient water for tea, which at length we found at a low promontory in a small native well amongst the fæces but exceedingly bad, brackish & stinking. The horses having already been watered in the afternoon they luckily required no more but were soon employed eating the sow thistles half buried in the leucorrhœa of the feed. The smoke of our friends attracted rather a large party around us before dark but they were civil and peaceable though very curious, & most of them retired to their own fires at a little distance leaving us to repose after the fatigue of a long & hot days journey. I reckoned we had gone over about 25 miles today much of it through a very scrubby country which is particularly unpleasant to walk through.

but it gave me great pleasure to find myself on the Port ^{1¹²} Stache
nauft Estuary with so little difficulty or trouble & also to find
that the Natives received us so amicably, though I anticipated
some annoyance from their numbers on the morrow. There were
several signs of their being very numerous in this neighbourhood
principally owing to the facility of obtaining fish a wholesome
a plentiful food which evidently much encourages the increase
of population amongst these tribes. - The numerous & well beaten
paths near the banks of the Estuary indicated the constant
presence of considerable numbers, indeed no where had I hitherto
seen even on the Murray where the Natives are numerous
such distinct paths or so many groups of deserted huts as
here, some of them made with some care of the paper Bark
i.e. the bark of the Gia tree or else of the leaves of the *Danthron*
which afford excellent protection from rain but are not so
warm as the others. Soon after dark I was attracted by
the appearance of numerous ^{lights} gleaming & flashing in various
directions along the borders of the inlet & was at first some-
what startled, but I will knew if the Natives intended any
mischief they would carefully conceal their lights although
they would not dare under any circumstances to move at
night without a fire stick except in a very clear moon light
night, for fear of the "gianga" or evil spirits or ghosts, &
also of the Woor. - a bird of the genus *Podargus* or Hawk
goatsucker which flies by night uttering a note extremely
like our Cuckoo & of which the Natives stand in great awe
ascribing to his malice any pains they suffer at night, or

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cramps, boils or tumours. When they hear him they cover themselves as well as they can with their cloaks & crouch close to the fire which they will on no account leave while their enemy is in the neighbourhood; but they will not for a moment scruple to eat him if they can catch him by day. - I soon discovered that the numerous lights I saw along the waters edge were for the purpose of attracting the fish which are speared by this means in great numbers both in the shoal water on the flats where the Natives wade out carrying firesticks to spear Mullet & Cobblers and also on the banks of the rivers where fires on a large scale are made where the water is deep close to & there several Natives watch the approach of the fish with their spears. Cobblers especially are thus taken in great quantities as well as larger fish such as Jew-fish Taylors & Black snappers. - As the night advanced the vivid flashes of light gradually disappeared and I went to sleep in full security although aware that I was completely in the power of the Natives if they wished to injure me, as our place of repose was clearly defined by the bright flaming fire of ^{the} large Blackboy logs we had heaped up to counteract the effect of the fog rising with the night from the low wet swamp on our left and the stinking mud & seaweed on the edge of the Estuary on our right. These Natives retained a remembrance of white people having been located in their neighbourhood years before: When a Detachment of the 63rd Regt under the command of Lieut Macleod had been stationed on the north shore of the

Estuary for nearly six months during the year 1830. This party had been left here by the Govr: Sir James Sterling as a focus to attract & afford protection to any Emigrants inclined to settle in the neighbourhood. much land on the rivers Collie and Preston having been apportioned to different parties, all of which remains to the present day unimproved and uncultivated.¹⁴
But, as if to render the District perfectly useless & nugatory it was established upon the north shore, a long narrow strip of land varying from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 mile in breadth and entirely cut off from the main except by the long circuitous route of following the beach or bank of the Estuary some twelve, or fifteen miles to the northward then cooping the coast swamp if practicable & returning on the other side. Not even a boat was left with the party but by hard labor the officer & his men formed a canoe by hollowing out & shaping with an axe the trunk of a tree; in this rude machine they used to cross the Estuary, fish & hunt Swans. After being left about half a year in this lonely & unenviable situation the plans of the Governor altering they were removed to Augusta but in such haste that most of the stores such as salt meat, Rum & a Cask of Port Wine, a Bullock Cart &c were abandoned. The Natives stole the meat, the Rum was broached & drunk by a party of runaway convicts from King George's Sound but the Port Wine is supposed to be still forthcoming under ground but those only who hid it can tell where to find it and they

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are now far away in India. The only reasonable plea for placing the Detachment in such a barren, dismal and woeful situation was that the Natives could not get at them but it was soon found that although the White Men were prisoners at their post the Blacks could cross over to them in several places both on the Estuary and at the outer bar at "Didunap" as they call the place where the waters of the Inlet discharge themselves into the sea, & then the ford is easy at low tide with slack water but during the ebb the stream rushes out with irresistible rapidity. To Mr Simons, the surgeon with the Detacht. we are by all accounts indebted for the good feeling & friendship ~~won~~ by the Natives towards one on this and subsequent occasions. This kind but eccentric gentleman appears ~~to~~ by conciliatory & friendly conduct towards them to have kept on good terms with all those who visited the party and that no outrage was committed until the Park was carried off a small blame to them for that. On the following morning after swallowing a tinsful of exceedingly bad tea we proceeded along the edge of the Estuary for some miles partly along the sand which was here hard & firm & partly along a native path near the edge. The swamp on our left terminated before long, giving place to a range of low hills covered with small White Gums, Banksias &c at the foot of which near the water were very thick Borze trees, Wattles, Banksia & other small trees & shrubs. As we advanced party after party of Natives joined us, hallooing screeching & receiving us with most boisterous

symptoms of joy, much of which I would willingly have dispensed with as every accession of number occasioned a halt to explain who we were, where we came from, where we were going, what we had in our bags &c &c. the latter question ^{was} the most frequent and unpleasant since if they took a fancy to my provisions & blankets they were the stronger party & able to take them if they thought fit. While Monang was on foot, progress was hopeless, so mounting him I endeavoured to proceed which I did not accomplish until he ^{had} displayed his horsemanship to the envy & astonishment of his compatriots by lashing into a sorry canter the jaded & big weary Police Horse and then assembling the whole party made them a speech promising our speedy return, & distributed amongst them his Kangaroo skin cloak, Spears &c; these were not quite gifts as he received inferior articles in exchange, nor were they wholly voluntary, as he afterwards explained to me but his friends & relatives were too numerous & too pressing for him to refuse them anything. By Relatives I mean Fathers Mothers, Brothers, Uncles &c by adoption on the occasion & certainly in this way Monang met during this journey more near Relations whom he had never seen before than anyone ever did in so short a time. - My story seems to be as much stopped by the natives as I was myself but as I was from daylight until 1 o'clock P.M. going nine miles, it is only fair that my narrative should be detained since it is by the same cause. Seldom during the day had I fewer than one hundred.

of the Blacks about me and often nearer two hundred but I
remarked there was not amongst them a fair proportion of fighting
men most being either elderly or lads but those I did see
were tall athletic stout fellows, in very good condition &
covered thick with red earth fat grease to make good "Wiggi"
was scarce. at this season food was plentiful both fish, the
favorite of which seems to be the mullet & "Manghitis" as they
call the flower of the Banksia from which they extract by
suction a delicious juice resembling a mixture of honey & dew
two kinds are commonly used, one the ordinary species with
rather smooth bark & leaves but slightly serrated & the
other the large oak leaved Banksia Gigantea; the former
is the sweetest & easiest for a beginner to suck but the latter
flower contains most juice if one can get at it but without
habit one only hurts ones mouth & gums: in both of them however
of ants if there are any about the flower the taste is horrid.
about five miles from where we slept we came upon the
"Collie" River which falls into the Estuary at a low flat point
in two branches of considerable depth & width, the only
way of crossing which was by the bar formed at its mouth
where the bottom is of hard sand. It is necessary to keep
well out & make a considerable detour to keep on the
shoaler part, farther in the bottom is soft with weeds &
graps & more water. a long & tiresome wade brought us
to the little island in the centre of the river from whence
we again struck out into the Estuary & paddled to the left
bank by the sandy bar; nowhere was the water over one's

hips but still I know nothing more tiresome or fatiguing¹⁰ than a long wade & it hurts one's feet for walking. This is the only place where the Collie can be crossed for at least ten miles up with the exception of a native ford I had pointed out to me on another occasion about two miles higher up where descending a steep bank they wade across to a long low island & again cross the remainder of the River by rather a deep & hazardous passage; the water up to a moderate sized man's neck & the banks quite impracticable for horses. On the left bank of the Collie I found about 150 natives assembled to receive me, belonging to another tribe. These in addition to about a dozen followers from the former parties all joined me and we advanced towards the "Portion" together. Amongst them was one very fine looking tall man & I measured with him but found him only six feet high though he looked much more; indeed I never saw a Native exceed this height & I only knew two come up to it, this man & old Querrap on the Murray. After following the edge of a bay about a mile & a half we turned into the Bush by a well beaten path, a little to the left leaving the point where the Portion debouches to the right but this River has not like the Collie a bar at the mouth & we had to seek a ford higher up. Our path was winding like all those made by Natives since they never attempt to remove obstacles but go round every fallen tree or other impediment & follow the tortuous course of a brook or swamp without any idea of cutting off

angles. We passed through a magnificent tract of land for¹⁹ above two miles abounding with most luxuriant grass growing under Florded Gums, Steak wood & Broom on a soil rather light in places but in others black & rich. I have as yet seen no place better calculated for a dairy & arable farm than this lying between two considerable Rivers both navigable for boats, the Preston especially which although neither so wide or deep as the Loddie has no bar at the entrance and there are pools of good fresh water throughout the year about three miles from the mouth by the river and about one by land. Through this luxuriant meadow country we passed, coming several times upon the "Preston" which winds very much nearly enclosing in its banks some large & rich alluvial flats. The Natives showed me a small swamp of red ochreous or irony earth destitute of vegetation but full of holes containing brilliantly clear chalybeate water beneath a thick sediment. Here they obtain in a natural state particularly fine red earth for wilghi, which in most parts of the Colony they have to burn & take some trouble in the preparation of. A few old tea trees grew in this swamp but no grass or other vegetation was visible. The Natives drink the water willingly notwithstanding its strong irony taste & I have no doubt it is very wholesome. A little above this the path we were following through the rich low flats brought us to the Native cropping place the lowest on the River above water; but this being only a bridge formed by an immense tree which had fallen across the stream was of course impracticable for horses, and as the water was

quite salt and influenced by the tides, it was evident that I ^{must} ascend higher to be able to crop. About a mile higher up the country becomes more sandy & barren with Mahogany timber except near the River where there are rich grassy flats. Here I found a cropping place but a very bad one the banks being high & steep with fallen timber & other impediments, but I succeeded by dint of perseverance, pulling down the bank I had to ascend & unloading the horses & making the natives carry all the things over. To their credit be it said they did not attempt to steal anything though there were several loose articles of which they well knew the value. The only accident and that luckily without serious consequences was my mare, in attempting to mount the steep slippery bank, fell over backwards into the River, the water in which was about three feet deep & very sweet & good being out of reach of the tide which however flows very nearly to this spot. The bottom is hard sand except at the edges where there is some soft clay & mud. I halted for about an hour & a half on the left bank of the "Brenton" in a rich flat where my horses soon filled themselves with grass, but the mosquitoes & sand flies were dreadfully annoying as, indeed, the former had been all the preceding night on the Estuary. The latter fortunately only torment one during the day disappearing with the sun; but while they last the annoyance & pain is much greater than that caused by the mosquitoes, whose humming noise is worse than their bite, in my opinion, but they do not hurt me as much as they do some people, who will suffer great pain from them. A very large party of natives collected round me during my halt & sat down

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in circles around the fires they kindled watching all my movements most carefully & making at the same time an overpowering noise, talking & laughing most vehemently. As I could spare but a very small piece of damper, my stock being barely sufficient to last till my return I boiled them a piece of Pork & gave them what pleased them still more, the greasy water in which it was boiled: skinning the floating fat off with their hands they mixed a large quantity of "wilghi" with which they smeared not only their heads, but faces, bodies & legs. This "wilghi" which is a preparation of red earth and grease constitutes their favorite ornament & covering, when smeared with this they consider themselves particularly handsome & discard the Booga, the small apology for clothes they usually wear. I observed at Port Lockhart that most of them used the red earth alone, fat being difficult to obtain & they appeared particularly delighted to get some. The natives here do not differ in either manners or appearance from the tribes further north, they are like the Murray men, stout & generally well made having apparently plenty to eat & many of the young women are extremely good looking, with particularly fine teeth & an open pleasing expression, but as scantily clad and as dirty as usual. The only clothes worn by any of the natives of Western Australia that I have seen is the "booga" or cloak made of Kangaroo skins. They generally use & prefer the skin of the female Kangaroos. "Warroo", as being softer & closer in texture & fur than that of the male "Yowlwt." & I have also

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though very rarely seen skins of the Brush Kangaroo & Wallaby and by them, which are the fattest by far, with close fur, of a grey color inclining to white at the tips, which gives it a silvery hue. The skins are first pegged out on the ground, fur underneath to dry & then the fleshy & greasy parts are scraped off by the women with small tools or purpose, consisting of a short stick tipped with the hard "Beegee", or grape tree gum in which is inserted a fragment of glass or quartz with the necessary shape & edge. With this instrument they scrape the skin all over several times crossing the former marks diagonally, until the skin is sufficiently soft & pliable. Four to six skins are necessary to form a cloak, each one being cut obliquely from the head increasing in width ~~very gradually~~ to the hind quarters & they are sewn together with the sinews extracted from the tail of the Kangaroo, holes being made with a sharp pointed bone or stick but they have no needle. The sinews which must be drawn from the tail of a young or male Kangaroo as being the largest are obtained by cutting round the skin about two or three inches from the extremity sufficiently to obtain a hold & then twisting & turning until the joint of the bone is separated when by a strong pull the sinews of the whole length of the tail are drawn out when they must be wound diagonally round a spear or "Wooma", to prevent their shrinking in drying. They then form the best material that can possibly be obtained for strong sewing. The cloak is fastened round the neck by a bit of graft or more often by a little stick or bone thrust through

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two or three holes in the front, & a narrow cape or collar above hangs over in an irregular manner as the skin of the head is often left & not cut square. It is worn in different ways, but oftener over the left shoulder & back, hiding the hand which carries the spears & "Mero" & the knife "Dabba" & hammer "Hadjoo", stuck in the belt or "noolaban". If it is very cold however when walking they jerk their cloak forward, so as to cover their chest & belly & with the disengaged hand carry underneath it the firestick which is as constant a companion as the spears. These grasped by the middle are usually carried with the "Mero", in the left hand with the points to the rear, or if likely to be wanted ^{one of them} in the right hand, fixed in the throwing stick & the point upright or leaning against the shoulder. A man never carries more than one cloak & often not even that but the women have frequently more skins & on their backs they carry one or two bags "otto", of Kangaroo skin hung round the neck & shoulders, containing the child & any tools, spare skins, roots, or other provisions or stores they may possess. In travelling or moving their camp the young children are always carried by the women in these bags & one frequently another somewhat larger seated outside on her shoulders, but the men also will sometimes condescend to carry a boy on their shoulders if he is tired, where he sits quite at his ease grasping tight by their hair; this is the only burden except their spears that the men will ever carry, the women being compelled not only to carry every thing but to make the huts & fires when they halt for the night. - The belt or Noolaban consists

of a very great length of roughly open & open hair, but slightly²⁴ twisted & not strong; this is wound round & round the body even many dozen of times & its beauty is estimated according to its length; it is usually made tight & seems equally prized for supporting the stomach when empty or confining it when full, and in it are stuck the Hammer & Knife, the former generally behind with the head in the small of the back & the handle sticking straight down. Their hair is often confined by a piece of Woodaban, in which are stuck the Manmite tufts, or bunches of white Cockatoo feathers which are highly prized as ornaments as indeed are all white or gay colored feathers, these are prepared by tearing the feathery parts from the quills & tail & fastening them together on a little bit of stick so as form a little bunch drooping all round & really very picturesque, sometimes white sometimes black with red stripes (the tail of the Black cockatoo) or at other times reddish brown when saturated with wiline. These are worn on the head or as amulets & occasionally when plentiful in the belt; well adorned with these & smeared with grease & red ochre a warrior is fully dressed & a grotesque figure he certainly appears. - The natives about Gombonap are not so well supplied with Kangaroo skins as on the Murray, possibly the latter have got many of theirs from the White People, anyway they are particularly well furnished, and I also observed that the spears here were neither so long nor so heavy as those of the Murray men, who certainly carry by far the finest & heaviest I have seen anywhere in the colony & also in greater numbers. But I here saw a kind of Spear I never met with elsewhere, one between eleven &

twelve feet long & used without the "Mero" to kill fish like ²⁵ the Taylors & other large kinds that frequent the deep water close under the banks of the Rivers. The usual fishing spear is lighter than the war one & generally without a barb, & it is very interesting to watch a party of men pursuing a shoal of Mullet in shallow water, endeavouring to cut them off from the deep parts & following with unerring sight the course of the fish under water until they get within reach to throw the spear which they generally do without the "Mero" & with excellent aim. It is an exhilarating sight & favorite sport with the young men the Mullet being considered by them the best fish they have, being very fat. - They also spear on the flats great numbers of Coblers, a kind of slimy fish without scales something between a loach & an eel, with long beards round the mouth & a sharp sting at the back of each gill with which it inflicts painful & festering wounds on the unskillful Fisherman it is however very good to eat. Mullet are also caught by the natives in immense numbers by means of weirs at the mouths of little salt water creeks which are left open for the tide to rise with which vast shoals of Mullet principally small fry enter & the weir being suddenly stopped up, they are caught as the water filters off with the fish or often by the women who are sent in to drive the fish with their hands into corners where they are easily taken. I know nothing sweeter than this fish are in April & May when they are caught in this way, & cooked native fashion on hot ashes, the small fry bolted whole. about Gombonup I remarked the way in which a large fish is cooked by them, such as a Taylor or Jar fish and a capital plan it is. The fish having its scales scraped off is

