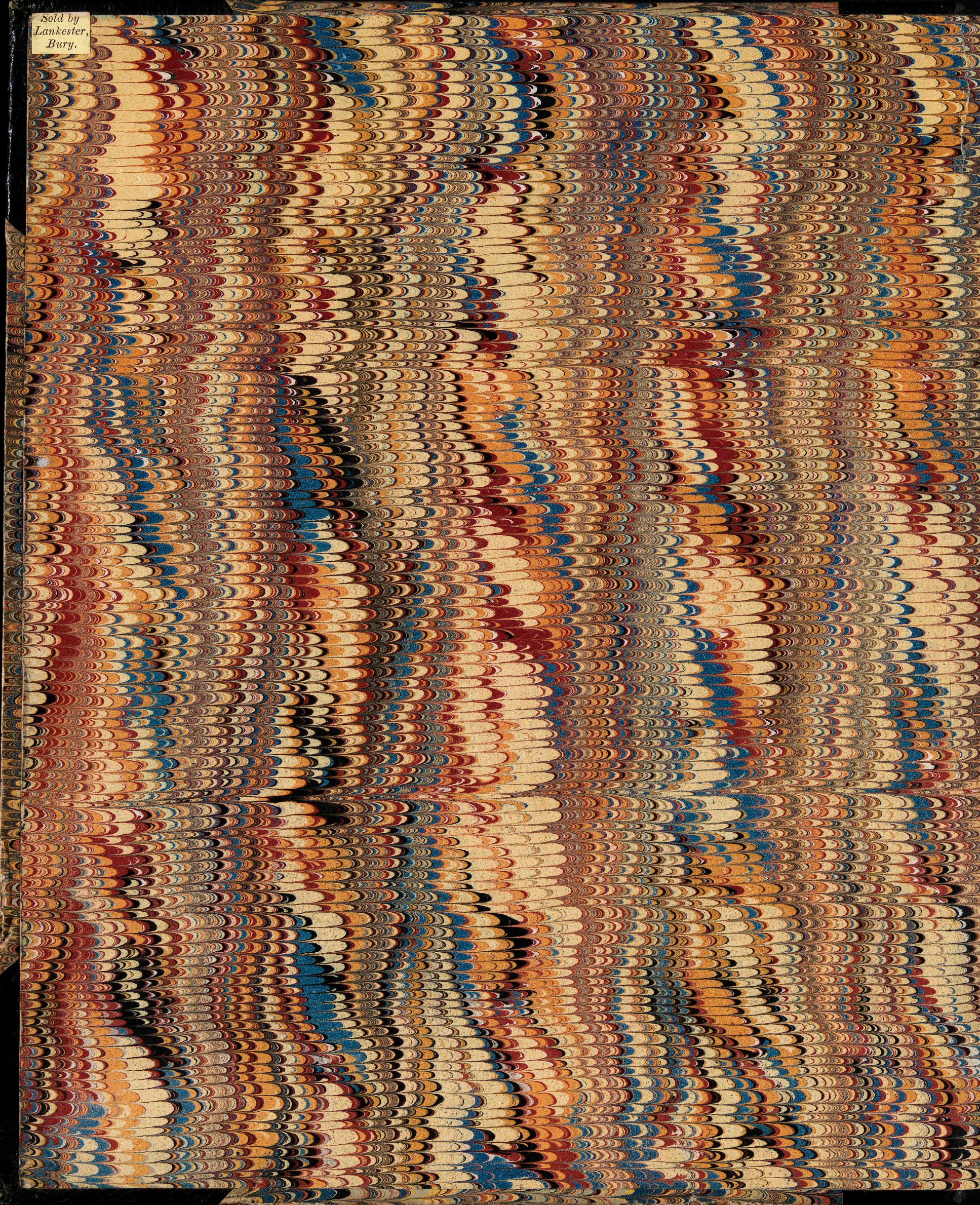