wrapped up in thick folds of tea tree bark, which should not be ²⁰ from the outside so as to burn readily. This is then covered up in warm sand & ashes not too hot or with any lumps of live fire, & left to bake when it comes out beautifully cooked and with a very agreeable acid imparted by the bark. — The more common & simple way of cooking fish is like their plan pursued with any meat, to throw it on to the fire & cover it up with hot ashes till it is done enough & enough in most cases means half raw. But two or three turns on the fire are sufficient to loosen the scales which then come off with great ease & the fish is thrown back to cook tant bien que mal. — With an opossum or Kangaroo Rat, the plan adopted is somewhat less simple as it is previously opened & the gall, bladder & parts of the entrails are extracted when the aperture is closed with a plug of the animal's fur & stitched up with a bit of stick; the fur is then singed ~~off~~ in the fire & scraped off with the hand or a knife & returned to the hot ashes where if the heat is not too great the skin does not crack until it is well cooked by which plan all the blood & gravy are preserved. The opossum is very white but has a strong aromatic taste from the leaves of the Eucalyptus on which it feeds; but the Kangaroo Rat is much bitter although not equal to the little Bandicoot which is delicious; though to my taste none of them are often sufficiently cooked by the natives who are too impatient to allow their food to be more than just heated through. — All this time however I am left sitting on the left bank of the Preston half devoured by sandflies & it is high time I should get on along my road to the Vape or Yandup as the spot

where Mr Bupull has fixed his residence is called by the natives.²⁷

About 3. PM I proceeded in company with a large party of native men the women & children remaining on the right bank of the River but the men were going several miles in my direction to a great meeting or corroboree with some other tribes whether they asked me to accompany them. - I did not find the good land extending any distance back from the River on the south side as we soon got into a very sandy country undulating, with some low flats with scrub & blackish sand but mostly high land with very large Mahogany & white Gum & prickly scrub underneath. about seven miles from the Foster we came upon the edge of the coast swamp, which is here very wide, partly thick tea tree & scrub with grass tree &c on the edges & partly lagoons of fresh water with Spear Rushes & reeds across this we looked to the land hills just over the beach which are here very high & pointed with deep gaps between; indicating that the coast here is very much exposed to the winter gales from NW & W. A good native path follows the hill side on the inner or SE side of this line of swamp which extends with little or no interruption from the Murray as far south as Roby's Inlet in the light of Geography about nine miles beyond the Vape. We now fell in with a tall wild looking native, who, standing on the trunk of a fallen tree, with his long black hair streaming over his neck & shoulders, & his eyes rolling in a strange insane kind of manner, favored us with a long speech delivered with much energy & gesticulation in a wild irregular chant or song

unlike anything I had ever heard from the natives before. — ²⁸
The upshot however was that the grand meeting we were going to was to be held at a swamp about two miles to the eastward where I resolved to accompany my friends as they assured me most earnestly that there was abundance of "Batta quabba": good grass for the horses on the edge of the swamp or lagoon where the Corrobory was to be held. Monang evidently did not at all like the company we had got into, but I determined to see the matter out & to show no signs of distrust since we were quite in the power of the natives if they wished to injure us. However on arriving on the swamp I found to my annoyance that there was no water accessible for the horses & not the least sign of grass the prickly scrub a sand extending to the very edge of a large spear wood swamp. I therefore by Monangs aid explained to my Black friends that I could not stay with them but must return to the coast swamp immediately as it was getting very late. They seemed angry & annoyed but we parted amicably, & one lad returned with me promising to guide me the next morning to Yarralump, as to the distance of which the different natives varied much in their statement, indeed I doubt if any of them had ever been there. I reached the coast swamp & fixed my camp just before dark with plenty of feed for the horses but we had some difficulty in keeping clear of the ants which swarmed around. Mosquitoes also were very numerous & persecuting in their attacks, but still the relief

from the constant clamour, noise & annoyance of such a ²⁹ multitude of natives was very agreeable & we soon fell asleep having nothing to break the stillness of the night but the eternal harsh croaking of the frogs & the occasional note of the Hawk Goatsucker or Larkoo which could make one almost fancy oneself at home, did not the clear dry atmosphere & the brilliancy of the heavens mark too clearly the difference between England & Australia. -

In the morning I fed the lad who remained with us well, in hopes of inducing him to continue with us, but in vain; indeed it is a bad plan to reward a native with food until his work is done, when hungry he will do what you require to get food but when "moorat" or full belly as they call it, no promise of future reward will overcome ~~this~~ his natural indolence. Thus we were left to get on the best way we could, much to Monango's horror & dread, he did not know where he was, he could not comprehend ^{us} steering by compass & he was in a perfect agony of fear lest some strange nations should attack us. However, I determined to follow for the present the well beaten native path along the inner bank of the coast swamp since that must take us right at last & I did not apprehend any difficulty in reaching the Vape Estuary. after a time I got into a lower country with better soil, & some very large Coast Timbers with flurze & broom bushes & Peppermint trees of a large size. Here we met several natives who accompanied us a little way

& then dropped behind; and soon after I found the path I was following turn more towards the sea. Before long I found myself close at the back of the beach, where the swamp was very narrow, with very rich grass & low thistles growing within reach of the spray in a gale, but the sand hills are here much lower than farther north & they evidently decrease in height & size from Port Lechenault towards the Cape when there is nothing but a high sandy beach covered with low bushes, which clearly shows that there the winter gales seldom or never blow home with any violence. From the beach I could see the extremity of Cape Naturaliste bearing about N by S. & I found that I was still many miles from that part of Geographe Bay where I expected to find the Cape; the beach being bad travelling, I kept along a native path inside or at the back of the swamp through very thick bushes: after a time emerging from this I found myself bewildered amongst an infinity of paths leading through thick spearwood swamps & open spaces covered with grass & rushes with a deep black soil evidently entirely flooded in winter and now hardly dry from the October rains. Although the traces of natives & their huts of the tree bark ^{were numerous} we did not fall in with any to assist us in getting out of this difficult country, intersected so with swamps & thickets as to render my further direct advance difficult & doubtful. I therefore decided on turning to the left inland to get into a drier country which I accom-

plished with some trouble after floundering along a path through³¹: a thick swamp with deep black mould covered with luxuriant creeping vegetation; the path was evidently only adapted for the passage of black people & never intended for horses who crossed with great labor & difficulty sinking nearly to their bellies at every step. After reloading them we soon got into an undulating forest country of considerable extent with plenty of grass & good though light soil, but here the thickets of broom & furze & occasional patches of swamp were so thick as to impede my progress very much rendering it difficult to keep any thing like a straight course. Monang being quite beyond his knowledge & ignorant of the real distance to Yundorup now began to grumble very much there being no paths to follow or other signs to guide us. However after struggling through the bushes & round the swamps which caused frequent deviations, crossing my course at right angles, I got at length into an open sandy Mahogany country through which we advanced rapidly steering SSW. About three miles further on we fell in with two native lads sucking "mangites" but it was with great difficulty we could persuade them to approach as they were very much alarmed & had no arms. Monang however, though at first equally if not more frightened, at length took courage & having his spears held a long parley with them, each party gradually

approaching each other, but conversing from behind the shelter³² of a large tree to guard against treachery; showing how suspicious they are of strangers & how cunning they are in their attacks I must mention that they will frequently pretend to be unarmed when their spears are resting against a tree close at hand or lying along the ground held between the great and second toe. The youngest of the lads a fine, good humored looking boy, soon informed us that his name was Tom, which had been given to him by the Olderman at Gundorup and with much persuasion he agreed to show us the way, & lucky it was that he did so, as I soon found I was near a River traversing my course at right angles, which there were but two places to cross at. At first Tom proposed turning to the right to cross low down but on our explaining that horses could not go in "Buggia windo" he faced to the eastward & travelled along through the bush at a capital pace. I have since crossed at the lower ford later in the summer but at no time is it very good but must be totally impassable as well as much of the neighbouring land in or soon after the winter. It is called Mallocup and near it is much more excellent land and a good site for a dairy farm but I must reserve the description of it for the homeward route. Tom's road led towards the hills & crossing a small swampy brook running to the southward we inclined more in the same direction ourselves along a gently sloping hill side, with large Red Gums & dwarf Grass tree, Kangaroo Grass & various prickly

shrubs & plants with abundance of purple & brick colored creepers all now however out of blossom and growing on a very good stiff soil apparently deep resembling that which is turning out so well as arable land on the Canning River & about Pinjamp. about a mile further on following a well beaten path we came upon the edge of a high steep bank down which we looked upon a considerable river, perhaps about two thirds the stream of water that there is in the Preston; running about E.N.E. at this point between high banks with but small patches of alluvial soil between them so far up as this but the land on both sides is rich and fertile & well timbered with large red gums which are perhaps the most useful trees in the colony for a new settlement, splitting freely for fencing or shingles. This stream hitherto unknown to the colonists was afterwards named the "Capel" by Mr. Bapul, & the discovery of it gave me the more pleasure from the great extent of good land I met with in the vicinity. It is well adapted for the establishment of water mills as the fall is very considerable & the body of water quite sufficient throughout the year to turn several either for grinding or for sawing timber which appears to be abundant in the neighbourhood & of good size & quality. We now proceeded more to the westward the path pursued by Tom & in parts well marked leading rather to the westward of SW through a rich good country, with fertile soil & abundance of cattle feed. about four miles more brought us to a brook containing water but not running, called after the

first discoverer of it the ducklow; it runs to the N.W. through a good country with large timber. after a short halt here we proceeded rapidly along a belt of open country without large timber running parallel with the coast & varying in width from one quarter to one or one & a half miles. On the left is a rising sandy country bearing Mahogany, Banksia, Honeysuckle & other trees & on the right appeared a thicker country with enormous timber principally Irons mixed near the edge with red Gums. The Plains or Clay Plains as they are called at the Vasse extend more or less from the Capel to the westward considerably beyond the Vasse River varying in width & quality of soil but with no timber except a few scattered Red Gums, in places very bare & in others thick with Broom & other bushes & shrubs with occasional patches of spear wood swamp & what I never saw before large spear wood bushes growing to a considerable size with a thick stem & separately; with abundance of graft & fed covering the ground. The soil on these Plains is dark stiff clay; at this season, December as dry & hard as possible with the vegetation rapidly parching up but evidently from the description of shrubs on it & the very deep tracks of Kangaroos in the winter it is impassably wet & rotten, abounding with "zonak" (crawfish). - I have fell in with the two largest ones I ever saw & got within twenty yards of them without their taking alarm but they would not wait to be shot at. They were of a great height & size & probably weighed nearly 150lb. to judge by their appearance. The largest I ever killed weighed something under 100lb & he was quite a small one in comparison.

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to those. about three miles from the dudlow we crossed a brook very similar in character called the "Abba" & one mile & a half further on the "Sabina", of these more hereafter. The clay plains swarmed with Kangaroos but this time I found but few together they were lying amongst the bushes in pairs, or single Does with their young. - Between the dudlow & Sabina my poor dog Wro killed two single handed, the first two he had ever killed alone but not the last by very many, at length however the tables were turned & a Kangaroo killed him. Poor fellow, he was such a faithful & attached companion & friend of mine during the six months he was in the Colony he deserves more notice, which he shall have when I get to the Cape where his bones rest under a large tree. - The Sabina has a larger bed than the Abba but does not contain so much water, the latter running slightly, low down all the summer. From the former we turned more to the right, about W or W by N through the clay plains which widened considerably; the same belt of large thick timber continuing on the right until after about two miles we entered it, but there were no boats here, nothing but Red Gums & Mahogany with abundance of thick wood or large underneath. We at length found plenty of cattle tracks much to our delight as the whole party especially the horses were very much tired, as we had been pushing forward the whole day as constantly & rapidly as possible through a great deal of thick difficult country & the sun was now getting very low. Hearing a shout or "cooee" ahead we answered & soon met Mr A. Bupull looking for his cattle & very soon after, about three

miles & a half from the habina we came upon the right bank of the ³⁶ Yape River & in sight of a large two storied house well situated close to the stream in a clear space with a few of the finest Red Gums both in size & form that I ever beheld, scattered around. I was most kindly & hospitably received by the Bas-
sell family, who were not a little surprised at my visit, no one having ever penetrated before to their little settlement over land from the Swan.-

On the following morning December 18th just after breakfast the Governor arrived in the Colonial Schooner "Champion" on his way back from King George's Sound with Captain Mollo, Mr Lewis ^{or} forming a large party & creating quite a stir in the little Yape community. Sir James was much pleased at the report I gave him of my journey and the result of his visit was the formation of a Military Port about five miles E.N.E from Gundarup between the two Estuaries of the Yape about two months afterwards. like all his plans it was changed several times before being carried into effect and various were the places fixed upon for the Station & at last instead of a useful & important port of communication near Port Deschanel being formed I was sent to build barracks & form a township on a peninsula more fit for ~~a~~ Dutchmen or Frogs than British Soldiers where there were no settlers & no land to be taken up & where in fact we were as utterly useless as it was in the Governors power to render us. Here I remained about three months till having completed a plan of the township I rode up to Head Quarters to show His Excy that the surveyor had through ignorance of the locality had

placed the town of Donnerup where sand & water were far more ³⁷ plentiful than dry land:-

The River called the Vape was discovered & named by a French expedition which surveyed the coast & named Cape Naturaliste, Geographie Bay, Port Archenault &c but it is not a stream of any importance, having but a short course & not running throughout the year. It comes from the southward rising in the ranges of ironstone hills between Geographie Bay & Port Augusta a small settlement close under the lee of Cape Leeuwin which is the south western extremity or promontory of New Holland. The Vape River is fresh during the winter & early part of the summer at Mr Bapells house, up to which there is plenty of water for boats from the B. low near the beach, but instead of falling into the sea it discharges itself into the more eastern of the two Estuaries where it is extremely shallow & soon dry quite acropis the summer. These two Estuaries which were hitherto very imperfectly known extend between them about nine or ten miles from E.S.E. to N.N.W. & are divided about half way by what is usually called Donnerup Island but it is not entirely surrounded by water except in the wet season or at spring tides. There are the Inlets or communications with the sea, two in number with bar entrances frequently changing both in depth & situation the sand at the mouths constantly shifting & being in some places quick & very dangerous. A boat can usually cross the bar but once in the month of April with low water at spring tide we did not find it more than ankle deep & had to unload & drag the boat over upon skids. The two Inlets are unlabelled

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by a narrow creek but the inlets or creeks communicating with the Estuaris run in different directions, winding very much with a tolerably deep channel all along & sandy banks in most parts but here & there stone appears of a sandy soft nature cemented with lime; & too soft & crumbling for building purposes. A considerable portion of the island is low & wet, covered with Samphire & flooded as early in the season as May but all the remainder except that part near the sea consists of good black earth but shallow, resting on a bed of white sand & shells & covered with most luxuriant grass. There is great abundance of good feed for horses & cattle all about Hornbeam & the grass appears to me richer & more succulent than in any other part of the Colony I know, making excellent hay & keeping stock fat throughout the summer. Between the Estuaris & the sea runs a belt of land varying in width of a sandy nature but fertile & bearing luxuriant grass, farge trees & small Peppermint which are the only trees growing very near the sea; on the southern or inner edge of the Estuaris a narrow strip of tea tree swamp thick with tangled creepers, coarse grass, reeds & rushes & composed of rich black vegetable mould, extends along the whole of their course, & within that is a strip of boat country varying from one to two miles in width, bounded by the Estuaris on one side & the abovementioned Clay Plains in the other & extending in an uninterrupted line from the south bank of the Capel to the Sabina, to the westward of which stream I have never seen any except one small group upon Mr Bapills land. I do not think there is much difference in

the size of the two Estuaries & they are both very shallow in most parts & there are places where the Native can cross either of them by wading in the dry season. Into the Wonneup Estuary fall two streams, the Capel & the Sullow, the former of which enters at the North east extremity running through tea tree swamps & spear wood & across an open hard sandy flat where there is a very good ford. From what I know of this stream it runs to the north west towards the coast from the mts where I first saw it as far as Mallocup where it enters a vast swampy lagoon at the back of the beach & then turning at a right angle runs about four miles SW. parallel with the sea through a low very rich country until it enters the Estuary. The Sullow is but a small stream, a salt creek extending about half a mile up & then water occurring only here & there in pools. Four streams fall into the Vape Estuary viz. the Abba, Sabina, Vape a New River, the first of which falls into it from the S.E. at the head, close to the salt creek which runs up to the N.E. & nearly joining a similar one ^{from the other estuary} cuts off the Wonneup Island from the main. The Abba is fordable at the mouth & is salt above three quarters of a mile up; there a little fresh stream constantly trickles down & there is a crossing place over a fallen tree or waddi bridge as we called it in New South Wales. There are a constant succession of pools above this, tho' small ones, for about a mile & a half, when having crossed the clay plains & got between gently sloping ~~the dry~~ sandy soil with ~~the dry~~ Nothgany trees & scrubs considerable deep pools of excellent water full of cobbles & Unios & swarming with Ducks & Seal. - Above this I know of hardly any water in the dry season. - The next stream is the Sabina distant about a mile & a quarter at the mouth where a low spit

of land projects out into the Estuary. The salt water extends ⁴⁰ very little way up, but the banks being in many parts steep & broken it is a more difficult book to cross than the Abba although in summer it contains less water. The Vape is the principal stream falling into this Estuary but is much inferior in importance to the Capel except in point of situation where it has the advantage of being near a good anchorage in the Bay for the shipment of produce; vessels may come within three quarters of a mile of the beach in the fine season with safety & the water is always smooth with no surf to land through, the bottom hard sand, holding well & gradually shoaling from 6 to 3 & 2 fathom. A signal is erected by Mr Busell to mark when boats should land to be near the road to the settlement in the shape of a cask painted white & placed on a high pole. From this commonly called the "Tub" it is a mile & a half to Gundarup; one can either cross by the ford over the Vape near the Estuary or else in a boat at the B tree, a little higher up. Close above this the New River joins the Vape & it more deserves the name of a creek or long swamp than of a river. It comes from the westward having run parallel with the sea beach seven or eight miles, it is ^{in most parts} swampy & muddy so as to be difficult to ford & in general I have found it impassable for horses except a little way above its mouth where one can cross by some flat lime stones dryfooted in summer. The soil on this river is light but fertile with abundance of grass, streak wood & Peppermint near the sea. I have been told that the clay plains extend along the back or south side of this river and are of considerable width behind which again appear

as usual Mahogany & sand. - The land near the sea is evidently ⁴¹ the most fertile & valuable along this part of the coast, which is rare & at the same time most desirable in a young colony, where the expence of transport is naturally very heavy from the scarcity of hands & teams. There being as yet but little to attract people into Geographe Bay it is very imperfectly known but I feel confident that hereafter it will become a thriving & important part of the colony, since the climate is both milder & moister than at Swan River, there is abundance of excellent land, water to be obtained in plenty by digging only three or four feet down, even where there is no stream, & they are very numerous all round the Bay; timber is abundant, large & of good quality. Potatoes thrive uncommonly well, & certainly both cattle & horses look better and fatter than anywhere else in the Colony; The anchorage at the Cape is safe during the fine season, & from the absence of sand hills & the marks along the beach I doubt if the winter gales ever blow with any violence into the bay, & even if they did, on the weather assuming a threatening aspect, as the wind draws round to the northward any vessel could stand across to a beautiful little bay under Castle Point where she could ride out any gale in perfect shelter & obtain wood & water from the shore. Probably hereafter a village will be formed here or it would be a most desirable situation for a whaling station and there is plenty of good land about it to grow corn and feed cattle for the establishment or for the support of a population attracted by the resort of vessels. But all these schemes for the formation of new settlements & towns are very visionary and

however much I have been at times pleased by the discovery of 42
fertile tracts of land & valuable streams, & reclining by my bush
fire have pictured to myself the establishment of flourishing
villages & farms where now the Emu & Kangaroo feed in safety
and peace, the difficult question constantly occurs of where the
population is to come from. It is evident that in England a ~~very~~
~~strong~~
~~universal & general~~ prejudice exists against Swan River, the
very name of which is become a bugbear sufficient to prevent
emigration; and various are the causes that have occasioned
this ~~prejudice~~, most of them utterly unconnected with the soil,
climate & capabilities of the colony itself; the measures of the
Home Government have checked the settlement in its infancy, the
failure of many of the early emigrants, from various causes,
the Land Regulations of 1832, the exaggerated abuse lavished
upon it by disappointed Adventurers & the false & malicious
reports industriously circulated by speculators, by interested
persons at the Cape of Good Hope & by the agents ~~of the~~ ^{of the} ~~to gain~~
colony in South Australia, have all contributed to throw a damp
upon the prospects of the colony, & if it had not been established
upon the firm basis of great natural advantages, it would ere
now have become extinct. Swan River, like the new settlement
in Southern Australia was formed under false pretences, it was
represented by interested parties as an El Dorado, where it was
only necessary to go to become immediately rich; when the truth
became known the parties were proportionately disappointed
& vented their spleen in abuse of the colony, instead of on those

who had deceived them and on their own folly in believing every ⁴³⁷ absurd & exaggerated report, & rushing blindly into difficulties they ought to have foreseen; but did not & knew not how to overcome. - I am certain that in no new country in the world can a settler become rich without much active exertion and perseverance, those who think otherwise had better not go to Australia, but whenever they settle they will be disappointed & will fail unless prepared to struggle & bear up against numerous difficulties & privations. - The natural capabilities of the colony however great are not likely to be soon developed for want of population & capital to turn them to profit, but still I have no hesitation in saying that considering the difficulties with which she has had and still has to struggle, the colony of Swan River is prospering & advancing much more rapidly than any English settlement previously formed in any part of the world. It cannot be denied that Australia as far as it is known, is generally of rather a sandy, barren nature, partly owing to the constant dryness & cleanness of the atmosphere & climate & to the periodical extensive bush fires which by destroying every two or three years the dead leaves, plants, sticks & fallen timber, prevent most effectively the accumulation of any decayed vegetable deposit, which would otherwise in time form a rich and fertile superficial soil. - By these fires the country is kept comparatively free from underwood & other obstructions having the character of an open forest through most parts of which one can ride freely; otherwise in all probability it would soon become impenetrably thick & although the soil would be improved, yet the

labor & cost of clearing would be so greatly increased as to take away all the profits, & it would change the very nature of the country depriving it of the grazing & pastoral advantages it now possesses. This has been already proved in the case of Van Diemens Land, where in consequence of the transportation of the Natives to Great or Flinders Island, & the consequent absence of extensive periodical fires the bush has grown up thick to a most inconvenient degree, spoiled the sheep runs & open pastures & afforded harbor to snakes & other Reptiles which are becoming yearly more numerous. It is true we might ourselves burn the Bush but we could never do it with the judgment & the same good effect that the Natives do, who keep the fire within due bounds, only burning those parts they wish when the scrub becomes too thick or they have any other object to gain by it. Upon the burnt ground they can easily track the Opossums, Kangaroo Rats, Bandicoots, Iguanas, Snakes etc which can elude their search in the thick scrub which moreover is very painful to walk through, being generally, especially on the sandy lands of a harsh rigid nature with sharp pointed leaves which prick & cut ones legs severely even through trousers, which it is therefore advisable to have covered with soft leather nearly as high as the knees. - But although the general character of the country is sandy, yet there is so large a quantity of good land of various qualities that there is no fear of any want of it being experienced for many years in those parts of the colony already known, even if a considerable number of fresh settlers would be induced to emigrate there, and it is evident from the example of New South Wales that the best & cheapest way of exploring the interior

is by letting those who want more land go & look for it themselves.⁴⁵⁷
In New South Wales by gradual tho' rapid advances the sheep sta-
tions have spread from Argyle which a few years ago was the extre-
mity to the SW, many hundred miles down the Murraybridge; onward
the Limestone & Miccaligo Plains, beyond the limits of the colony
to the southward across the extensive Murray Plains & when I was
there in 1835, a few adventurous individuals had even driven their
flocks across the snowy River to the Obito Plains which were known
to exist only from the report of these few ~~few~~ persons. Soon, there
is no doubt, the stations will extend as far as Port Philip where
many of the Van Diemens Land sheepowners attracted by the reported
fertility of the soil & abundance of fine pasture had sent their
flocks which were rapidly spreading into the interior.

There is reason to believe that the south eastern corner of New
Holland, comprising that portion to the southward & eastward of
the Murraybridge & the counties of Argyle & Murray will we
long become the ^{most} flourishing portion of the continent. Generally well
supplied with water both from springs & from the numerous streams
having their sources in the Snowy Mountains, the soil is more
fertile than to the northward & the climate infinitely superior
being less hot & moister; the country, open & grassy will afford
range & pasture for an almost unlimited number of sheep, upon
which must in great measure depend the wealth of the Austra-
lian farmer on a large scale. It is very well for the small ~~little~~
the hard working man with small capital to grow wheat & other
corn, & it will pay him to cultivate them for market but not the
capitalist, who seldom does or ought to grow more than is nec-
essary for the consumption of his own establishments.—

But I have wandered a long way from the Pipe where I had just 46 arrived on the 17th Dec^r. at Mr Busells house. I mentioned that this was of two stories but ^{it} is as yet in a very unfinished state only one room on the ground floor being habitable which serves as kitchen & parlour in bad weather when the cooking cannot go on in the open air. The large chimney is made of rammed earth but all the rest of the building of what is colonially termed wattle & dab, the quickest & easiest method of building but not very substantial. The plan is to fix small uprights between the strong corner & other upright posts of the house & between them to interweave wattles or in fact sticks, the best of which for the purpose are of spear wood. This forms a very strong kind of basket work the interstices of which are filled up with a plaster of sand & clay which may be smoothed on the surface or covered over with lime plaster at leisure. The dab generally cracks as it dries which makes the house very airy & pleasant in summer but in winter too much so & the cracks can be filled up. Shingles are the universal covering of houses at all advanced in civilization in Australia, but in some respects I prefer thatch, which keeps out the sun hot in summer & the cold in winter but it is dangerous in so dry a climate & invariably lets in the wet when the first rains commence. A great deal of care is bestowed upon the garden at Gundonghi; it is very well situated upon the bank of the River & is extensive with a strong high walled fence to keep out the cattle, it yields excellent vegetables, especially potatoes, & what is a great point in a dry climate, produces a constant succession of crops throughout the year, the part next the river being sufficiently moist

to yield abundantly in the very heat of summer. - There is no land ^{47⁷} in cultivation for corn at the Vape except a very few acres in the township, the Bupells having hitherto confined their attention to their garden & dairy, & getting their supplies of flour &c from Roromah. The family consists of old Mr Bupell the widow of a clergyman with five sons & three daughters all grown up. Some of them came out in 1830 when they took land and established themselves at Augusta; as they could do nothing there they moved up the Blackwood River & formed a farm which did not succeed and their house being burnt they looked out for a better country to take land in, when luckily for them they found out the Vape district to which they moved in the end of 1834, with their whole establishment & cattle, the latter of which have thriven & increased rapidly since, while at Augusta, so scanty was the feed, it was found difficult to keep them alive. Captain Molloy on the h.p. of the Rifle Brigade who came out at the same time & was appointed Resident Magistrate at Augusta has also taken up a considerable tract of land adjoining the Bupells, on the western side of the Vape; his selection is particularly good, & he intends building a house & removing to it immediately: as at Augusta no settler can prosper, the land is not ^{my} bad, but the timber upon it is so large & extremely thick that a settler's means will not allow him to clear to any extent, not more than enough to build his house & form a small potatoe field & that only very partially cleared. Besides the Bupells, there are no inhabitants at the Vape except those brothers of the name of Chapman, laboring men, one called dayman with his wife & one man to work for him, & Dawson, an old soldier of the Rifles, who is constable of the District & cultivates potatoes &c on his allotment.

There all have a few cattle & at present the whole are herded together with the Bussell's, & they subsist upon the produce of the potatoes & butter they sell, & on the payment they get for work done for the Mess^r Bussell. A Colonial Cattle belonging to a man named Curtis trades constantly between Fremantle & King George's Sound touching at the Vape & Augusta, where he buys all the potatoes he can obtain at the rate of £12 per ton for which he pays principally with his own stores upon which he makes at least 100 per cent profit & then sells the potatoes at the sound for £28 to £30 per ton. A tolerably profitable speculation; but of course it is only on a small scale. The butter for which there is a great & constant demand both at the sound & the Swan is worth from $\frac{1}{2}d$ to 2/- at the Vape & about 9/- in the market hitherto the supply is not nearly equal to the demand and much is sold, imported from Europe & the Cape but that is not likely to be the case after another year. - Many of the Colonists look forward to making a profitable speculation of sending wheat to the Isle of France; but it is impossible they can compete with the growers at the Cape while labor is so dear, & although the grain is certainly much superior they cannot hope to sell it to advantage while it costs them as much at 9/- per bushel to bring to market & that is the very lowest calculation at present & most people say 11/. Besides this so few vessels touch at Swan River that freights are high; & the only way in which it could possibly answer would be on a small scale by ~~the~~ individuals sending a cargo of wheat & receiving in exchange, articles required in the Colony, such as sugar, tea, coffee, rice & any other things

wanted at Swan River and cheap in the Mauritius market. After 49
the harvest in December 1836, the settlers on the Swan were wild to
send their wheat to the Mauritius, because being poor & wanting
money they were obliged to bring their wheat into the market im-
mediately, thereby causing a glut & reducing the price to 5/- or 5/-
per bushel; however there was luckily no relief to take it away.
one or two moneyed men bought up a large quantity at the low
price, but many settlers preferred feeding Pigs & Poultry on the
wheat to selling it so low; gradually it rose in price, the small
settlers sold their remaining stock; & at seed time had to pay
a most exorbitant price to the few monopolizing holders for what
they absolutely required to put into the ground & when I left
the colony early in November 1837, wheat was very difficult to
procure even at 2/- per bushel, & bread was 7/- for the 2 lb loaf,
the grain remaining being in the hands of Mr. Leake & Mr. T. Brockman
who found it their interest, having mills, to sell it as flour rather
than wheat. neither Barley or oats could possibly be procured; hay
of the last year was very scarce & bad at £10 per ton, but the
new was just coming in, which would be worth £4 "10 - 0 on the
spot or £6 in Perth; so that keeping horses was attended with
no trifling expence at Head Quarters. — The principal evil of
all this & the cause of the excessive fluctuation in the price of
grain, evidently is the want of capital on the part of the settlers, who
are compelled to thresh out their corn as soon as possible & bring it
to market to pay debts previously contracted such as for their seed
wheat, & necessary household stores or to meet bills becoming due
after harvest. Thus a man incurs a debt in June for, par example

100 bushels of wheat for which he pays 10% per bushel at a moderate computation, to repay this after harvest, the price of wheat having fallen to 5% he has to sell double the quantity, supposing he has no interest to pay in the meantime, & is moreover compelled to bring much more to market at the same price to provide necessaries for his family. From the scarcity of mills in the colony, grinding is dear, 2% on the Swan & 2½% per bushel at York, so that taking into consideration the loss of time of a man & team taking wheat to a mill & another trip to bring it back, often many miles, I am inclined to think it better for a settler to sell his wheat & buy flour instead, but he should do it at once & lay in a stock for a year while it is cheap, again the want of capital interferes & the money received for the wheat is immediately spent in the payment of pressing debts and flour is purchased on credit little by little as it is wanted, and every week at a higher price. Thus the settler with small means having once got into debt finds it next to impossible to extricate himself; his land is generally mortgaged to its full value and he drags on a miserable existence dependent on the mercy of his creditors, who however find it much more to their interest to receive a high rate of interest, say from 10 to 20 per cent for this money, than by foreclosing the mortgage to beggar the individual: by doing which to any extent they would lessen the demand for their own stores, injure the credit of the colony & probably ruin it entirely as well as themselves. Mr Drake at the present time has it in his power to ruin two thirds of the settlers of Swan River by foreclosing his mortgages, & getting a judgement in the court against them, have their property sold by the Sheriff.

but he will know that by so doing he would also ruin himself, as there could be no buyers for so much land, and he could get nothing for his debts but extensive tracts of land without value in the market; & would materially lessen the consumption of his stores upon which he makes an immense profit; instead of which he pockets the annual interest, generally twenty per cent, to pay which the unfortunate debtor sells his crops, goes on tick to the store and yearly gets more & more involved. Thus with all the natural advantages of the colony many of the early settlers have failed or are gradually doing so; but this, I believe, has always been the case, & may almost be laid down as a certain rule that the greater part of the first settlers are ruined in the establishment of a colony and it stands to reason that it must be so when we examine the characters & qualifications of the persons who go out. Very few practical farmers & even those so wedded to the old established English or Scotch rules of farming that they will not make any change to suit the climate or soil they settle on. Then there are half pay officers of the Army or Navy or worse still those who have sold out: with wives or daughters who can play on the piano forte or harp, set purses or embroidery, & acquainted with many other elegant accomplishments, who consider it vulgar to make or mend the clothes of the family & are totally ignorant of the management of a dairy, cannot make butter & cheese, rear calves by hand, cook or do any of the hard work about the house. I certainly recommend such fine ladies to avoid Swan River, they can do no good and only swell the number of the disaffected. Then there are Cockneys, Grocers, Fallow Chandlers, waddles from the Stock

Exchange, retired Sailors, West Indians with extravagant ideas⁵² & scanty means & many men with no means at all; there and many others of various professions & trades went to settle at Swan River a line of life they were totally unfitted for, they could have done only one thing more foolish and that is to have themselves, perhaps for some of them it would have been a preferable fate; than, finding themselves disappointed & that they could not make money as easily as they expected, they raised an outcry against the Colony, which in my opinion was by no means to blame for their failure. Of the various liberal professions it has been often observed that sailors make the best settlers, why I know not, as the habit of ploughing the deep can in no way fit them for ploughing land; perhaps it is that they are most used to rough it & to struggle with difficulties during their naval career. Soldiers, from living in Barracks, without care & with their mess to sit down to daily are less in the habit of shifting for themselves & do not generally succeed as settlers when constant hard work is necessary. The middle class however; or that of the small farmers & yeomen in England is that which produces the best settlers, not above working themselves; they understand what they set about, their own labour saves them the hire of a man, & content with poor fare & fewer luxuries & comforts their household expences are far less than those of a gentleman settler, with active regular habits they may soon attain ease & even opulence in the colony if they avoid the too general vice of drinking, which is the bane of the generality of the lower orders of Europeans in Australia; in New South Wales amongst the convict population it

53 57.