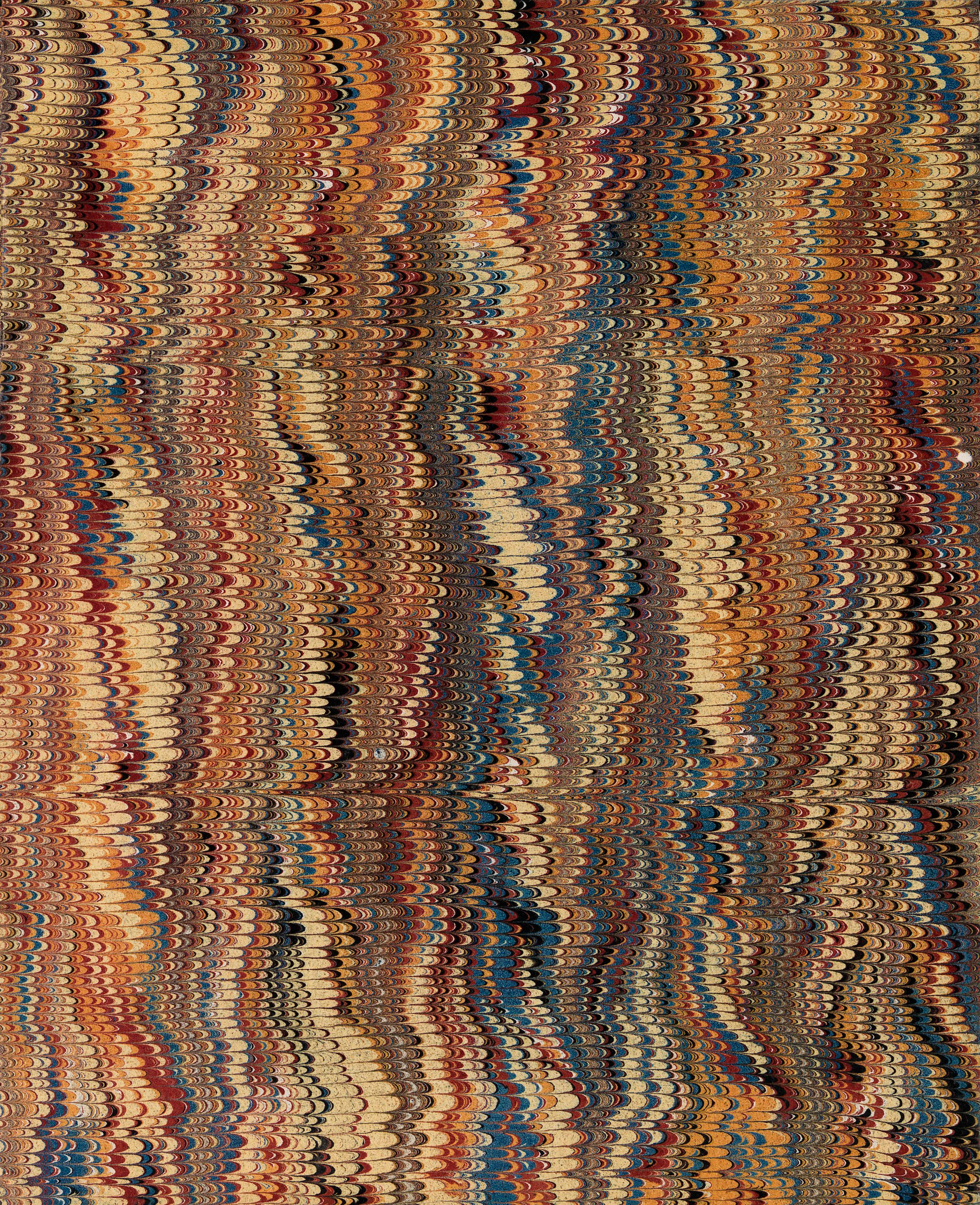