is not to be wondered at, but it is lamentable at Swan River to see not only the laboring class but many men, gentlemen by birth & education degrade themselves to the level of brutes whenever they have an opportunity. There are instances in the colony of men who had gone out under the most favorable auspices, with ample means and who ought to have done extremely well, having through their constant & habitual intemperance wasted & squandered their property until they are now becoming beggars, scorned and avoided by everyone, since nobody can pity those who have reduced themselves to distress by their own vice & intemperance. On the other hand there are cases of failure where the individuals are sincerely fitted & meet, with much kindness & sympathy, mismanagement & ignorance of business or farming have reduced some to indigence who still retain their moral & honorable character uninjured in adversity. - I do not think that the account I can conscientiously give of a settler's life is likely to induce anyone to emigrate to Swan River, and I should be sorry by garbled statements to mislead anyone to his future loss & disappointment, it necessarily must be for many years a life of continual toil and hardship & it remains a doubt whether the end repays one for the laborious means by which it is attained. On the one hand, there is thorough independence, a large estate, extensive flocks & herds, a good house & garden with homestead & numerous teams; but on the other hand this is all in the wilderness far from ones friends & relatives; & if married one's wife is deprived of the society of her equals, & of the comforts & luxuries of a more civilized life;

and worse than all, ones children are brought up as demi savages⁵⁴ & without the greatest care & attention which one has no time to bestow become scarcely more civilized than the young Blacks with whom they associate. This evil is however not near so great at Swan River as in New South Wales, where the association with the Convict servants, the refuse of mankind soon corrupts & contaminates the minds of children, & often, horrible is the result; here want of education & coarseness of manners are all that need be feared but that is more than sufficient to make parents pause before they expose their children to such evils. - For my own part I should not hesitate to settle in some part of Australia rather than proceed with my Regiment to India with the prospect of remaining there for many years; without a prospect of becoming rich I am certain I could maintain myself in comfort & independence in either of the Colonies; in some respects I should prefer Swan River although from its present state of infancy & the exorbitant price of the necessaries of life one must expect to meet with far greater difficulties & hardships than in the more advanced & penal Colonies. As for the new one in South Australia I put that quite out of the question as I cannot imagine anyone in his sober senses going there to buy land at the exorbitant price fixed on it, while he can get it cheaper in New South Wales where labor is comparatively cheap & plentiful, & cheaper in Swan River where labor is high but not more so than there where they pay four times the price for the land. It is a palpable absurdity to begin with, for persons to buy land at £1 per acre situated in South Australia before they leave England on the report of persons who were never there. Would anyone in his senses purchase an estate in Great Britain without

55 further information concerning it than the ipse dicit of the agent for 57.
the sale; would he not examine it himself or depute a trustworthy
friend to do so, instead of which in this case he marks off on a
map or rather blank sheet, the allotment he purchases ignorant of 58.
its locality & soil; it may be a salt lagoon for anything he knows
& he cannot move to the right or left having neighbours adjoining. again,
the projectors state that this high price is set upon the land
to prevent individuals possessing too extensive tracts & to promote
concentration (a favorite term with them at home) & for mutual pro-
tection & assistance. They state in their prospectus that is owing
to the departure from the principle of concentration, that the Swan &
River colony has failed, assuming without a shadow of proof, two
facts, first that the colony has failed & 2nd that it is owing to
settlers having too large grants & being widely separated. The first
apportion I deny in toto, & consequently the 2nd dependent on it,
though I am ready to admit that much distress has been caused
by individuals taking up large grants of land, foolishly supposing
it to be property, & found too late that owing to everyone having
plenty of land it was not saleable & consequently valueless. - But anyone at all acquainted with Australia knows that it is
& always must be principally a pastoral country & that owing to
the great drought in summer it requires a great extent of coun-
try to feed a flock of sheep, at the most moderate calculation
three acres per sheep, not of average but good land, are requisite,
taking the whole year through. Who could ^{buy} land enough to feed
many thousand sheep at this rate & how can they keep sheep when
crowded together on small allotments for mutual support.

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all this time they are holding out wool as so vastly profitable and as the future staple commodity for exportation for their Colony, but they seem to forget that the profit of the wool naturally diminishes in proportion to the expence of producing it, which includes the price of the sheep, cost of keep & of course the price of the land on which they are fed. But mark their practice in Adelaide as compared with their theory in London. One of the first acts of the local Government was to grant to applicants a lease of any vacant Crown lands they required the use of, at a mere nominal rent & to any extent for the purpose of feeding sheep!! what then becomes of their fundamental principle of concentration? do not their own acts at first starting declare their principles to be erroneous & inapplicable to the Country they are settling in? & yet they boldly declare that all former systems were wrong & bring forward a colony going on steadily though slowly as a proof of the consequent failure. But one material error was committed in founding Swan River, and these wise & notable projectors have fallen into the very same, without the excuse of ignorance or inexperience since the will was extensive & generally felt: it was that Emigrants were carried out in numbers to the shores of the new Colony before any preparation had been made for their reception; there was no land surveyed & no man could form his farm until he knew where he was & he could not choose it until the Surveyor became acquainted with the rivers & other features of the country; thus the means of the settler were squandered on the beach at Fremantle, where they lived in riotous profusion regardless of the future & actually killing for food the live stock they had

brought out for breeding, on account of the difficulty of finding pasture in that neighbourhood. Thus many had exhausted their stores before they had an opportunity of establishing themselves. & had no longer the means of forming a farm when they got their land apportioned. In the case of Swan River there was some excuse in inexperience & because persons were only entitled to land according to the amount of property they brought out, which must be decided by the Land Board on the spot: but at Adelaide it is different; the error in the other colony was before their eyes, & when people were fools enough to buy land in London which they knew nothing about, they had at least a right to expect that it should be surveyed so that they might know where to find it & to settle on it immediately. However it has not been so & with a Surveying Department infinitely superior in number to that of Swan River, the settlers are wasting their time & means on the coast, vehemently but vainly crying out against the injustice done them, though they do not impute any blame to Col^t. Light with whom they seem to be well pleased.. The fact is, Surveyors should be sent out to a new colony with ample means to explore the country, run their base lines & draw their plans before any Emigrants arrive, and the shortest period necessary to accomplish all this should be at least a year; if too much hurried in their operations they make mistakes in their measurements and surveys which lead to endless trouble afterwards in the office from disputed claims and gives rise to constant litigation, feeding the vagabonds who go out to new colonies calling themselves lawyers who fatten on the quarrels & misfortunes of their fellow Emigrants. —

However I must return to the Cape from whence I have wandered over
the whole of New Holland, the subject of settling or Colonization being
one capable of long & constant argument; both as to the Government
system & the practice, & one that is constantly leading me from my
subject, when I think of the absurdities both spoken & written by
persons in England who know nothing on the subject practically,
but bolster their own & every one else's heads with wild theories that
are incapable of being reduced to practise. about a mile lower
down the Vasse River than Yundrup is a small Government Reserve
for the town of Busselton, of which a small portion is on the right
bank & the remainder between the River & the sea; from the anchorage
being good & less open than at the Inlet, or Wonneup; it is likely
to become the principal resort of vessels hereafter & if a small
wooden jetty were run out, boats might discharge cargo at any
time except in a heavy northwester. The road from the Beach to the
B. tree on the river is heavy sand and I do not know of any stone
near to improve it, the easiest place hereafter would be to bring
it from the opposite side of the Bay. At Wonneup there is an excellent
landing place for boats in the western Inlet whenever the bar can
be crossed by laden boat, but the water is too shoal with heavy
rollers in bad weather to attempt it when it blows fresh; in
that case, the "Dab" is the best place to run for. - There are two ways
of going from Yundrup to Wonneup; one by the shore of the Estuary
crossing the Sabine & Abba at the mouths is most practicable for
carts at present, although it is rough from the quantity of flat
limestone rock appearing on the surface along the margin of the
bed of the Estuary. This road however is not passable in winter
being all flooded & the sand quick in several places. The other
goes through the Bush crossing the two streams some way up, above

the salt water & near the clay plains, but there are many obstacles 59.
to the passage of carts: I was however authorized by the Govt. to cut a
road all the way through & bridge the streams & should have done
so long ago had not the schooner in which I was, failed in reaching
the Cape whether I was returning in June 1837. I could have found
a good dry line of country all the way through the Sooats to the
Sabina & thence through the sandy belt with Mahogany Red Gums
& Stink wood, the only difficulty would have been in constructing
the bridges with my weak party. Four soldiers are stationed close to
Mr Bupills house & my party at Bonnoup consisted of six including
my servant. Not having found a desirable site for barracks
& the whole township appearing objectionable as a station, I had
merely pitched my men for the winter on the edge of the coast land
in a slightly rising ground overlooking the entrance to the island
& over that to the sea; the site was excellent, & the ground suffi-
ciently clear to prevent the too near hidden approach of natives
to the camp & I should not have hesitated to build permanent
Barracks on it had I ^{not} found that it lay in the very centre of
Mr Laymans land instead of being, as was supposed, in the
township. So having made my men as comfortable as circumstances
would permit, & surveyed the township I went to Head Quarters
for further instructions, & after failing once in an attempt to re-
turn, circumstances have prevented my ever, in all probability,
seeing the station again & I have now left the Colony, leaving
behind at the Cape Slat. a Horse, four dogs & a large quantity
of all kinds of stores which I had laid in to supply me through
the next six months. Our bark method of building is very
simple & expeditious if one can get either rushes or grass tree tops

for thatch; we form what are colonially termed V. huts but they are rather ⁶⁰ V. scoured or A. huts. First we cut two strong poles with a fork at one extremity for the ends, the length depending on the height we require, say 9 or ten feet, a long ridge pole then rests in the forks, which are from 12 to 16 feet apart according to the length we want: other poles are then placed sloping against the ridge pole with one end nailed or tied to it with rope yarn & the other buried in the ground; rough wattles as battens are then tied or nailed lengthwise across these poles or rafters & the whole thatched over; the back is then filled up with barks & part of the front, leaving a gap to serve as door & window and to admit the warmth of the fire blazing in front, round which congregate the Kangaroo Dogs & such Natives as may be with one; it also serves for cooking & boiling the kettle. The battens inside are extremely useful to stick one tools, tobacco pipes, dressing things &c in between & a hammock stretched across forms ones bed, & the rest of ones furniture is but scanty; one or two camp stools, a portable table, or in lieu thereof, the tail board of a cart or any rough plank answers the purpose supported on four stakes driven into the ground; a small lantern & a trunk of clothes completes ones equipment for the bush, besides the necessary supply of stores. In such a habitation did I live several months at Pinjarra & afterwards built a similar one at the Yape where I resided three months, but as the weather became very cold & wet I was about building a chimney to it when I left. The soldiers had a large hut of a similar construction to which they added a large chimney of turfs but I doubt if it would stand through the winter; however it rendered their hut warm & comfortable; & my servant had also a little hut built in rear of mine for a kitchen to which we added a stone chimney which answered very well. Thus I was gradually improving

on the original plan, which answered very well in summer but in winter cooking out of doors was impracticable & we found the huts wet and damp without chimneys. Two days were amply sufficient for the erection of a hut even where, as at Wonnerup we had some difficulty in finding straight poles to suit as rafters. — Poor "Hero" lies interred beneath a dooat tree near my hut having been killed by a Kangaroo in April 1837. he was brought out from England in 1836 in the "Jordan Carroll" when he was quite young having just attained his full growth. He was a very powerful dog, a cross between a Blood Hound & a Greyhound. No one thought him swift enough to catch a Kangaroo, but I gave £8 for him & he became my most faithful & attached companion. When I left Pinjarra for the vase I had him tied up as dogs are in the way & delay one much travelling; but when released late in the day from his chain he started after me & followed my tracks with the most wonderful precision overtaking me near the Harvey; he had more strength & bottom than any Kangaroo dog I ever saw & with it great speed & such unconquerable courage that he would face anything & met his death in consequence, as he, single handed brought a Gouret weighing above 150 lb. to bay & seizing it by the throat, the big brute gave him such a hug & the lions with his arms, as to break his spine & rupture the entrails. Still the noble fellow held on & with my assistance when I could get to the spot in the middle of a dense spear wood thicket he killed the Kangaroo & expired himself shortly afterwards. With such courage & a most excellent nose, no Kangaroo could have escaped him if he had lived to gain experience; but he had other excellent qualities being devoted to me & biting most willingly anybody I set him at; he was the terror of the Nations, none

of whom could approach the camp day or night without his giving⁶² notice, & in all respects he was a most excellent watch, hating strange & gross blackfellows, in short; the terror of everyone approaching Bunbury onia, as my hut was usually called. I never saw so jealous or savage a dog over a Kangaroo; he would hunt with nose but my little bitch "Fly"; & when they had killed, neither then nor Dog would be allow to approach, except me, he would lie with his paws over the dead game & if anyone came near he would walk round & round & immediately seize the intruder when too near. He took naturally to showing what he killed or he learnt it from the Bitch but if another Dog was present he would lie & watch the game for hours, but would neither break in or allow another to do so. - Poor "Hero" deserves to have his good qualities recorded, especially as Kangaroo Dogs generally have very little affection and will follow or hunt with anyone; I lost several at Swan River but none I cared about like him; he was the favorite of the whole Detach-
ment, principally I suspect because he kept them with fresh meat but his death caused universal sorrow in the Camp. While he lived. I always brought in two Kangaroo every day I hunted which was three times a week generally so I killed abundance of fresh meat for the whole Detachment which was very acceptable as we got nothing but salt rations from Government.

I mentioned meeting the Governor at Gundorup on the 18th December, & in consequence of an arrangement with him I started on my return homewards on the evening of the 19th agreeing to meet him again at Port descherault. I only got that night as far as the Sabine where I had a very comfortable halting place a good feed for the horses; it is a great point for expeditions travelling to get away from a

house & sleep out the night before as one can get under weigh much more expeditiously from a bush fire than from anyones house, were waiting breakfast, saying good bye, packing the horses are always consumes the most valuable part of the morning when it is cool. Some people travel before breakfast, & so have I often, especially when I have had none to eat but it is a bad plan, knocks one up & is injurious to the health. wake one hour before daylight, shift your horses tether or let it run, if he is quiet, smoke your pipe while the water is boiling, then see your saddle bags, & other gear all right; that the stuffing of the saddle is free from hard knots & bits of stick or anything else that can hurt your horses back; then having eaten your piece of damper or biscuit, drank your tea & filled your pipe daylight will appear when you can saddle a be off, taking care that your tether ropes are properly coiled & the saddle will put on, and you thus find yourself well advanced on your way before the sun rises & can get the greater part of the days work done early in the forenoon & give the horses a long rest & feed at midday. A blanket under the saddle is good in some respects in slow bush travelling, it keeps the back from being galled and is useful to cover the loins & back at night if very wet or cold, but it beats the horses back so much that you cannot venture to unsaddle for some time after you get in, otherwise blisters will rise & the skin come off; the best way I think is to do without it if the saddle is soft & fits but that no Colonial saddle ever does; in that case you may unsaddle at once & let your horse roll which he is sure to do if the ground is dry: if you are riding a journey fast you should never have a rug underneath as it beats the back & is apt to rumple up & gives a sore back sooner than the saddle. There is nothing requires such anxious care & attention as the management

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of horses in a hot dry climate where you necessarily travel very slow & the saddles are on their backs for so many hours during the day. - The best plan I can recommend is to get a good saddle, but mind that those of Peat's do not answer in the form they are turned out being too flat: they are made for large horses in good condition when their backs are broad & flat; but a Colonial horse on a journey is generally very poor and the saddle rests on his spine injuring his back for life. Get a saddle well stuffed on each side & see it is not too tight in the wither; often the girth buckles will raise lumps in the flank if the flap is too thin, & when you halt in the day turn the lining of the saddle to the sun to dry and then beat it with a switch to soften it where it cakes with the sweat. - Your fur Rug, blanket or other covering for the night should be rolled in front of your saddle, a bucket for the muzzle of your gun should be attached to the spring bar of the stirrup leather, of such a length that the trigger guard rests against your thigh & the butt comes behind your arm, a short strap or catch secures this to your waist belt. Then for your grub & clothes you require either saddle bags or a valise, the former hold most & are perhaps preferable, if you carry the latter you should have a saddle made on purpose with the stuffed part of the saddle projecting behind instead of a detached pad which is sure to rip a horse's back, three straps & a copper are necessary to keep the valise firm in its place. - always ride a horse a journey in the bush in a snaffle if possible, as it is easier to him & gives him freedom to pick a little whenever you come to a stand. Your tether rope should have two swirls, one ^{of the} attached to a leather collar round the neck; which is a much better plan than to a head stall which is apt to break or fall off. Thus the travellers horse is fully equipped & for himself I earnestly recommend woollen clothing.

in all seasons. Fustian or Moleskin are very hot in dry weather & bitterly cold in wet. But light woollen things such as the Scotch plaid or something similar are very light & pleasant to wear, & extremely warm when wet; they do not last long but have the lower part of the legs & seat of the trousers covered with leather & take a needle & thread & a little material for patching with you & you will find yourself more comfortable than wearing any cotton things, and not liable to catch cold, even if constantly exposed to wet for days together. Let those who will, laugh at precautions or abuse smoking but I am sure I am indebted to tobacco & woollen clothing for my total freedom from cold or rheumatism when in the bush in wet weather. On the 15th October 1836. I left Perth with the Governor and crossed over to the Murray at Ruyampa on foot; from the time I left the Lanning that afternoon until I reached the Williams River on the 23rd I had never once an opportunity of drying myself; frequent soaking rain by day & night & worse still wading through rivers & swamps in a country extensively flooded and at a cold season of the year kept me constantly wet, but I did not suffer in the least from cold, but numerous painful boils broke out all over my legs which laid me up three days at the "Williams", at the end of which I walked up to York in two days & part of the third morning getting in to breakfast, sixty four miles of hilly country with my boots worn out, showing my toes out in front & full of sand & pebbles. - I do not know if these boils are the effect of exposure to wet or overexertion but I suffered in a similar manner at Port Phillip after a very severe & wet march into the interior. The long walk from Perth to the Williams I must give some account of by & by but I must first endeavour to get home from the Vape, having been left encamped on the Sabina on the evening of the 19th December. -

On the following morning we retraced our steps along the clay plains to the Capel where we made a short halt to regale the horses with the luxuriant grass and sow thistles abounding on the banks, & I then steered about NNE, a little northerly, to keep clear of the thick swampy country I had before been annoyed with; I passed rapidly through a country principally sandy but I could see on the right at times that a considerable belt of clay plains extends far to the northward of the Capel. I crossed a good deal of good goat country, very undulating with low limestone hills, & large timber of various kinds but the bushes not so thick as were to the left; there is evidently a great deal of available land of a generally fertile character on this side of the Capel; but it lies in irregular patches mixed with much of an inferior description & there is also plenty of fine timber within an easy distance of the sea. We came in sight of the coast swamp near a lagoon that we had visited on our outward route, after about two & a half hours walk from the Capel which showed how we had been before delayed by the swamps & thickness of the bush. Monang now again got upon our old tracks which we had left on the Capel; from whence I had steered by compass, but it was now better to trust to the sagacity of a Native especially as we had before been conducted this route by those well acquainted with the neighbourhood. The distance now to the Preston was seven & a half miles & we arrived well tired late in the day, falling in on our way with some of our former friends suching Aborigines, who favored us with their company to camp & assisted in collecting fire wood. As grass was abundant & of excellent quality on the Preston I did not so much mind making a forced march today, as the horses were well supplied with food & water, otherwise, if there is any

uncertainty of procuring these, it is a bad plan to pay them much ^{67.}
& more moderate travelling answers best in the end. A considerable
number of Natives joined me at the camp by the feed & I sent off
one with a note (papel waugh) to the beach to see if the schooner
had arrived as I thought I heard a shot. After a time he returned
with the note saying that the "Aitbra" with "bono cooyal" was in the
bay & that some white men, or gianga (ghosts) they call us, were
walking on the beach but he was afraid to go near them. The
news of such a great event as the arrival of a vessel spread ra-
pidly amongst the tribes on the Estuary the next morning and a
very great number of men collected but they kept the women &
children out of sight. I did not hurry myself on the morning of
the 28th well knowing that the party would breakfast on board before
they joined me; but after sunrise I made the Natives carry my
traps over the river & then cooping the horses proceeded leisurely
through the low sick country on the right bank of the Proton and
coming out on the bay in the Estuary between that & the Colie, turned
to the left and halted at the low point of land at the mouth
of the former river where there is no bar or fording place but
deep water right across. There is a good deal of grass even to
the point but a little way back, the feed is capital; so tethering
my horses I lit a fire & sat down to smoke away the time till
the Governor joined me whom I soon saw walking on the sandy
point called the North Shore, & near where the former military
station was. It was very amusing to witness the delight and
surprise of the Natives at finding themselves so suddenly visited
by two parties of white people after having seen none so long.
Very thick stunted swamp oak of which many skirted the edge
of the Estuary, their roots washed by the salt water, was filled

with groups of naked black fellows many of whom were adorned with abundance of wigs for the occasion, & whose shouts and shrieks of laughter & delight were echoed back by similar groups stationed on every projecting point within sight. Soon the two boats arrived with the whole party from the schooner & I made Monong announce to the other Natives which was the Governor, whose reputation was well known as the distributor of flour & blankets to the blacks about Perth. - While one boat went to fish with the line I accompanied the Governor up the Preston through the rich flats to some distance above my ford & crossing over, returned by the south bank when likewise there is, especially low down a great deal of excellent land. About three quarters of a mile from the mouth of the river I remarked a most curious native ford, & one that I should by no means like to attempt to cross. The river is broad & deep but several large trees having fallen into it, low under water; by walking along the trunk & boughs of them in some places at least up to ones waist, it is possible to get from one to another & in that manner cross over. I remarked from seeing the tracks to the waters edge & it was some time before I could ascertain clearly how they got over: I have since known the natives to cross here repeatedly. Although deep at the mouth the Preston is neither so broad, so deep or navigable so far up, but on the other hand the stream of fresh water is much greater. In the Collier about five miles from the mouth I found the water from 25 to 30 feet deep & nowhere in the Preston above half that depth. Both of them abounded with fish of many different kinds some of which such as the mullet can never be taken with hook & line while many others take any bait such

as fish or the entrails of birds most ravenously. The entrails and gizzard of a swan or duck are particularly good bait to take Black Snapper, or Silver Snapper, but the Natives like fish best, of which Mullet if possible or else a piece of Silver Snapper is best. During my walk I shot several Ducks & Cockatoos of the black kind with the white bar in the tail which is usually by far the most difficult to approach a rarely shot, but here they seemed so little to anticipate any danger that they flew close overhead, & the Ducks also of the large black kind gazed at us with astonishment but very little fear. On our return we found that they had taken an immense quantity of fish of different kinds with the seine, of which the greater part was given to the Natives to their great delight and in a few minutes numerous fires were lighted & fish broiling in all directions. I think I mentioned before the expeditious way they have of scaling fish by throwing them on the fire for two or three minutes when they can with ease be scraped clean. Amongst others a good many fish were taken of a kind we call Guard Fish in New South Wales, which is the most delicate & best flavored of any I know on the continent. It is about the size of a large Smelt, long & slender, & when living, clear & almost transparent; on the under jaw projects a long point something like a marrow spoon, with smooth edges; which probably serves for scooping its food out of the sand. Its mouth is small & the upper jaw does not project; this point or snout if so it can be called is about two inches long & very narrow. Another fish we took, called here the King Fish; is also long & slender but very much larger with a long pointed head on jaws armed with strong teeth above & low. The Natives will not eat either this or the Guard Fish, from a superstition they have

that all green boned Fish are poisonous, & the bones of both these kinds especially the larger one are of that color. The Guard Fish appears to frequent all the ports of New Holland yet known as it abounds in Port Jackson & the Parramatta River when it is taken in great numbers, & sold as a delicacy. In Van Diemans Land they are also found as once when out in my dingy at night one of them jumped in to me, I believe to our mutual astonishment. They appear to frequent shallow water with a sandy bottom & cannot be taken with a hook & line. - The great Rock Cod which frequents the Swan River coast, especially in the summer time is likely to prove valuable as an article to dry or salt for exportation. It is a large fish much resembling the Newfoundland Cod, with a large head and varies from 25 to 40lb weight; it may be constantly seen making its way up the Inlets from the sea towards the Estuaries of the Murray, Port deschanel, &c & it is there just within the bar that they are taken with a hook baited with some small fish; it requires very strong tackle to hold them & they afford good sport. The Natives also spear a great number as they cross the shoal bars; to them they afford a fine feast, as indeed they do to the Detachment at the Murray who not only use all they can fresh but salt a good deal for winter use. - These and the large Bay Travers which frequent certain banks along the coast are the principal kinds likely to be valuable as an article of trade; at the Mauritius they will always find a ready sale if well cured but hitherto too little pains has been taken; and very little has turned out good of that salted on Rottnest Island, off which mappers are taken in great abundance as well as very

large Jew fish; the Bay Snappers are of a reddish color with a thick short head & of a very thick deep shape; they vary much in weight from 2 or 3 to 100. & frequent in shoals certain banks or flats of sand some distance from the shore & never appear to enter the Rivers; when they bite at all, great numbers may be taken as they seem never to forage alone; their teeth are strong & placed very forward in the jaws; so that a very strong hook must be used. I have also found them abundant on the east coast of New Holland, off the Sydney Heads, & further north about Red Head & Newcastle. I do not think they are found in Van Diemens Land.

After dinner we again divided, the Governor taking another walk through the low country near the bank of the Inlet towards the South Head, while the other party went fishing, but was not very successful as the tide ran too strong down the Inlet to use the seine with advantage. It is about two miles from the mouth of the Pocton to the outer bar & the course of the Inlet is very winding running first about SSW as far as a low flat island with a quantity of dead trees and brushwood upon it, on either side of which is a good channel for boats & the flat shoal places are easily distinguished and avoided. There is then a long wide reach extending ^{to the westward} nearly to the foot of the South Head & the stream then turns suddenly to the northward & northeast to the bar, to a crop which no fixed directions can be given as it is constantly shifting both in depth & situation. In December there was one narrow but deep channel out close to the north beach & in the following April another channel had opened some way to the westward through the sand, which was wide but shallow & much more exposed to the surf and rollers:-

The anchorage in the bay is good for vessels not drawing more than ⁷² feet water within half a mile of the bar & the water gradually ~~deepens~~ ^{deepens} further out. A spit of rock & sand extends out from the south head above a mile to the northward upon which the sea breaks heavily but it protects the anchorage from westerly winds as far as NW by W but it is quite open to gales from NNE. It is by no means a safe place for vessels in the winter when a heavy swell from the Indian ocean rolls in upon the beach with nothing whatever to check or break its force. - The south head is rather an elevated and abrupt termination of the coast line of sand hills, and while bare or nearly covered with low scrub to seaward, it is richly clothed with wood on the east & north east side and a ~~small~~ ^{little} strip of land thick with tea tree & luxuriant vegetation extends along the foot of the hill. Very near the sea amongst the limestone rocks on the west side of the head there is a spring of excellent water & not far from it appears a singular mass of columnar basaltic rock, this is the only place where we have as yet met with any signs of volcanic action in the colony; & here it is very clearly marked. The rocks extend into the sea but do not appear of any height, or any where else along the coast, except that they form the reef I mentioned as stretching out from the south head. Along the beach about Port deschanel and again in the Cape Jaffet one finds a quantity of black sand, which on examination appears to be a ponderous metallic sand, bright & sparkling or specular and apparently iron; I have never found it occurring elsewhere but at these two Jaffets it occurs in abundance about high water mark. About thirty miles out at sea a little to the southward of west from Yorke's cap., there is a very dangerous

reef apparently entirely detached from either the land here or about Cape Naturaliste; it was discovered by the French expedition and named Naturaliste reef; I believe no part of it is above water or even awash but it is clearly defined by the heavy breakers which have hitherto prevented anyone ascertaining the real extent or nature of it, whether volcanic, of coral, or only a continuation or reappearance of the range of hills extending from Cape Leveque to Cape Naturaliste. The Governor saw it from the "Sulphur" man of war and considers it to be of considerable extent from N to S. with very heavy breakers; in all probability, this reef serves as a break water to prevent the whole force of the ocean rolling into Geographe Bay & accounts for the comparative stillness there and absence of sand hills. A township has been formed or at least laid down on the reefs, comprising the southern promontory a part of the north beach at the entrance of Port Lockhart inlet which the Governor named "Bunbury" in compliment to me and it was there that he for a long while intended to establish me with a military post, & I have often regretted that he did not as it would have been a delightful station and an excellent site could have been chosen and there was every facility for building barracks or any other requisite public buildings. - Thus I intended to purchase some land, to build a house & make a nice place for myself, & I could hereafter purchase land & settle on one of the rivers, where the advantages are in my opinion much greater than on the York side of the Darling Range; though perhaps the country is not quite well adapted for sheep; still a considerable number might be kept on the graptolite whinstone hills about the head of the boat naviga-

tion of the Coddie. As the colony prospers I am certain that Port Lockherault⁷⁴ must become a place of importance for the following reasons. First, there is a very good summer anchorage & good shelter near, under Castle Point, against any winds. Secondly, there is boat navigation up two considerable rivers for several miles upon which there is abundance of good land for arable and grazing purposes. Another large river called the "Brunswick" falls into the Coddie about four miles from its mouth, this is also navigable for some distance by boats & higher up it near and in the hills the Governor has found extensive tracts of fine sheep land. Moreover Port Lockherault is the natural outlet for the produce of the extensive grass districts of the "William", the Beaufort, "Cojonup" district &c, through which passes the newly marked road to King George's Sound. In a late journey, in which he traversed much of the country to the westward of "Cojonup" and even approached Port Lockherault, the Governor found a great deal of fine country which only requires to be better known & roads to be marked to become immediately available for settlers. & the outlet for all this country is "Yombonup", from whence large decked boats might carry all the wool, grain, cattle & other productions at a very trifling expense to Fremantle running through the reefs to the southward of Garden Island into Cockburn Sound. These boats might ply with perfect safety from October until the beginning of June & the passage would be very short by taking advantage of the alternate breeze from the eastward by night & south west by day. - Another township called "Macleod" after the Officer formerly stationed on the north beach is laid down at the head of the navigation of the Preston; & a third a larger one at the head of that of the Coddie, which is to be called "Wellington". Thus ample provision is already made for towns in a country where as yet there is not a single

white settlers, & where most of the land assigned is held by absentees, who appear no longer to have any connection with the Colony beyond holding in an unimproved state large tracts of land to the injury of those who intend to be bona fide settlers and of the Colony in general. It is high time that the Government should interfere in these cases & resume grants made to the Mys^r Henty, Latour, & others who have abandoned the Colony. Another evil which requires to be immediately put a stop to, is the power of the Governor to take up land where, and in what manner he likes. At the time he came out in 1829, the New Government ^{gave} him a grant of 100,000 acres of land in the New Colony, in which was included Garden or Ouache Island estimated at 9 or 10,000. He at that time profond with the inaction of Government to take up his land in one block in Geographe Bay, but since he has been constantly changing, and on the discovery of any new a fertile District he has immediately appropriated the best part to himself; thus severely checking enterprise & the spirit of exploring amongst the settlers who could not afford either time or money to discover land for the Governor when they went out to look for what they required themselves. It is a matter of notoriety in the Colony that several individuals after having with much cost & pains examined a portion of land hitherto unexplored, & sending the description & all necessary information to the Surveyor, in their application for the assignment of the land or location order, have received for answer, that the government had taken so many thousand acres at that place so that they could not have it. Thus the matter has gone on from year to year Sir James changing his land so often that the Surveyor Genl. has often told me that he did not know at all where it all was. At the

time I left the Colony, his claims were under the consideration of the Council and he was anxious to return to England so that at length after 8 years & a half there was some chance of a final arrangement being made, much to the advantage of the Colony at large. For a steady practical man with small means a very advantageous settlement might be made for a term of years as Tenant on a portion of the Governor's land; he is a most indulgent landlord and offers very liberal terms to anyone who will settle & improve his farms, but beware of trusting him unless the agreement is made in writing; & properly witnessed, he has a most unfortunate memory and forgets his promises which he does not find it convenient to keep so constantly as to injure his character materially with the Colonists and he changes his mind so constantly, that ^{slightest} reliance can be placed on his word unless you get his handwriting and signature to produce in the event of a dispute. At the same time that I feel bound to state this regarding the character of the Governor as a warning to anyone that may have dealings with him, it is but fair to remark that in my opinion it is owing more to his hasty unguarded disposition & enthusiastic temper than to any want of principle or wilful deceit or misrepresentation. He is sincere in making the promise at the time when he enters warmly into the business in hand and it engrosses his whole attention. Afterwards, other matters occupy his thoughts, his attention and means are directed elsewhere and he finds too late when called upon to perform his promise that he has neither the power or means of fulfilling what he rashly offered in the enthusiasm of the moment, and he is compelled to retract and shuffle out of the business the best way he can, often with very little credit.

One and a half return of Foolscape.	The Revenue Office.
would suggest that a committee, or stewards, be named to conduct the amusements of the day, which would en-	sure regularity and order.
Fees of Offices - - - - -	78 10 0
Judicial Fines - - - - -	49 9 0
Licenses to practise in the Civil Court - - - - -	20 3 4
Warehouse Rent on Spirits in Bond - - - - -	140 16 7
Freight per Colonial Schooner - - - - -	156 16 4½
	3,313 12 0½
CASUAL REVENUE.	
Sale of Crown Lands - - - - -	155 12 6
Sale of Old Stores and Buildings - - - - -	81 19 4
Repayment of Loans - - - - -	1,034 18 6½
	1,272 10 4½
	£4,586. 2 5
Transfer to Colonial Fund from Parliamentary Grant of certain sums paid out of the former in 1834, 1835, and 1836, as enumerated in Warrants 284, 429, 430, and 431, but since made chargeable to the latter - - - - -	628 15 7
Total Amount of Receipts	£5,214 18 0
W. H. ARMSTRONG, PETER BROWN,	Members of Council.
Perth, Western Australia, May 1, 1837.	
STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS MADE BY THE COLONIAL TREASURER ON ACCOUNT OF THE COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, CHARGEABLE ON THE COLONIAL FUND, FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1837.	
HEADS OF SERVICE.	Amount.
SALARIES.	£ s. d.
Treasurer - - - - -	45 12 6
Registrar of Deeds - - - - -	100 0 0
Collector of Revenue - - - - -	200 0 0
Harbour Masters - - - - -	225 0 0
Schoolmasters - - - - -	94 5 4
Gaoler - - - - -	100 0 0
Constables - - - - -	105 0 0
	869 17 10
CONTINGENCIES.	Total
Mounted Police Corps.	£ s. d.
Pay and Allowances of - - - - -	201 6 2
Keep of Horses - - - - -	185 3 10
Confidential Clerk - - - - -	150 0 0
Surveys and Explorations - - - - -	629 18 8½
Roads and Bridges - - - - -	437 5 0
Relief to the Destitute Poor - - - - -	168 10 8
Collection of Revenue and Rent of Bonded Store - - - - -	214 2 8½
Conveyance of Post - - - - -	50 0 0
Administration of Justice - - - - -	426 8 5¾
Institution for the Instruction of the Natives - - - - -	133 12 0
Miscellaneous - - - - -	445 17 8½
	3,042 4 10
Total Amount of Disbursements	£3,912 2 8
W. H. ARMSTRONG, PETER BROWN,	Members of Council.