Sold by
Lankester,
Bury.





689SA/2
(Vol. 2)

"Bunbury" in compliment to me and it was there that he for a long time 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 faculty for building barracks or any other requisite public buildings. there I intended to purchase some land, to build a house and make a nice place for myself, & I could here after 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 so well adapted for sheep; still a considerable number might be kept on the grassy whinstone hills or about the head of the boat navigation of the Collic. As the Colony prospers I am certain that Port Lockhaine must become a place of importance for the following reasons. First, there is a very good summer anchorage and good shelter near, under Castle Point, against any winds, secondly there

is boat navigation up too 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 Colli about four miles from its mouth, this is also navigable for some distance by boats and higher up it near and in the hills the Governor has found extensive tracts of fine shup land. Moreover Port Leschenault is the natural outlet for the produce of the extensive grass districts of the "William", the "Beaufort", "Cojonup" districts &c. through which passes the newly marked road to King George's Sound. In a late journey, in which we traversed much of the country to the westward of Cojonup and even approached Port Leschenault, 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 "Zombonup", from whence large decked boats might carry all the wool, grain, Cattle and other productions at a very trifling expence to Fremantle running

36

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 and the passage would be very short by taking the advantage of the alternate breeze from the eastward by night and southwest by day. — Another townshipp called "Macleod" after the officer formerly stationed on the north beach is laid down at the head of the navigation of the Preston; and a third & larger one at the head of that ⁵¹ of the Collier 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 settler, and where most of the land assigned is held by Absentees, who appear no longer to have any connexion with the Colony beyond holding in an unimproved state large tracts of land to the injury of those who intend to be bonafide settlers and of the Colony in general. It is high time that the Government should interfere in these cases & resume grants made to ^{the} Messrs. Benty, 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 Home Government gave him a grant of 100,000 acres of land in the new Colony, in which was included Garden or Buache Island estimated at 9 or 10,000. He at that time proposed with the sanction of Government to take up his land in one block in Geographie Bay, but since he has been constantly changing, and on the discovery of any new & fertile District he has immediately appropriated the best part to himself; thus severely checking enterprize and 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 and pains examined a portion of land hitherto unexplored, & sending the description & all necessary information to the Surveyor, on their application for the assignment of the land or location order,

have received for answer, that the Governor 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 surv: Gen: has 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 ar-
 rangement 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 Governors land;
 he is a most indulgent Landlord and offers very
 liberal terms to any one who will settle & improve
 his farms, but beware of trusting him unless the
 agreement be made in writing; and 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

152
he changes his mind so constantly that not the 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 or satisfaction to himself or any other person concerned. A man of restless

179

active mind, the trifling affairs of the ^{little} Colony are insufficient to engross his attention, and he passes his time building chateaux d'Espagne for the future or trying to apply them to present use when they crumble 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 expediture 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 and sales 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 I am not certain) $\frac{3}{4}$ per gallon on British or $\frac{1}{4}$ on foreign spirits. The total amount of this for the year

ending 31st March 1837 was $\text{£ } 2,253.1.9$. Licences to
Retail Spirits came to $\text{£ } 603.10.0$ and from other
sources $\text{£ } 2056.11.9$ making altogether the sum of
 $\text{£ } 5214.10.0$ of which however $\text{£ } 1901.5.11\frac{1}{2}$ was purely
casual & 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 $\text{£ } 155.12.6$. 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
labor, and established half a century, is suffi-
-cient to account for the very limited sale of
land and the check that has been given to the
progress of this settlement. ⁵³ I am by no means an
advocate for distributing land with the unsparing
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 consi-
-derable number of sheep or to embark in the

19

business on a large scale. In the first place the land will not return 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 ultimating 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 bonafide 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 &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, seed corn; & all the numberless
articles necessary for a settler which would ^{both} purchase
and 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 pur-
chase 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
stocks &c. 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 de-
mands for it. — A pair of working bullocks cost
50£ or about seed time nearer 60£ and no carting
over the hills or other road work can be done with
less than two pair. A pair of Mares to plough if of
good shape, strong & boney will not cost less than
£100 if they can be got so cheap. 70£ or even 80£ has
been given for Cart Mares of good shape to breed from.
Horses are a little cheaper but not much if strong
& good workers. Fine woolled ewes with unbroken

171

months cannot be purchased under 3^l per head and
pure Merinos from 3.15. to 4. - 5.5 was given for
a lot of very small but very fine fleeced imported
from England in 1836. the whole of which were after-
wards lost in the bush on the upper Avon & eaten
by the Natives. As I have before mentioned I have
seen wheat in less than nine months rise in price
from 5^l ⁵⁴ to 22^l per bushel; for such casualties 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 descrip-
tions 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 ruinous
sacrifice in exchange for the necessaries of life. A
cart will cost the settler 20^l, a plough some 5 to 7^l;
then come a harrow, cart harness, smaller tools of

all kinds entailing endless expence, without counting the erection of a house, outbuildings, barn &c., or the wages & keep of a labourer, who in no case will cost less than £5 for the year or near 70s. Then his own living may be estimated at 16s a week or £1.12 for the year without any family. Thus when one enters into the various items of expence incurred in the commencement of a settlers career one finds a considerable sum of money indispensable, and however determined to struggle on, and a man is very unwise to embark his whole capital at once in the speculation; 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~~ 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 and Van Diemens Land they are appropriated solely to defray 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. ⁵ At present I am sorry

that too great latitude is allowed & the Regula-
-tions are not strictly acted up to. A settler who
took land under the Rules of 1829 got one acre
for every $\frac{1}{2}$ worth of property he produced to the
board, but he could not get the fee simple un-
-til it appeared that he had actually expended
that amount on the land. Two Magistrates value
the buildings, stock, cleared & ploughed land and
other improvements & generally much too high
above the real value, enabling a settler, ~~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 do} to 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
and 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 and 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

advantage to one at the expense & to the ruin of others possessing equally natural capabilities.