Quarter of a ream of Foolscap Paper,
one hundred Quills.

Resident, Albany.

Half a ream of Foolscap Paper, to be
delivered on board the Colonial Schooner,
on her return from her present trip.

Fremantle Gaol.

Quarter of a ream of Foolscap Paper,
and a weekly supply of Fire-wood for
one fire-place during the winter months.

The Public Offices, Perth.

A weekly supply of Fire-wood for
three fire-places during the winter
months.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN,
Colonial Secretary.

THE
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
JOURNAL.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1837

—ooo—

Neither conscience nor taste will suffer me to
fight one class or interest against another, for
separate benefit, or to take the narrow ground
of undeviating partisanship.

A QUESTION of some moment has
become the topic of conversation, of late,
arising out of a refusal (as we have un-
derstood) on the part of the Govern-
ment to sanction the Harbour Master at
Fremantle piloting vessels from Gage's
Roads to Cockburn Sound. The good
or bad repute abroad of our anchorage
ground, and the approaches to the har-
bour so much depend upon proper and
skillful management, that we must con-
fess we have felt some surprise one per-
son should be officially interdicted from
rendering so valuable a service, and no
substitute found. Have we not a few
pounds in the colonial chest for so valua-
ble, important, indeed necessary pur-
pose? If any accident should happen,
under these circumstances, we enter our

THE Fremantle ferry is a constant
drain upon the colonial chest, and very
ineffectually supplies the public conve-
nience of transport. During a north-
wester, it is nearly impossible to cross
the river; or, if you accomplish it
accompanied with some danger, cer-
tainty of being well drenched from
the spray which breaks over the boat.
There exists, we believe, but one op-
inion—that the place selected for the
ferry is inappropriate for the purpose;
we hope, therefore, no further expense
will be incurred upon it, but that the
design for the road over the Flats will
not escape notice. By the way, the peti-
tion to His Excellency the Governor on
this subject, has been lying dormant for
some time; and that relating to the land
regulations ought to be presented. An
early day will probably be fixed for this
purpose. It is time these matters were
attended to; they are both of vital im-
portance.

*The road over the flats is not likely to demand so
very many years being too expensive & laborious.*

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MIS-
SIONARY SOCIETY met on Wednesday,
May 29th, 1836, in the lower room at
Exeter-hall. Lord Teignmouth took the
chair. The Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel
addressed the meeting at considerable
length, making a most earnest appeal to
the sympathies of the British public on
behalf of their isolated brethren who
compose this colony.

IN the foregoing extract, which we
have taken from *Bell's New Weekly
Messenger*, we perceive a continuance of
the efforts made in our behalf at home
at the instigation of Major Irwin. How
are we assisting these efforts through
the medium of the Medical Doctor,
nian, the Superintendent of the Mis-
sionary Society? We forbear to answer the
question, from reasons which will be
apparent to the Missionary, and easily

or satisfaction to himself or any other persons concerned. A man of ⁷⁷ active mind, the trifling affairs of the little Colony are insufficient to engross his attention, and he passes his time building chateaux d'ope for the future or trying to apply them to present use when they countle away for want of means to sustain them, and he wastes money in wild visionary projects that might be more usefully applied. The constant removal and change of Stations of the Troops, however annoying to us and injurious to the Service, does not indeed come under this head since the expenditure is from the Commissariat and increases the amount of capital in the Colony; but sums drawn from the scanty Colonial fund and misapplied are of great importance however small the amount. Sir James, probably for ^{the sake of} popularity is unwilling to impose any taxes on the Colonists, so that the only means of raising Revenue is by the duty on Spirits, price of Public House licences & rates of land. The first is the most proper & most common way of raising Revenue in the Colonies, but the duty is here small being I think (but am not certain) 3/- per gallon on British or 4/- on foreign spirits. The total amount of this for the year ending 31st March 1837, was £ 2.253.¹¹ 9. Licences to Retail Spirits came to £ 603.¹⁰ 0. and from other sources £ 2855.¹¹ 9. making altogether the sum of 5214.¹¹ 0. of which however 1901.⁵ 11^{1/2} was purely capital & varying, probably decreasing annually. It will be seen by the annexed abstract published in the gazette that the amount realized by the sale of land in this year was only £ 155.¹² 6. most of which was for town allotments; the mere fact however of the Home Government having put the same price upon land at Swan River, a Colony in its infancy with expensive free labor, that they have in New South Wales a penal colony, with abundance of forced

Quarter of a ream of Foolscap Paper.

labor and established half a century, is sufficient to account for the very limited sale of land and the check that has been given to the progress of this settlement. I am by no means an advocate for distributing land with the unspiring hand that they did formerly but it is evident that no man commencing to settle can afford to purchase land at the present Government price, to a sufficient extent to keep any considerable number of sheep or to embark in the business on a large scale. In the first place the land will not retain a remunerating interest to the money, and although it may be said that this land must eventually become valuable yet I recommend every one to stay in England who is rich enough to sink a considerable sum of money for twenty or thirty years in the hope of its ultimately repaying him very handsomely. A fairer plan would be to have a graduated scale of prices for land according to the circumstances of the colony, so that if the land in Swan River was to be put up at 5/- per acre most of that in New South Wales should be valued at least one pound. - But a better plan for the colony if the government is inclined to support & assist it would be to allow bona fide property belonging to a settler, to be valued by a land board appointed for the purpose, to count as purchase money of land; such property to be applicable solely for the maintenance of the settler on his land, live or dead stock &c and not to be for the purpose of traffic. Thus a small capitalist having let us say but £ 500, might take out some breeding stock, or purchase them on the spot, with ploughs &c, carts, feed corn; & all the numberless articles necessary for a settler which would both purchase & stock his farm. otherwise, if he has to pay 5/- per acre in money, let us say he purchases a section of a square

mile or 640 acres, which is the smallest quantity the Regulations allow, this costs him £160. leaving him but £340 with which to purchase utensils, stock, food for a twelvemonth & besides building a house & paying the wages of one man, without whom he could not get on. Now let us look at how far this money would go at the price of stock as at Swan River in 1837. flour & meat are likely to fall in price but not breeding stock for some years, as there is great & I trust increasing demand for it.. A pair of working Bullocks cost £50 or about that time nearer £60 and no lasting over the hills or other road work can be done with less than two pairs. A pair of horses to plough if of good shape, strong & bony will not cost less than £100 if they can be got so cheap. 70 or even £80 has been given for cart horses of good shape to trud from. Horses are a little cheaper but not much if strong & good workers. Fine woolled Ewes with unbroken mouths cannot be purchased under £3 per head & pure Merinos from £3 " 15 . 0 to £4 . - £5 " 5 . 0 was given for a lot of very small but very fine fleeced imported from England in 1836. the whole of which were afterwards lost in the bark on the upper river & eaten by the natives. As I have before mentioned I have seen wheat in less than nine months rise in price from 5/- to 2/- per bushel; for such calamities the new settler must be prepared by not laying out all his means at once in land or stock but must keep some money for these dear times. It was by neglecting this that so many settlers failed at first; they obtained land in right of certain descriptions of property but not of money, anxious to become landed proprietors they turned all their capital into stock, utensils, furniture &c & they exhausted their stock of provisions, before they got any return from their land, often before they knew where their land was to be found, and then

being without money they bartered away their valuable property at a
various sacrifice in exchange for the necessaries of life. A last well
cost the settler above £20. a plough some 5 to 7; then come a harrow,
cart harness, smaller tools of all kinds entailing endless expense,
without counting the erection of a house, outbuildings, barn &c, or
the wages & keep of a laborer, who ^{in no} case will cost less than £65
for the year or near £70. Then his own living may be estimated at
16/- a week or £11 12 " 0 for the year without any family. Thus when
one enters into the various items of expence incurred in the comple-
ment of a settlers career one finds a considerable sum of money in-
dispensable, and however determined to struggle on and succeed a
man is very unwise to embark his whole capital at once in the spe-
culation; a sum however small becoming yearly available from
home, unaffected by the seasons or prices of Swan River will often
keep a settlers head above water when he would otherwise be thrown
into the market at a ruinous loss, we consequently see those officers
who have retained their half pay in better circumstances than their
brethren who rashly embarked the whole amount arising from the
sale of their commission at once leaving nothing to fall back upon.
The plan I propose of allowing the property of a settler to entitle
him to land should of course be only applicable to a certain extent
say one half or one third of the purchase money, since the funds
arising from the sale of land, are available and necessary for
Government purposes. In Swan River these funds are reckoned
in the Colonial revenue and can be appropriated to meet the
general expences, but in New South Wales & Van Diemens Land
they are appropriated solely to defay the expence of sending out

free Emigrants of both sexes. - Thus although the amount of land sales would be for a time diminished yet a stimulus & encouragement would be given to the Colony which is much required; and a premium would be offered for the importation of the best breeds of cattle since it would not be worth while to import bad stock, the expence of all being the same. The settler would of course be called upon to bind himself to expend a considerable sum on the land as well as to reside upon it himself or at least establish a farm for a certain term of years; the Magistrates of the District to take care that the Regulations on the subject be strictly complied with. At present I am sorry to say that too great latitude is allowed & the Regulations are not strictly acted up to. A settler who took land under the rules of 1829 got one acre for every £6 worth of property he produced to the board, but he could not get the fee simple until it appeared that he had actually expended that amount on the land. Two Magistrates value the buildings, Stock cleared & ploughed land & other improvements & generally much too high above the real value, enabling a settler to get a title to his land with too great ease, & it is a common thing for small settlers with some stock to do the location duties for several grants one after the other, abandoning them to their original wild state directly the fee simple was obtained. - However perhaps the most simple & fair plan for disposing of the land would be a board in England fixing a price in each Colony according to its means, acquiring from the Governors & other official sources all the information necessary for them to decide impartially, & to give every Colony an equally fair chance of getting on, instead of giving every advantage to one at the expence & to the ruin of others possessing equal natural

Quarter of a realm of Enoiscan Empire

capabilities. - Having described the Inlet, & South Head or township of "Bunbury", it is high time I should proceed on my journey but first I say a few words about the north beach or point. It is narrow and of course principally sandy, but there are many fertile little hollows & even flats of some extent, with springs of water & well adapted for gardens. Some way up the Estuary, nearly opposite the mouth of the Collier, there is a remarkably fine spring where the water is not at all brackish and the last time I was there I cleaned it out to a good size & made an excellent well from whence a boat which can approach very near can fill her breakers with ease. Near this there is an extraordinary gap in the sand hills right across the point; it has the appearance of being formed by a breach of the sea in a gale but on nearer examination one finds that the wind blowing heavily from the westward has gradually drifted all the sand which is loose & fine from the outer side in upon the Estuary down to which there is a very steep slope of bare drift sand. All the sea breezes & winter gales keep on adding to this loose mass and of course as the gap becomes deeper on the seaward side it forms a more regular channel for a current of air which carries along with it the sand from the beach, heaping it up on the inner side where the declivity is as steep as the sand will lie without sliding down. In these gaps one finds curious half fossil remains which I have read occur also on part of the African coast: they are incrustations of the creeping plants which grow upon the sand hills near the sea, which when buried under the constantly drifting sand, are soon covered over and a mixed sand & lime, or rather the sand is cemented together by the lime when it finds anything, like these plants, to adhere to & prevent it from shifting with the rest. This at least is the idea I formed from an examination of a number of these creeping calcareous branches most of which are hollow & agree exactly in form & growth with the creepers on the

rough bowering hills, and in many places I could actually see the process⁸³ going forward as the plants became buried in the sand. Then are those of these sand gaps on the north beach & from the opposite side of the Estuary their appearance is very remarkable, the sand being of a very pale yellow, clear & bright & ones first impression is that the surf from the sea has thrown the mass over to the Estuary side of the Point but they are in fact far out of reach of the sea. - I slept on board the schooner after fishing our way down the Inlet and the next morning Dec. 22nd we explored various places along the Estuary along shore & in the boats, & succeeded in capturing six swans with the long boat, but it was desperately hard work with such a heavy bad pulling boat. It is a singular fact that during the greater part of the year, that is, all but three or four of the winter months Black swans may be taken that cannot fly, either young ones whose quill feathers have not grown, or older ones moulting. Amongst the thousands swimming upon the surface of the Estuary an experienced eye can detect a moulter at a great distance, as he swims lower in the water, with his head advanced & tail cocked up higher than those which can fly; but they also often give one a long chase if one is deceived as they swim a very great distance before getting on the wing, especially a solitary bird. They swim with great strength & rapidity especially in rough water against the wind. When a boat has no chance with them, a smooth warm day is best to hunt them in but it is very hard work & the chase is often long as moulters although they cannot fly, flap along the water with their wings a foot for a considerable distance leaving the boat far behind just when we thought ourselves sure of our prey. They also double very ~~quickly~~^{quicks} when closely pursued & we lose ground in turning a boat with full way upon her. The down of the black swans is very close, white & beautiful & makes very nice

LADIES TIPPLES, BOAS &c; & we eat the flesh whenever we can get it⁸⁴ but it requires to be very much roasted to get rid of the oiliness otherwise it is rank & fishy. I left the Governor & his party in the afternoon at the will I had slept at on my way to the Vape & while he returned on board I proceeded on my homeward route. I did not however get above six miles on, that is about three from the Estuary, as "Hiro" killed a very large Yerent too big to carry for & too good for "Monang" to leave, so native fashion we carried it to a small swamp near where we could get water & sat down to eat it although it was not yet time to halt. He had quite an "embarras de richesses", i.e. too much to eat; not a common complaint in the Australian Bush; having two swans besides this immense Kangaroo weighing about 90lb.- Having made our fire Monang commenced operations; I gave him leave to eat as much as he pleased ^{told him} and to make haste as I would carry none for him the next day. After feeding Hiro and reserving some for his breakfast, Monang had a grand repast and certainly he eat more in twelve hours than I thought it possible for a human being to hold. In about an hour he complained of being "Obel mendag" although he said he had only "tittle bit nalgos". which I found to be one entire hind leg which would have lasted me about four days; after this he went to sleep but renewed his attacks repeatedly during the night having constantly some portion roasting on the fire. In the morning he only carried with him the tail weighing about 9lb. for his dinner. He was in high glee, being, what is the height of a Native's happiness "moorat" or full belly, as they call it. I got away from my camp at a very early hour having a very long days journey before me to Coljinup at the south end of the great Murray Estuary, I decided

upon going this way to vary my route and to examine the mouth of⁸⁵
the Harvey, & to decide whether there really existed a great southern
River besides the Harvey: such had been for a long time the report
in the Colony but though I considered I had already set the
matter at rest by crossing obliquely from Ginginup to Port Leach,
nauft, passing over only one river on the road, yet the Governor
seemed so convinced of the existence of another stream, that I was
determined to have no doubt on the subject. I now trusted entirely
to Monangs guidance as he knew the best country to travel through,
a great point where there was much broken scrubby ground to
be met with which delays one with horses. It is extremely difficult
or next to impossible to form any very close idea of ones course by
compass when under the guidance of a Native, for he turns and
twists about; breaking off at every trifling obstacle and choosing the
smoothest places although considerably out of his course; a fallen tree
or prickly bush is sufficient to change his direction materially, and
from what I have seen of their travelling, after watching them care-
fully in many journeys I feel certain that they depend entirely upon
their knowledge of the localities, which their quickness and correct-
ness of sight enables them to recognize immediately if they have
once seen them; and that they do not steer at all by the sun, as
we do; although they calculate pretty exactly its progress, being able
to tell correctly that they will reach such a place when the sun
is in such a place pointing to the place where it will be. When
beyond their knowledge & in strange bush they appear perfectly
bewildered & I think could only find their way home by following
the outward tracks. We at first kept a little to the eastward of
north through a poor country, partly covered with white Gums, and

partly with Mahogany, Banksia &c, the travelling was good as ⁸⁶ there
was but little scrub & we advanced rapidly; after a time we in-
dined more to the right going N to NW along an open country
broken into hills & hollows with but little timber & that all of
the coast white gum, twisted & stunted, showing our proximity to
the sea, although similar ranges on the left prevented our
getting sight of it. We had through this country a good deal of
rough travelling, the limestone appearing on the surface in rough
points & lumps, painful to us & the horses. Having here dug up
for me some red bulbous roots the name of which I have forgotten,
in size & shape they are not unlike tulip roots but of a light char-
red colour & formed of distinct layers one above the other & all of
the same color. the leaves are very long & narrow, but only two on
three of them & I have never seen the flower; roasted they are meaty
& very nice but when raw they are too pungent & biting, although
crisp & with an agreeable flavor. After pursuing our course along
this open hills or coast downs for several miles we kept a little
more inland to avoid the stones and got amongst Mahogany ^{sandy} hills
with very thick & large timber. We travelled on most persever-
ingly although both we & the horses began to feel great want
of rest & water, the day being very hot; until about half past
twelve we got sight of Mount William to ~~our~~ ^{our} great joy,
as he seemed doubtful of his course but he now declared a
large lagoon to be near, supplying water & food for the horses; we
inclined a little more to the right & descending the eastern or in-
land side of the wooded hills we soon came upon the border of
an extensive swamp or lagoon full of rushes & water; of great
length & probably a mile across. It was evidently one of a long

chain as we could see openings for a long distance to the right and left. I imagined at first that the Narrey flowed through it but Monau said no that it ran on the other side of it but not far & also through impenetrable swamps. - There was but little real grass here but at this season plenty of green stuff for hungry horses as good as was generally to be met with in this part of the country where grass is a very scarce production. - We made but a short halt here as Monau said it was necessary to proceed again very soon to reach Collierup before dark; so as soon as the horses seemed tolerably full we resaddled & continued to the northward along the slope of the sandy hills having a constant chain of pools, swamps & lagoons on the right; after a time we lost sight of these and emerged from the forest onto an extensive low plain destitute of timber but covered with low scrub & some bushes in places, from a thicket of which we disturbed two Emus which led Hero a long chase; he lost time scenting them in the thicket at first so that they had a long start; he nearly overtook them in the first half mile after which they gradually distanced him and he at length gave up the pursuit being foot sore & weary with his long journey. For the first mile an Emu does not run particularly fast & a good dog has the speed of them, but after that no dog has a chance their pace increases as they proceed and unlike the Kangaroo they do not flag after three or four miles but continue the race for hours, the Natives have often told me they will not stop before the evening, but when once under weigh, & frightened run far away, though at first they have a decided tendency like the Mare to run in a circle. They carry their heads low & projecting to the front; their legs are well

thrown forward, & the constant motion of their little pinions and thick mass of rustling feathers, if so they can be called, appears to assist their speed when they once get fairly off but they star slowly. Their usual stride when pursued is as near as possible nine feet & very regular as I have measured them repeatedly when tracking them or my dogs & have scarcely found any variation. The flesh varies much in different seasons & according to the age of the bird I have tasted it very good, with a high flavor & tender & at other times it is strong oily & tough; there is a great deal of fat in the inside & about the rump but none in the breast or legs; which are not usually good eating. The rump, hung up for some days and roasted is the best part & is not unlike beef, with veins of fat in the same way and similar in color. - after crossing this plain which was of tedious extent and although dry now, evidently flooded in winter, we crossed a narrow belt of timber, & came again upon a similar plain of smaller size. On our right through this flat country was evidently a low moist district heavily timbered with much swamp & tea tree. Monang pointed out about the course of the Murray & also described a ford the situation of which he pointed out, but said it was deep & the boogies bad for the horses. On our left there appeared to be a belt of swamp separating the plain from a range of sandy limestone hills covered with Mahogany & coast white gum, which extends not only along here but further north between the sea & the Murray Estuary past Cape Bonnard to the south head of the Murray opposite Peel Town. We rapidly traversed these plains as the travelling was good & the sun getting low, pointed out the necessity for hastening forward to the traps & water which