Having described the Inlet, & South Head or township of "Bunbury," it is high time I should proceed on my journey but first I must say a few words about the north beach or point. It is narrow & 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 Collie, 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 a being formed by a breach of the sea in a gate 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 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 they become buried under the constantly drifting sand, are soon covered round a mixed sand and 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 is at least 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 neighbouring hills, and in many places I could actually see the process

17

going forward as the plants became buried in the sand. There are three 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 map over to the Estuary side of the Point, but they are in fact far out of reach of the sea. - I left on board the Schooner after fishing our way down the Inlet and the next morning Dec. 22^d we explored various places along the Estuary along the 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 great distance before getting on the wing, especially a solitary bird. They swim with great strength and 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 & feet for a considerable distance leaving the boat far behind just when we thought ourselves sure of our prey; they also doubt very quick when closely pursued & we lose ground in turning a boat with full way upon her. The down of the Black Swan is very close, white and beautiful, & makes very nice ladies tippets, coats; and we eat the flesh whenever we can get it but it requires to be very much roasted to get rid of the oiliness otherwise it is rank & fishy. I left the Governor and his party in the afternoon at the well I had slept at on my way to the Cape and 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 "Aero" killed a very large Gouert too big to carry far & 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. ¹⁵⁷ We 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 90 lbs. Having made our fire Monang commenced operations; I gave him leave to eat as much as he pleased and told him to make haste as I would carry none for him the next day. After feeding Steer 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 "Cobel mendag" although he said he had only "little bit nalgo" which I found to be one entire hind leg which would have lasted me 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 9 lbs for his dinner. He was in

high glee, being what is the height of a natives happiness "moorat" or full belly, as they call it. I got away from my camp at a early hour having a very long days journey before me to Coljerimup at the South end of the great Murray Estuary. I decided upon going this way to vary my route and to examine the mouth of the Harvey: ~~such had been for a long time~~; 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 from Pinjarup to Port Sechenault, 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 leave no doubt on the subject. I now trusted entirely to Monang's 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 to twist 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 carefully in many journeys I feel certain they depend entirely upon their knowledge of the localities, which their quickness & correctness 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 where it will be in the sky. 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 fums, and partly with Mahogany, ⁵⁸ Bankria &c; the travelling was good as there was but little scrub, & we advanced rapidly; after a time we inclined more to the right going N. to N. by W. along an open country broken into hills & hollows

with but little timber & that all of the coast white
gum, twisted and 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. Monang
here dug up for me some red bullows roots the
name of which I have forgotten; in size & shape
they are not unlike tulip roots but of a light
clear red color & formed of distinct layers one
above the other & all of the same color, the leaves
are very long & narrow, but only two or three of
them & I have never seen the flower; roasted
they are mealy & very nice but when raw they
are too pungent & biting, although crisp and
with a very 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 Mahoga-
ny sandy hills with very thick & large timber.
We travelled on most perseveringly although both
we & the horses began to feel great want of rest &

water, the day being very hot; about half past
 twelve we got sight of Mount William to Monang's
 great joy, as he seemed doubtful of his course but
 he now declared a large lagoon to be near, supplying
 water and food for the horses; we inclined a little
 more to the right & descending the eastern or in-
 land side of the wooded hills soon came upon
 the border of an extensive swamp or lagoon full
 of rushes and 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
 Harvey flowed through it but Monang said no that
 it ran on the side of it but not far & also through
 impuncturable 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 Monang said
 it was necessary to proceed again very soon to
 reach Coljuinup 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 and lagoons on the right; after a time we lost sight of these and emerged from the forest into 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 to a long chase; he lost time ⁵⁹ 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 and weary with his long journey. For the first mile an Emu does not run particularly fast and 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 hare to run in a circle. They carry their heads low and projecting

to the front; their legs are well thrown forward, and 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 start slowly. Their usual stride when pursued is as near as possible nine feet and 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 and tender and at other times it is strong, oily and tough; there is a great deal of fat in the inside and about the rump but none on the breast or legs; which are not usually good eating. The rump, hung up for some days and roasted is the best part and 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, and came again upon a similar plain of smaller size. On our right through this flat country was evidently a moist district heavily timbered with much swamp and tea tree. Monang pointed out about

the course of the Harvey and also described a ford the situation of which he pointed out, but said it was deep and the bogia 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 and coast white gum which extends not only here but further north between the sea and the Murray Estuary past Cape Boward to the south head of the Murray opposite Peel Town. We rapidly traversed these plains as the travelling was good and the sun getting low pointed out the necessity for hastening forward to the grass and water which Monang said was as plentiful as at Colerimus. We at length reentered the woods, when the vicinity of a River was immediately evident from the soil, trees and bushes growing upon it; a particular sand with Stinkwood in abundance are sure indications of water being near as well as the flooded gum. I found the Harvey a considerable river, quite safe and navigable for boats being deep and 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
~~fresh~~ pools coming from a little to the westward of
 south, that is between us and the coast. We crossed between
 two of them & encamped on the right bank under an old
 wide spreading Peppermint Tree, the largest and
 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 and formed a most comfortable bivouac. The
 Natives call the place *Dujim* 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 and 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 and through much rough
 country with scrub which not only pricks ones legs
 but obliges one to lift them up so high as to fatigue one
 much in a long journey. Ducks were very plentiful
 in the barvey which was here very close to my camp,
 but my shot having been all expended at Port Bechinhaut.

They swarm in peace close by me. While the Swan was cooking for supper, Monang and 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 and sea, and the view for so perfectly flat a country was extremely beautiful, the warm bright glow of a summers evening giving rich purple and crimson tints to the otherwise gloomy forest. Numerous little islets were scattered about this end of the Estuary and a rather large one in the distance stood out in dark relief from the smooth silvery surface of the water, unruffled by the slightest breeze, but disturbed here and there by the movement of flocks of waterfowl 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, contrasted 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 congregated

at night, and from what I have seen of their habits, apparently al-
ways on the same tree. The larger kind is all black or dark
rifle green much like our ^{bl.} 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, and 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, and I have even found them high up rivers
and in fresh water pools and swamps. When skinned and
soaked for twelve hours in salt water it makes very good
soup (for want of better) and was a valuable resource to me
at Eagle Hawk Neck when fresh meat was scarce. The
southern end of the Estuary is very shallow and now the
dry sand extended nearly half a mile out as far as some
of the small islets which are denoted in the Map with
the name of the Brunswick Islands; those near the shore
are very small & low, covered with tea trees & other bushes.
the distant and 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 and straight
into the still air, indicating the presence of
Natives whose tracks we also found on the sand;
when we returned, ^{to the} camp not wishing ^{to} attract their
attention; as although we were within the ter-
ritory of the Murray tribes; and close to the
land of Calyate, Monangi's father, we did not
wish to meet him or any of his neighbours, some
of whom we had heard cooeeing and shouting dur-
ing the afternoon; we therefore kept the smoke
of our fire within due bounds. Calyate 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, and although afraid since the affair at
Purjarroop in 1834 to show his enmity in the set-
tlements, he is not at all to be trusted in the
bush if an opportunity of revenge offered itself.
He often comes with his tribe to Mandurap
or Peel Town, where he gives himself great airs
and from fear & policy is well received and

led by M. Peel. His proper territory or boogia extends
 along the west shore between the estuary and the
 sea, but not so far as Binjimin though it was probably
 his fire we saw: he had not however crossed at
 Coleridge as Monang searched in vain for his
 foot marks; and 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,
 and talky plenty". He has however some regard for
 his old Mother to whom I have often known him to
 give the money and clothes he got from me. On
 a subsequent occasion I ascertained that al-
 though Calyute had no objection to his son
 going a short journey with me, as it gave him
 importance in the tribe seeing new country and
 strange Natives; yet he did not at all approve of
 his remaining long with me or any other white man,
 and sent for him several times to Binjarup, a sum-
 mons he was reluctantly obliged to obey; and afterwards
 when Monang came down to stay with me at the
 Dasse, Calyute sent us word by Wumlan that if
 Monang did not immediately return to the Mur-
 ray, 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 Pepper-mint tree and Monang ^{eat} his Kangaroo 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 Monang's attention who whispered in a hurried tone as he seized his spears. "Black fellow quibble walk." I laid hold of my gun immediately and awakened Nero, who was sleeping by my side; but after rousing himself and looking round keenly, he returned to his lair, which reassured us, although Monang declared for some minutes, he was sure he heard a native slipping his spear, i.e. fixing it in his Nero. He called aloud several times saying who we were; and that we belonged to the Murray, were friends, and 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 show 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. Layman with some cattle across the
 Country from Pinjaroop to the Vase; they were to
 follow my old tracks, 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 bush man & much liked by the Natives.
 Finding Layman was a very bad helpless hand in the
 bush I looked out for a Native to show the way to
 Gombonup and assist them: Monang refused to go
 without me, and no other Pinjaroop man would at
 first undertake it unless I went but at length,
 finding Allison & Keegan were the men selected, two
 Natives, Denma & Wumban (commonly called Sem)
 agreed to accompany them as I was to follow in a few
 days. Denma is a very large stout young man,
 growing rapidly fat in the employment of the
 Pinjaroop Settlers, Oakly & Buglapp 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 and greedy than most. Munlan is a little thick set fellow rather older than Denma with some beard & 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 heard a great deal from Monang was a great inducement, and two being together they were less afraid. Well! they went and afterwards heard from Denma and also from the soldiers, that one night which was very dark being encamped on a brook a little way to the northward of the Capel; they were all sitting round the fire talking and smoking about nine o'clock, when Denma suddenly jumped up from the ground exclaiming that black fellows were going to spear them; he snatched his spear and threw it in the direction he heard the noise; calling out to the intruders with perfect good humour and self possession to return in the morning and he would fight them but not to come and 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 and then falling into the brook, to Jenma's great amusement who kept shouting to them in derision. In the morning they found the tracks of two men close up to their camp, and the spears and Meros they had dropt in their hasty retreat. If it had not been for the quick ears of Jenma it is probable that one or two of the party would have been killed by their unseen enemies 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 and 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; and they invariably either by day or night in communicating with strangers use a great deal of caution concerning to announce their coming and 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 surprize 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 P.M. 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 and their fires being very low they wake them up and lie closer to them, and again drop asleep when they will not willingly move until the sun is well up and 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 Lockman on my way from the Vasse to Perth, I left the Camp at the Preston ford ^{6x} very early and 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 and very right too as it was a cold raw morning with heavy hoar frost late in May. I halted and cooee'd to announce my approach but was unheeded and 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 spears shipped and presented at me, and uttering wild and savage cries, while away scuttled the women and 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, and 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 shown 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 likely 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 Pinjarry, that there were three of us and we should have bidja coojal on the road and 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 Dinna and Monang understand not only that but also that the soldiers and 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 Puyarrup, then at the Basse and constant journeys to and fro by Port Leschenaut that I derived much 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 Leschenaut I had taken a new route to examine the country at the base of the hills to ascertain how many streams ⁶⁵ there were and if there was any quantity of good land in that direction. On the second day from Gombonup I had got bothered amongst swamps and 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 a 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 should; to the great terror of Wolgou a Cape Native whom I had with me. In answer