Morang as plentiful at Colijinup. We at length re-entered the ⁸⁹ woods, when the vicinity of a river was immediately evident from the soil, trees & bushes growing upon it; a particular sand with stink wood in abundance are sure indications of water being near as well as the flooded gum. I found the Harvey a considerable river here, quite salt and navigable for boats being deep & not much impeded by fallen timber: its course exceedingly winding & tortuous more so than ^{any} other River I know making sudden short turns in all directions. Inclining to the left to keep clear of its sinuosities we soon came to a chain of fresh pools coming from a little to the westward of south, that is from between us & the coast. We crossed between two of them and encamped on the right bank under an old wide spreading Peppermint tree, the largest & handsomest I ever saw, with its long slender boughs & twigs drooping gracefully all around, while a bed of dry grass at its roots seemed intended expressly as a halting place & formed a most comfortable bivouac. The natives call the place Djinjin which name I have given to the chain of pools which are evidently of ^{no} great extent but probably form the outlet for the water from the line of swamp I mentioned on the left a the drain of the eastern slope of the coast range ^{of hills}: I had here plenty of grass for the horses who were thoroughly tired with their days work, as indeed we all were having made a march of above thirty miles in an extremely hot day & through much rough country with scrub which not only pricks one legs but obliges one to lift them so high as to fatigue one much in a long journey. Ducks were very plentiful in the Harvey which was here very close to my camp, but my

shot having been all expended at Port Deschenault, they swam in
peace close by me. While the Swan was cooking for supper, Monang
& I walked down to the Estuary beach, which was not visible from
camp although not a quarter of a mile distant. As I reached it
the sun was dipping behind the hills on the left, that is to the
westward between the Estuary & sea, & the view for so perfectly
flat a country was extremely beautiful. The warm bright glow of
a summer's evening giving rich purple & crimson tints to the other-
wise gloomy forest. Numerous little islets were scattered about the
end of the Estuary & a rather larger one in the distance stood out
in dark relief from the smooth silvery surface of the water, un-
ruffled by the slightest breeze; but disturbed here & there by
the movement of flocks of water fowl which at this hour approach
the shore to feed, numerous Pelicans, some floating sluggishly on
the water & others standing in formal rows along the edge, con-
trasted strongly from their pure white color, with the Swans which
were gradually in small groups quitting the Estuary to feed in
the various lagoons & extensive swamps during the night, and
with the numerous Shags of two kinds which came flying in from
seaward, either singly or in flocks to roost on the trees, overhanging
the river; where they congregate at night & from what I have seen
of their habits, apparently always on the same tree. The larger
kind is all black or dark slate green much like our Cormorant
but without the long crest of feathers depending from the head
the other kind is about two thirds the size, with a brown mark
extending from the beak past the eye, & with white throat, breast
and belly; this is the most numerous kind and abounds round
all the coast I am acquainted with in the temperate parts of
New Holland, & I have even found them high up rivers and in

fresh water pools & swamps. When skinned & soaked for twelve hours
in salt water it makes very good soap (for want of better) and
was a valuable resource to me at Eagle Hawk Neck where fresh
meat was scarce. - The southern end of the Estuary is very shallow
& now the dry sand extended nearly half a mile out as far as
some of the small islets which are dignified in the map with the
name of the Brunswick Islands; those near the shore are very small
& low, covered with tea tree & other bushes; the distant & largest
one, apparently standing in the very centre of the Estuary can be
approached as Monang told me from the east shore at low water by
wading, & is the resort of many birds & tortoises. At some distance
on the west shore we could see a column of smoke rising slowly
& straight into the still air, indicating the presence of Natives
whose tracks we also found on the sand; when we returned to our
camp, not wishing to attract their attention; as although we were
within the territory of the Murray tribes; and close to the land of
Calgate, Monangs father, we did not wish to meet him or any
of his neighbours, some of whom we had heard cooee, i.e. shouting
during the afternoon; we therefore kept the smoke of our fire
within due bounds. Calgate is a fine savage looking old man
with long waving grey hair & beard, who evidently both claims
& exerts some authority amongst the Murray tribe that is,
the inhabitants of the borders of the Estuary. He has always
shown himself hostile to the white men, & although afraid since
the affair at Pinjarra in 1834. to show his enmity in the settle-
ments, he is not at all to be trusted in the bush if an oppor-
tunity of revenge offered itself. He often comes with his tribe
to Mandurup or Peel Town, where he gives himself great airs
and upon fair a policy is well received & fed by Mr Pels. His proper

territory or boogia extends along the west shore between the Estuary & the sea, but not so far as Djinjin though it was probably his fire we saw: he had not however cooped at Colyemup as Monang searched in vain for his foot marks; & showed not the least desire to see his Father after his journey; but on the contrary much anxiety to avoid him saying he was "no good, & talky plenty". He has however some regard for his old mother to whom I have often known him give the money & clothes he got from me. On a subsequent occasion I ascertained that although Calyute had no objection to his son going a short journey with me, as it gave him importance in the tribe seeing new country & strange Natives; yet he did not at all approve of his remaining long with me or any other white man, & sent for him several times to Rijamp, a summons he was reluctantly obliged to obey; and afterwards when Monang came down to stay with me at the Vape. Calyute sent us word by Wamban that if Monang did not immediately return to the Murray, he would spear him and me too the first opportunity; a threat he would most assuredly carry into effect if he could; but the hint was sufficient for his dutiful son. - We made a hearty supper of the swan under the shade of the magnificent Peppermint tree & Monang finished ^{Kangaroo} his tail which would otherwise have walked off, so rapidly do the flies destroy meat at this season, when they can obtain an entrance, the only way to keep the swan having been to tie the neck very tight to prevent the maggots from passing down the throat. Just as we were dropping off to sleep, a slight crackling in the bush attracted Monangs attention who whispered in a hurried tone as he seized his spear. "Black fellow quibble walk." I laid hold of my gun instantly & awakened Roro, who was sleeping by my side; but after rousing himself & looking round

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hunly, he returned to his lair, which reasured us, although Monang declared for some minutes, he was sure he heard a Native skipping his spear; i.e. fixing it in his Mero. He called aloud several times saying who we were; & that we belonged to the Murray, were friends, & must not be speared. The noise must have been caused by a Kangaroo Rat or Bandicoot breaking a dry stick in passing as it proved a false alarm; but the following anecdote will shew the keen sense of hearing of the Natives; & the advantage of having one with one travelling. In February 1837. I was ordered to send two soldiers to escort Mr Dayman with some cattle across the country from Pinjarup to the Vasse; they were to follow my old track, of the journey above related, as near as they could, and I therefore sent as one of the men, Allison, who had been with me; was a good bushman & much liked by the Natives. Finding Dayman was a very bad helptless hand in the bush I looked out for a Native to shew the way to Gombonup & assist them: Monang refused to go without me, & no other Pinjarup man would at first undertake it unles I went but at length, finding Allison & Keegan were the men selected, two Natives, Denma & Wumbar (commonly called Jim) agreed to go with them as I was to follow in a few days. Denma is a very large stout young man, growly rapidly fat in the employment of the Pinjarup settlers, oakley & Bugleps with whom he principally lives. He is the very best disposed Native I know, active willing & obliging, with a great deal of fun about him and less indolent & greedy than most. Wumbar is a little thick set fellow rather older than Denma with some beard and whiskers which the other has not; but is a lazy lying rascal tho' not by any means sulky or violent in his temper: I wondered

at his offering to go, but seeing strange tribes of which they had ⁹⁴ heard a great deal from Mouang was a great inducement, and two being together they were less afraid. Well, they went & I afterwards heard from Deema & also from the soldiers, that one night which was very dark being encamped on a brook a little way to the northward of the Papel; they were all sitting round the fire talking & smoking about nine o'clock, when Deema suddenly jumped up from the ground exclaiming that blackfellows were going to spear them: he slipped his spear & threw it in the direction he heard the noise; calling out to the intruders with perfect good humor & self-possession to return in the morning & he would fight them but not to come & kill them in the dark. In the mean time one of the party had discharged a gun at random into the air, when they distinctly heard some one run off stumbling over the scrub & then falling into the brook, to Deemas great amusement who kept shouting to them in derision. In the morning they found the tracks of two men close up to their camp, & the spears & rifles they had dropt in their hasty retreat. If it had not been for the quick ears of Deema it is probable, that one or two of the party would have been killed by their unseasonies as the fire round which they were sitting rendered them too distinctly visible. This is the only instance I know of a night attack by strange natives of distant tribes, as although on the Swan they will steal from gardens or rob barns by night, I think they have learnt from us to overcome their fear of darkness. It seems strange that two men should attempt to attack four white men & two natives, they might perhaps hope to injure two or three with their spears unseen in the darkness; but it cannot for a moment be supposed that

they approached with a friendly object, since they never spoke or gave voluntary evidence of their approach; & they invariably either by day or night in communicating with strangers use a great deal of caution cooing to announce their coming & advancing under the shelter of trees to avoid spears treacherously thrown; it may safely be taken as a rule that if their object is friendly they give due notice of their approach. It is not difficult to surprise them at night or early in the morning as they are very heavy sound sleepers. Having had some experience amongst them I can say that from about 10 o'clock PM they sleep so soundly that they may be approached within a few yards until about 3 o'clock or an hour before daylight when it is always cold & their fins being very low they wake to make them up & lie closer to them, & again drop asleep when they will not willingly move until the sun is well up & the dew off the grass if the weather is cold. Of course circumstances occur when they are on foot with the dawn of day, but this is from hunger, on a journey, or in case of necessity, but willingly they do not stir early. The last time I was at Port Deschanel on my way from the Cape to Perth, I left the camp at the Boston ford very early & reached the border of the Estuary about five minutes after sunrise, I there found myself just in rear of a double line of comfortable bark huts about fourteen in number, with thick smoke curling up from before each, showing that their fires had been well renewed, but none of the inmates were stirring & very slight too as it was a cold raw morning with heavy hoar frost late in May. I halted & cooed to announce my approach but was unheeded & I repeated it several times as I advanced, at length when within ten paces of the rear line of huts, I gave a loud shout

and in an instant at least thirty men sprung to their feet with their ⁹⁶ spears shipped and presented at me, and uttering wild and savage cries, while away scuttled the women & children in the opposite direction into the thick bush with great speed and address. The name however of Bunbury passed rapidly from mouth to mouth and throwing down their spears the men all came forward to greet me, but I did not find among them, much to my annoyance, the young men I wanted, as I intended to take one or two up to Perth with me, & the elderly men who with their families formed this party were very urgent in their applications for bread of which I had not a morsel to spare being in very light marching order. — It is evident to me that much may be done with the natives by uniform kind treatment; and this has been clearly shewn in several instances in their reception of myself; but it is attended with great expence, much more than a poor settler can afford; who moreover would be liable to feel the inconvenience of encouraging them about him, having a fixed habitation, much more than I did in a bush hut, surrounded by a detachment near whom they dare not take liberties. In my interviews with the natives I always endeavoured to explain my reason for not giving them food when I had it; thus on this occasion I pointed out to them that I was going to Pinjamp, that there were three of us & we should have bidja coojal on the road & if we gave them our bread now we should have nothing ourselves the next day: this however is an argument only understood by the most civilized amongst them, in general they have no idea of saving food, but trust to Providence for the morrow, but

I succeeded in making Deuma & Monang understand not only that but also that the Soldiers & I had not an unlimited supply of flour, but received a daily allowance, and if we gave this to them we must ourselves go without. My name became so well known amongst the Natives from my residence first at Pinjarup, then at the Vape & constant journeys to & fro by Port Lechenault that I derived much ~~added~~ ^{real} benefit from their assistance rendered solely in consequence of the good name I had got amongst those who knew me; of which I had another example in the last mentioned journey in May. After leaving Port Lechenault I had taken a new route to examine the country at the base of the hills to ascertain how many streams there were & if there was any quantity of good land in that direction. On the second day from Gon-bonup I had got bogged amongst swamps & numerous brooks crossing my tracks, many of which were impassable for horses. After losing half a day in vain attempts to get out again into the flat country, I decided on striking into the mountains where I well knew the streams would be easily crossed. I had not however ascended the first range when I heard Natives at no great distance to whom I shouted; to the great terror of Holgot a Vape Native whom I had with me. In answer I heard voices in various directions showing that the natives were numerous & scattered about searching for food. I tried to get Holgot to talk to them but in vain, he kept behind me shaking and almost paralyzed with fear. Jumping off my horse I laid down my gun and advanced towards where the strangers were standing behind trees, watching us & afraid to approach.

a Wolgot immediately scrambled into the saddle where he somewhat ⁹⁸ recovered his composure though he kept entreating me not to go near the strangers as they would spear me. I soon halted and held up my hand in token of amity & to show I was unarmed, and told them I was Bunbury who had a mba at Pinjarrup. Upon this the whole party soon collected about us when I introduced them to Wolgot as a native from the Sonnerup Dorbal and to Parker the soldier; they embraced Wolgot to show their friendship & took his cloak & hammer giving him much work in exchange. a favorite way with them of showing their love for new comers. These partings with strangers are always rather long since like Yankees they insist upon knowing where you come from, where you are going, the names of the party, & of all Natives you have met on the road, before they will stir to assist you. Consequently I had a good smoke while these particulars were entered into after which I prevailed upon two of the men to show us a way across the brooks to Pinjarrup, and we proceeded after many attempts on the part of both men & women to claim relationship with my friends Monang & Denma for the purpose of exciting my charity; but that begins at home especially in the bush and I had hardly bread enough for myself for the day and it was evident we could not reach Pinjarrup until very late if at all. Although not one of these Natives who were entirely a hill tribe had been at Pinjarrup during my residence there or had ever seen me; yet nothing could be more friendly than their reception; & they constantly repeated that Bunbury & the soldiers at Pinjarrup were quabba & gave the black-fellows manne boola. Having bargained to receive bread on

their arrival and leaving their cloaks with their women, our two new guides at length led the way. This I imagine was a cunning way of avoiding making a disadvantageous exchange with the Murray Natives or in hopes of exciting their compassion to give them cloaks, knowing that Kangaroo skins were plentiful at Oakley Mia. This was even worse than a common Colonial habit of exchanging a bad shirt for a good one which is thus done. A gentleman travelling finds it inconvenient to carry much linen consequently it is an established custom when one stops at a house to get a clean shirt from the Host, leaving ones own in lieu of it. Thus a knowing hand takes a bad one of his own & if his Host is soft or careless, he selects the best he can find & gradually in this way obtains a good though miscellaneous kit. - There are tricks in all trades, I have not been through the penal colonies for nothing. But I must return to Dinjin where I was left going to asleep after a false alarm. In the morning of the 24th we got away at 6 o'clock and passing out upon the sandy border of the Estuary crossed the mouth of the Dinjin Ponds, where the sand apparently hard proved treacherous & quick, and it was not without great fatigue and difficulty that the horses floundered through it: this made us cautious & Norang tried the passage of the Murray ⁱⁿ several places before he was satisfied of the soundness of the bottom: at length he crossed a good way out in the Estuary without obstacle. It is a good rule to follow; that the safest place to cross one of these bar rivers is as far out as the water is shoal; the further out the firmer the bottom, near in although the water is shallow.