I heard Cooes in various directions showing that the Natives were numerous and scattered about searching for food. I tried to get Wolgot 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 and afraid to approach. Wolgot immediately scrambled into the saddle where he somewhat 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 and to show I was unarmed, and told them I was Bunbury who had a mia at Pin-jarrup. Upon this the whole party soon collected about us when I introduced them to Wolgot as a Native from the Wonnurup Dulal and to Parker the Soldier; they embraced Wolgot to show their friendship and took his cloak & hammock giving him much worse in exchange, a favorite way with them of showing their love for new comers. These parleys with strangers are

always rather long since like Gankes they insist upon knowing where you come from, where you are going, the names of the party, and of all natives you have met on the road, before they will stie to assist you. Consequently I had a good smoke while these particentars were entered into after which I prevailed upon two of the men to shew us a way across the brooks to Pinjarroop, and we proceeded after many attempts on the part of both men and women to claim relationship to my friends Monang and Demna 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 Pinjarroop until very late if at all. Although not one of these Natives who were entirely a hill tribe had been at Pinjarroop during my residence there or had ever seen me; yet nothing could be more friendly than their reception; and they constantly repeated that Bunbury and the soldiemen at Pinjarroop were quabba and gave the black fellows Marrine 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 ma. ⁶⁶ 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 and if his Host is soft or careless, he selects the best he can find and gradually in this way a good though miscellaneous ^{kit of} ^{any} tricks in all trades and I have not been through the penal colonies for nothing. But I must return to Dungen where I was left going to sleep after a false alarm. In the morning of the 24th we got away at 6 o'clock and going out upon the

sandy ^{border} of the Estuary crossed the mouth of the
 Dinyin Ponds, where the sand apparently hard
 proved treacherous and quick, and it was not
 without great fatigue and caution that the
 Horses floundered through it: this made us cau-
 tious and Monang tried the passage of the
 Harvey in several places before he was satisfied
 of the soundness of the bottom: at length we 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 quicksand. 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 where we found a pool of
 tolerable though brackish water. I forgot to men-
 tion that from Colerimp Mount William
 showed to great advantage, bearing I think
 S.E. by S but I have lost my book of distances and
 bearings since, or rather left it with many other
 things at the base. We had a very rapid but

toilsome march of five hours and a half to Pinjarup
through a thick low country; the soil in places
good but varying in character and quality, some-
times sandy with scrub and tall Blackboy or
Kingia, a never failing sign of execrable land,
sometimes clay plains thick with bushes and grass
trees but bare of timber; and 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 coast
side of the hills. About nine miles from Pinjarup
we fell in with a party of our own natives seeking
Munghites, viz. Weewa, Doleong, Cavinja, Munjior,
Wumban and others, when we were received with
shouts of joy and inquiries were the questions asked
of Monang concerning the strange country we had
seen, and it was evident he had acquired importance
in the tribe by having travelled further than any
one of them. I was very glad to reach home about
half past eleven on Christmas Eve, but was too
tired to seek Kangaroo or any other game for my
Christmas dinner and therefore contented myself
as I had done the preceding year at Eagle

67

Hawk Neck with a piece of salt pork. Christmas day
in 1837 I dined with the chapmans at the Isle of France
and where I shall dine next Christmas who can tell.

Having ^{thus} brought to a conclusion my first journey
to the Base 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. Peel's grant taken up all the available
land on the right bank of the River. The identity
of this with the Notham 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 Notham 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 Pin-
jarrip 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 and 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, and on the other side only the Dandelup, and a few little winter hill brooks. The water at Pinjaroop is at all seasons sweet and good. This township is situated on the left bank at the head of the navigation for boats, which by land via Jimjarn, and Colarup is rather more than twenty miles to Peel Town and by water nearly thirty owing to the sinuosities of the River. Mr. Peel's land terminates at Pinjaroop close to the ford at the

southern extremity of the town; that is his southern boundary or east and west line, leaves the river here and goes away to the hills. While his northern boundary terminates at the sea shore in Cockburn sound about half a mile north of Clarence or 8¹/₂ south from Fremantle. Pakley and Buglass two old servants of Jels have got from him for their services 500 acres of land commencing at the ford, or southern boundary and 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 & expense to clear but amply repaying it in the crops. ⁶⁸ This land is heavily timbered with immense Red and Blue gums, with an infinite quantity of Blackboys and dwarf grass tree which is particularly troublesome to grub out. A good dwelling house of split red gum slabs the interstices filled with Clay, and well thatched with grass tree tops has been erected as well as a good barn of rammed earth; and a most substantial stock yard with red gum posts, four rails, and upright paling; 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, where 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 Pinjarrah 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 loosing flesh or otherwise shewing disease. This is the only farm in this immediate neighbourhood; though the land on both sides of the River is assigned to various people as 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 Oakley's under whose house a rude bridge
 has been formed by falling a large blue gum across the
 River; the island is covered with rich grass with many
 large trees incumbered with elegant pendent creepers.
 On the point of the bank was my residence and a most
 beautifully picturesque spot it was. The River un-
 derneath was visible both coming on the right and
 flowing away under the dark trees on the left. In
 front I had just a glimpse of Oakley's 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 and purple in the
 evening closed the view to the eastward. I cleared
 the flats on my right and left of the stink wood and
 broom bushes, leaving underneath a thick sward of
 luxuriant grass vying in richness of color with an
 English Meadow, there my horses fed at liberty. The
 bank on either side was picturesque from its am-
 phitheatrical form and the groups of stately Red
 gums and rich leaved *Banksia gigantea* with its
 long cones & lumps of pale yellow Blossom. Behind ⁶⁹

my hut grew a few large Mahogany trees and 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 and particularly picturesque when in company with the Governor in October 1836 and pointed out how much land I wished to have included. This he promised should be marked off for me and he ordered the township to be surveyed, when I intended to have purchased this beautiful spot. However when Smyth 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 be given which destroyed the whole thing, and to purchase it I should have been compelled to pay 15 per acre besides binding myself by the Regulations to build a house and fence each allotment and make buildings and improvements to the amount of 200£ upon each. This of course I could not do

and disgusted with Mr. Ro's evident attempt to annoy me I refused to purchase any, or build a house at all, and 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 and make a nice place for which there were great facilities; cut up into small portions it is worth nothing. About three miles below Oakley's house a considerable River the Dandelap joins the Murray from the eastward & near the junction on all sides there is an extensive tract of rich valuable grassy land lightly timbered with magnificent trees principally red and Blue gums. I do not know in the Colony a finer site for an extensive arable and grazing farm than the corner between the Murray and Dandelap next Pinyarrup. Our usual ford over the Dandelap 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. Peel & 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; and 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 Dandelyup until told by Gybra his native who shewed 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. In the very end of summer it scarcely runs but the pools are always full and 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, and does not like the Murray come from far east. ⁷⁶ This is the only River ~~that~~ I know that is a tributary of the Murray on the coast side of the hills, as the separation only falls into the estuary at Colanup or Colane and has no communication higher up. About four miles and a half below the Barracks

on the same side of the River is a small but
 flourishing farm belonging to a Sawyer named
 Brown but let to labouring men who have no
 stock and only a pair of ponies for ploughing;
 the grant, I believe consists of only about 2000 acres,
 but the greater part of it good arable land and
 well adapted for the cultivation of grain from the
 convenience of water carriage, the Murray being
 wide and deep here, the principal obstacle is at
 Colane, which by the by I believe is a general and
 not particular name since I heard it ^{used} at Gombon
 up for a similar place: the debouche of rivers into
 an Estuary over flats which are fordable and par-
 ticularly attractive to the Natives from the quantity
 of Millet and Cobblers which frequent them; however
 this is known to us, par excellence, by the name of
 Colane where no less than seven mouths of rivers
 debouchent within a mile of each other. These
 however all belong to either the Murray, Serpentine
 and Currie which is rather an insignificant
 chain of swampy pools along the coast than a
 River. The Serpentine runs west from the moun-
 tains about midway between the Dandifup and