there is either mud or quick sand. From hence we followed the edge of the Estuary about two miles when we turned off on the right bank of a very small brook when we found a pool of tolerable though brackish water. I forgot to mention that from Colverinup, Mount William showed to great advantage, bearing I think S.E by S. but I have lost my book of distances & bearings since or rather before it with many other things at the Repe. We had a very rapid but tiresome march of five hours & a half to Pinjarup through a thick low country; the soil in places good but varying in character & quality, sometimes sandy with scrub & tall Blackbox or Kingia, a never failing sign of excavable land, sometimes clay plains thick with bushes & grass trees but bare of timber, & sometimes rich low land with immense Red Gums; in other places Tea tree swamps then Mahogany land and in short all the varieties of soil occurring on the east side of the hills. - About nine miles from Pinjarup we fell in with a party of our own Natives mucking Muughites, viz. Weewa. Dolong, Cavinja, Nunjara, Wamban & others, when we were received with shouts of joy and inquiries were the questions asked of Monang concerning the strange country he had seen, and it was evident he had acquired importance in the tribe by having travelled further than any of them. I was very glad to reach home about half past eleven on Christmas Eve but was too tired to seek any Kangaroos or other game for my Christmas dinner and therefore contented myself as I had done the preceding year at Taigh Hawk Neck with a piece of Salt Pork. Christmas day in 1837. I dined with the Chapman's at the Isle of France & where I shall dine next Christmas who can tell. —

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Having thus brought to a conclusion my first journey to the Cape ¹⁰¹ in December 1836. I may as well say a few words concerning the Murray District, which would ere this have been the resort of many settlers, had not Mr. Sels grant taken up all the available land on the right bank of the River. - The identity of this with the Nothan on the east side of the mountains was ascertained by me in October 1836. when I visited Mount William and coming upon the left bank a few miles to the southeastward of the mountain I followed its course as far as Mount Saddleback, within a few miles of where Mr. Hillman had formerly traced it to, from whence I crossed to the Williams which is a tributary of the Nothan or Murray joining it not far to the westward of the Saddleback. after winding much through the mountains it issues into the level country at a place about ten miles south east from Pejarrup where some land is reserved for a future township; there is no great quantity of fertile land about it but is well adapted for the establishment of water mills, for sawing or grinding. A powerful stream flows down this river in winter and so late as the end of November: at no time in the summer have I seen it cease to run and the pools are large & deep. The Swan or Avon does not run much after the end of October, I have seen it cease even in September in York though it never begins to run until late in August, but in the Swan country the water from the hills kept it flowing rather later. The Murray is evidently the greater stream of the two but its tributaries are far from numerous; from the place of its issue from the hills no water joins it from the southward at all, & on the other side only the Dandup, & a few little winter hill brooks. The water at Pejarrup is at all seasons sweet & good. This township is situated on the left bank at the head of the navigation.

a for boats, which by land via Djinjam, & Colanup is rather more than ¹⁰² twelve miles to Port Town and by water nearly thirty owing to the sinuosities of the River. - Mr Pals land terminates at Pinjarup close to the ford at the southern extremity of the town; that is his southern boundary or east & west line, leaves the river here and goes away to the hills. While his northern boundary terminates at the beach in Cockburn Sound about half a mile north of Clarence or 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. S. from Fremantle. Oakley & Buglays, two old servants of Pals have got from him for their services 500 acres of land commencing at the ford, or southern boundary & coming down the river to about opposite the Barracks. - They have not any or very little alluvial flat, but all their frontage on the bank is good strong land for wheat, requiring considerable labor & expence to clear but amply repaying it in the crops. This land is heavily timbered with immense Red & Blue Gums, with an infinite quantity of Blackboy & dwarf grape tree which is particularly troublesome to grub out. A good dwelling house of split red gum slabs the interstices filled with clay, & well thatched with grape tree tops has been erected as well as a good barn of rammed earth; and a more substantial stock yard with red gum posts, four rails, and upright palings; along one side and end runs a comfortable line of sheds for the cattle who thrive uncommonly here and continue fat throughout the summer and have hitherto not been subject to the internal diseases which have carried off many every year in the York country, when I think the vegetation becomes much too dry to suit cattle who get diseased kidneys for want of moisture in their food. On the other hand the goats have been found to die at Pinjarup on the setting in of the wet weather; when Oakley lost most of his last year without being able to ascertain the cause; they died in a short time without

losing flesh or otherwise showing disease. - This is the only farm in ¹⁰⁵ this immediate neighbourhood; though the land on both sides of the River is apnied to various people so far as the hills yet none of it is settled upon. On the opposite side of the Murray about two hundred yards lower down is the Military Barrack, built on a high bank overlooking the River, it is a small slabbed building capable of containing about twelve men but only five or six are stationed there. About two hundred yards higher up is a projecting point of the bank close above the River which here winds very much, and forms a considerable grassy flat upon each side; in front is a kind of low island separating this part from oakleys under whom house a rude bridge has been formed by felling a large blue gum across the River; the island is covered with rich grass with many large trees encumbered with elegant pendent creepers.. On the point of the bank was my residence & a most beautifully picturesque spot it was. The River underneath was visible both coming on the right & flowing away under the dark trees on the left. In front I had just a glimpse of oakleys house through the trees while beyond the different groups of large Red Gums had a perfectly park like appearance while the Darling Range, blue by day & purple in the evening closed the view to the eastward. I cleared the flats on my right & left of the stink wood & broom bushes, leaving underneath a thick sward of luxuriant grass varying in richness of color with an English meadow, there my horses fed at liberty. The bank on either side was picturesque from its amphitheatrical form & the groups of stately red gums & rich leaved Banksia Gigantia with its long cones & bunches of pale yellow blossoms. Behind my

but grew a few large Mahogany trees & Red Gums while beyond if I had continued to clear I could command a view through a fine clear country studded with groups of large trees underneath which grew a green covering to the ground looking like grass to the casual observer. I fixed upon this spot to build a house, as convenient in situation & particularly picturesque when in company with the Governor in October 1836. I pointed out how much land I wished to have included. This he promised should be marked off for me & he ordered the township to be surveyed, when I intended to purchase this beautiful spot. However when my the a surveyor was sent by Mr Roe, his instructions from him compelled him to lay out this part of the town in small allotments of four acres each; the quantity I required was about 12 acres to upon which destroyed the whole thing, & to purchase it I should have been compelled to pay £1 per acre besides boarding myself by the Regulations to build a house & fence each allotment and make buildings & improvements to the amount of £200 upon each. This of course I could not do & disgusted with Mr Roe's evident attempt to annoy me I refused to purchase any, or build a house at all, & lived all the time I was there in a little V. rush hut. As there were to be many large allotments laid out in the town, they might just as well have met my views by letting me purchase one, upon which I intended to build & to make a nice place for which there were great facilities; cut up into small portions it is worth nothing. About three miles below Oakleys house a considerable river the Dandarup joins the Murray from the eastward and near the junction on all sides there is an extensive tract of rich valuable grazing

land lightly timbered with magnificent trees, principally Red
a Blue Gum. - I do not know in the Colony a finer site for an ex-¹⁰⁵
tensive & grazing farm than the corner between the Murray
& Dandilup near St. Ives. Our usual ford over the Dandilup
is about a mile above the junction where all the good land is on
the south side: there are extensive meadows of the richest grass.
The first time I was there, in company with the Governor Mr. Pel
as we halted for midday rest at a swamp within a quarter
of a mile of this part of the River where there was no grass and
very bad water; & the owner of the soil was totally ignorant of this
magnificent land until then, when it was found with small thanks
to him, for on our coming to the bank of the River after luncheon
he did not know whether it was the Murray or Dandilup until
told by Gybra his native who showed us the ford which at that
time was waist deep for me and very rapid, so much so that I
could not cross without a stick to leeward to stem the stream
with. In the very end of summer it scarcely runs but the pools
are always full & sweet. I do not think from what I saw
in my casual visits when hunting that there is much good land
high up this River towards the mountains. I believe it has its
rise in the Darling Range & does not like the Murray come from
far east. This is the only River I know that is a tributary of
the Murray on the coast side of the hills, as the repetitive only
falls into the Estuary at Colanup or Clare & has no communica-
tion higher up. About four miles & a half below the Barracks
on the same side of the River is a small but flourishing farm
belonging to a lawyer named Brown but let to laboring men who
have no stock & only a pair of ponies for ploughing; the grant,

believe consists of only about 2000 acres, but the greater part of it good arable land & well adapted for the cultivation of grain from the convenience of water carriage, the Murray being wide & deep here, the principal obstacle is at Colane, which by the by I believe is a general & not particular name since I heard it used at Goomboolup for a similar place: the debouche of rivers into an Estuary over flats which are fordable & particularly attractive to the Natives from the quantity of mullet & coblers which frequent them: however this is known to us, ¹⁰⁸ par excellence, by the name of Colane where no less than seven mouths of rivers debouch eat within a mile of each other. Then however all belong to either the Murray, Serpentine & Canning which is rather an insignificant chain of swampy pools along the coast than a River. The Serpentine runs west from the mountains about midway between the Dandarup & Canning, that is, about fifteen miles from each & honest miles they are: some people call them near twenty five. In the two or three places I have crossed the Serpentine I met with no flats of any extent though a good deal of valuable Red Gum land in the neighbourhood, but I heard a person who lost his way going from Binnarup to the Swan & who got too much to the left or westward, say, that he crossed near the river a great extent of very rich black with alluvial flats; but owing to his utter ignorance of his own whereabouts he could not give any distinct idea of its situation; and indeed it signifies little to the settling public since the whole of this country belongs to Mr. Davis a settler on the Canning; & really considering the extent he possesses, 250, 000 acres I believe he has as little good or fertile soil as could be

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found in any part of the world, barring the deserts of Africa or Asia. This selection of Mr. Peel proves my assertion on a former occasion, alluding to South Australia of the absurdity of anyone in England taking up land in a new country of which he knows nothing: the Governor ought by rights to be in the same case, having agreed to take his land, besides Garden Island in Geographe Bay: his selection would have been far better than Peel's, but only by mere luck: they neither of them knew anything about it beyond that Captain Stirling, R.N. in the year 1827. (I believe) pulled some twelve or fifteen miles up the Swan River in his gig, when in command of the Success Frigate & on the faith of what he then saw, he declared it to be a very fine country & persuaded the English Government to establish a Colony there, of which he undertook the management. Peel took up 250000 acres & is clearly entitled to as much more, having fulfilled his part of the agreement: what use it could be to him is another question since as yet he has not one acre of land in cultivation, nor a single servant to work for him. He lives at Peel town or Mandurup in a long low thatched cottage, built of wattle & daub, neatly whitewashed & kept scrupulously clean; there he resides with his wife, two young daughters & young son Tomony, who with his wife's mother form the whole establishment: not a single servant male or female has he, except generally one or two Natives, young men or lads, who wash the dishes, look after the horses & assist in various other ways such as feeding pigs, poultry &c. the old woman cooks & never appears at table; often as I was there I never saw her face. of course the fare is not sumptuous, but

spends generally, as usual in the bush on native resources. He has actually but two steel knives in the house, but several silver ¹⁰⁸ ones & other remains of more prosperous days equally out of character; From being a well known person who began with extensive means and all possible advantages, his total failure has gone far to ruin the prospects of the Colony; he began under false colors & it is hard that a whole community should suffer ~~for~~ the fault of an individual. He took out with him about four hundred persons of both sexes and every requisite for an extensive establishment; utensils of all kinds, houses in frame, stock and in fact everything that could be needed except money; of which it appears he brought little or none having borrowed small sums at the Cape from fellow Emigrants. On his arrival he established all his people in extensive Barracks at Clarence upon the barren beach with a scanty supply of water. It appears to have taken no measures for forming farms on the good portions of his lands, nor indeed were any attempts made to search for any. He lived himself at Garden Island in company with the Naval officers of the Ships in harbor, for a long time too indolent and latterly afraid to go near his people, who from grumbling came to threats as they found themselves starving by inches on an unknown shore, with no occupation or chance of improving their condition. At length after many had died of scurvy & other diseases brought on by neglect & want of proper food, the Government was obliged to interfere and cancel the indentures of the greater part of them leaving them at liberty to seek a livelihood where they pleased. Since then those men have many of them done extremely well, and have turned out the best & most industrious Emigrants in the Colony, doing credit to their selection in England, whoever made

it, & proving that Peels failure was his own fault & not that of his people as he wishes to make me believe. - He afterwards made some attempts to form farms but on the poor coast land, instead of on the rich alluvial flats, & from mismanagement, his careless habits & want of perseverance nothing succeeded. When he settled at Men-dup, an officer & Detachment were sent for his protection, as the natives shewed themselves very hostile; they murdered not only several of his men but also several soldiers, & actually blockaded two or three of the latter who were left in the Barracks until a stronger Detachment was sent from Head Quarters to their relief. The natives spared Peels Horses & cattle & kept the settlement in constant dread & alarm until the Pinjarup affair taught them our strength. Since then nothing can be more peaceable than they have been, but still they dislike us, and very naturally: The young men who are very friendly, themselves tell us that we shall never be quite safe or on good terms with their tribes, while the old people, that is those who were old on our first arrival are alive; that they especially the old women hate us, and are always exciting the younger ones by their discourse & long songs or chants by the evening fires to do us all the injury in their power. - The younger ones on the contrary feel our superiority & acknowledge that flour & potatoes are better food than they have, that our dogs catch Kangaroo much easier than they can and that a gun is far better to kill birds with than a spear. The generation now coming forward may be domesticated to a certain degree & made useful to the white settlers while their own condition is improving, but a steady uniform system should be adopted towards them, & it should not be left to chance; also the

greatest care should be taken to keep from them ardent liquors if they get a habit of drinking they soon die off & degenerate in physical & moral powers, besides contracting many loathsome diseases they are as yet free from. It is surprising with what philosophy Peil bears his numerous & constant reverses. The whole of his once numerous stock now consists of one horse, a one eyed Timor pony, an old Cow & two or three Pigs. Gradually he has lost his horses, cattle &c by various accidents. Some have died in the Bush, some have been speared & eaten by natives; he says never mind to it all. A valuable grey horse ran away from Mandurup into the bush & never returned. He did not even go to look for it although the natives told him some time afterwards where it was. - In like manner he has lost his property, such as cattle Kangaroo Dogs Pigs &c to my knowledge without appearing to bestow a thought upon them and continues to vegetate on in the same cantish way, bestowing very little care upon his garden and none at all upon anything else. The Detachment at Mandurup consists now of but four men, & the only other inhabitants are an old soldier of the 43rd called Jackie with his family & another man who works sometimes for him & now and then for Peil, who although without money & universally disliked by his old followers still retains some influence over many of them, who respect & fear him while they hate him. - From Mandurup there is a horse track along the coast to Fremantle passing by Clarence, a distance of about 35 miles; though it is usually called 40: having ridden it many times I am satisfied it is not so much. Water can be obtained at what are called the Water Holes about 14 miles from the Murray & again at Clarence.

both places extremely bad & in the former only acceptable for horses; there is no inhabited dwelling and no grass the whole distance which I generally rode through without halting in six hours; as one cannot advantageously press a horse faster on a deep sandy path. I have ridden from Pinjarup to Perth several times in a day both across country and by Mandurup; the latter way I consider fully fifty eight miles, it is usually called sixty six; the other way through the bush in a direct line is not more than about 43 miles; but cruel long ones, with the Perth water for ones horse to swim at the termination, from Stiles Hill; for a horse I really think the longer road is the better since it is always ^{more} fatiguing to go through wild unclad bush than along a beaten track however narrow, and the long swim at the end is very injurious to a hot tired horse. I have hitherto forgotten to mention in speaking of the Murray District, the numerous herds of wild cattle that frequent the plains & banks of the Serpentine, Dandup & Murray; they are the remains and offspring of those which escaped from the settlers in the early days of the Colony, and are of course of mixed breeds, but from the richness of the feed and unlimited range they grow to a great size. I have seen great numbers of them, but I do not think there are any very long horned cattle amongst them; short horned Durham & Yorkshire predominate, with a slight hump on the shoulders from a cross with some Java cattle once imported which immediately ran wild. Many are without horns, & black or spotted with black prevail. I do not remember to have seen a red bull amongst them. I fell in with them constantly in my rides.

across the country and frequently approached them very near; I certainly never saw finer or fatter cattle anywhere. On the open plains they were difficult to approach but they were generally too fat to run fast, especially the full grown ones; the young stock being very active. On one occasion I was riding after a herd near the Malloman admiring some very large black cows, when two black bulls with slight humps and no horns turned short round and faced me to cover the retreat of the rest. The hint was sufficient. Towards the end of summer these herds leave this part of the country for the winter and it is as yet unknown where they retire to, but having good judgement in grazes I have no doubt they go to a fertile District. They often came down the Murray at night close to my hut and to oakleys; their bellowings for hours together being answered by the tame cattle in the Stock yard. They might without difficulty be ridden in by several well mounted hardy riders if strong stock yards were erected for their reception with a high fence converging to the entrance, but many long miles would be necessary to fatigue them sufficiently, and at present it is worth no man's while to take so much trouble and risk the loss of his horse, since Government claims all the cattle and any that are taken are kept for a year in confinement and then sold when the captor gets half the proceeds after deducting the expense of keep which however swallows up the greater part of the amount as it expensive stall feeding cattle which of course from their wild habits cannot be turned loose to feed. Besides Mr. Peel refuses to allow me to hunt cattle on his land for Government, claiming this I think with justice for himself. —