Canning, that is, about fifteen miles from each
and 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 Pin-
garrup to the Swan and who got too much to the
left or westward, say, that he crossed near the
river a great extent of very rich black wattle al-
luvial flats; but owing to his utter ignorance of
his own whereabouts he could not give any dis-
tinct idea of its situation: and indeed it signi-
fies little to the settling public since the whole
of this country belongs to Peel whose lands ad-
join, if it does not actually cut into that of
Mr. Davies a settler on the Canning; and really
considering the extent he possesses, 250,000 acres
I believe he has as little good or fertile soil as
could be found in any part of the world, barring
the deserts of Africa or Asia. This selection of Mr.
Peel's 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 Geographical Bay: his selection would have been far better than Peels, but only by more luck; they neither of them knew any thing 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 ^{he} in command of the Success Frigate and on the faith of what he then saw, he declared it to be a very fine country and persuaded the English Government to establish a Colony there, of which he undertook the management. Peel took up 250,000 acres and 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~~ ^{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 & dab, neatly whitewashed and kept scrupulously clean: there he resides with his wife, two young

daughters and young son Tommy, who with his
wifes mother forms the 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 and assist in va-
rious other ways such as feeding pigs, poultry &c.
the old woman cooks and never appears at table;
often as I was there I never saw her face. Of
course the fare is not sumptuous, but depends
generally, as usual in the bush on native resources.
He has actually but two steel knives in the house,
but several silver dessert ones and other remains
of more prosperous days equally out of character.
I soon being a well known person who began with
extensive means and all possible advantages,
his total failure has gone far to ruin the pros-
pects of the Colony; he began under false colors
and 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 very requisite for an extensive establish-
ment; utensils of all kinds, houses in frame, stock
and in fact every thing 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.

He 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 and other diseases brought on by neglect and 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 and most industrious Emigrants in the Colony, doing credit to their

selection in England, whoever made it, and proving that Peel's failure was his own fault and not that of his people as he wishes to make one believe. He afterwards made some attempts to form farms, but on the poor ^{IV} coast land, instead of on the rich alluvial flats, & from mismanagement, his care less habits & want of perseverance nothing succeeded. When he settled at Mandurup, an officer and Detachment were sent for his protection, as the natives showed themselves very hostile; they murdered not only several of his men but also several soldiers, and actually brochaded 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 speared Peel's horses & cattle and kept the settlement in constant dread and alarm until the Puyarup 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 and long songs or chaunts by the evening fires to do us all the injury in their power. The younger ones on the contrary feel our superiority and acknowledge that flour and 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 and made useful to the white settlers while their own condition is improving, but a steady uniform system should be adopted towards them, and it should not be left to chance; also the greatest care should be taken to keep from them ardent liquors if they once get a habit of drinking they soon die off and degenerate in physical and moral powers, besides contracting many loathsome diseases they are as yet free from. It is surprizing with what philosophy Peel 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

and 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 and eaten by Natives; he says never mind it all. A valuable grey horse ran away from Mandurup into the bush and 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 careless 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, and the only other inhabitants are an old Soldier of the 43^d called Tuckie with his family and another man who works sometimes for him and now and then for Peul, who although without money and ⁷³ universally disliked by his old followers still retains some influence over many of them, who respect and 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 and again at Clarence,
 in both places extremely bad and in the former
 only accessible 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 prep a horse faster
 on a deep sandy path. I have ridden from Per-
 jarup to Perth several times in a day both across
 country and by Mandurup; the latter way I con-
 sider full 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
 Steeles Mill; for a horse I really think the
 longer road is the better since it is always more
 fatiguing to go through wild uncleared bush than
 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, and banks of the serpentine, Dandelup & Murray; they are the remains and offspring of those which escape from the settlers in the early days of the Colony, and are of course of mixed breeds, but from richness of feed & unlimited range they grow to a great size. I have seen great numbers of them, but I donot think they are any very long ~~long~~ horned Cattle amongst them; short horned Durham and 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, and 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 & 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 short horned 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 hunt 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 judgment in grass I have no doubt they
 go to a fertile District. They often come 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 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 mans while
 to take so much trouble and risk the loss of his

horse, since Government claims all this 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 is expensive state
feeding Cattle which of course from their wild
habits cannot be turned loose to feed. Besides
Mr. Peck refuses to allow any one to hunt Cattle
on his land for Government, claiming them &
I think with justice for himself.

✓
7.1

6895#12

