



Newton's historical copy

From the Murray family

In November 1846 I received the first
from Piquette, a French girl who had
of the last migration of the Murray
to the paper a small settlement in
the head of geography being the first
the first time that any place from
had been called the first in the
time or had great number of
settlers with the first of the
land. I first went to the land
being guided by the Murray family
a Native who took me by the hand
across the Murray River and the
of the Murray family by company of
the information I had from the
books, to the Murray family who
were guided me to the banks of the
different rivers & finally to the

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Western Australia. 1837.

From the Murray River to the Dasse.

In December 1836 I crossed the Country from Pinjarup, a township at the head of the boat navigation of the "Murray" to the "Dasse" a small settlement near the head of Geographe Bay; this was the first time that any white person had traversed the bush in this direction or had opened a direct communication with the "Dasse" from the Swan. I first made Port Sechenault 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 the Natives, to the Estuary; from whence Natives guided me to the fords of the different rivers & finally to the settle-

ment at the Vasse. 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. Having

Leaving Pinjarup early in the morning of the 11th December we pursued about a SSW course deviating occasionally to avoid the numerous swamps in the country between the Murray & the Stawby. My party consisted of my servant and another soldier together with a Native named Monang, who had lived a good deal with me, and whom I always found honest but like the most of them lazy and gluttonous and he was by no means so good a tracker or so

intelligent in the bush as many I know
 but however, he was willing & 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 and the
 blankets; my store of grub consisted
 of biscuit, about one pound each per
 day, two or three pieces of pork, some
 tea & sugar, tobacco, pipes, & each man
 a tin pinniken to serve as cup or glass.
 Each of us had a gun, except the natives,
 with ball cartridges & I carried a little
 shot besides. One 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 grass 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
feet to the fire as the heat dries up and
destroys ones shoes besides heating ones
feet, previously wet, so as to make them
swell and become tender while ones head
& body too far from the warmth are chilled.
Lying sideways to a large cheerful fire
with a good bed of grass 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 in the evening, as it makes
one too thirsty in the day time, 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 necessity, when deprived of which in the Australian Bush, as frequently happens, he knocks up.

From Pinjarra we proceeded about 17 miles through a low flat country to the Harvey River the exact course of which was not hitherto known. The country we ^{had} traversed varied very much in character and quality of soil, sometimes being sandy with *Banksia* & other low trees or 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

the winter, & full of small patches clear of
blackboys or bushes, which a little expe-
rience shows to be most dangerous
quagmires in winter though in summer
perfectly dark dry clay. These plains
covered with grass & good feed for cattle
& horses towards the end of the wet
season dry up and parch much sooner
than the lighter qualities of land which
imbibe the dews & other slight moisture
while the stiff clay dries and 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 Meecalup, 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

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with dwarf tea tree & water standing
on a hard black sand bottom, and
then came on an extensive low plain
covered with shrub & abounding in
Kangaroo: 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 Harvey, at
a native ford where they have exten-
sive weirs (Manga) for taking fish & Cray-
fish (Gonak) which are also caught in
great numbers by them in their holes
as the water recede. It is curious where
the animals can go to in the dry season
for they abound in the Clay plains
when their holes are not 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 impassable 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 and disappears long before it turns brown on the lighter and looser soils. We halted for the night on the small flat above mentioned on the right bank of the Hervey 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.

Monang described the river as running N^W by W & that it was a long half days journey to "Coljirine" where it falls into the southern Estuary.

of the Murray; the river appears to be very tortuous in its course, flowing through extensive & impenetrable swamps. He told me there was but one crossing place between this and Coljirine 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 any where else I know in the neighbourhood, and the only wood within reach was the tea tree which is a very bad kind for burning, as it burns with difficulty, black and dim, & goes out readily. - We here passed the night and 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 plains heated by the sun of the past day, & refreshed by a bath & a tinsul of tea one forgets the heat and fatigues of the day, & feels no care for the morrow as long as ones haversack 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 ones thoughts: one can travel free from the fear of Brigands or the constantly recurring vexation of Douanist & Tavern bills, and with the first light of morning a tinsul of tea & a crust of bread prepare one for the days 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 by W, crossing strips of sandy land covered with Mahogany, Bankia, &c. divided by numerous open spaces, covered with dwarf tea tree & thick low scrub & rushes and in part inundated but not to any depth, with a hard sandy bottom. After crossing several miles of poor useless 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 and 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 large 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 Monang was now out of his reckoning and fairly stated that he did not know where we were as he had always kept nearer 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 smoking fire, which we all crowded close round finding even the suffocating smoke preferable to the stings of these minute but formidable insects. We made

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but a short halt and then crossing the swamps 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 Leschenault 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 rushes, & 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 and the men seizing their spears advanced towards us with violent gestures & exclamations while the women & children collecting their cloaks and bags, their "Booga" and "Cotto" 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 "Mero" & presented: shaking it at them, but approaching nearer he was recognized by an acquaintance, the points of their spears were instantly raised and they crowded round him, and he was regularly introduced by those who knew him to the others who embraced him, throwing their arms round him while he stood quite holding down his head & looking remarkably sheepish. After this ceremony

the whole party came to me, Men
 Women & children and endless were
 the questions asked by all & to be ans-
 wered 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 Lechault called by them
 "Gomborup" to the Dasse (Gundorup) the
 whole party volunteered to accompany
 us to the Estuary & we moved on round
 the left or eastern side of the lagoon,
 from whence we came almost imme-
 diately upon the western border of
 another lagoon of vast extent, by
 far the largest I had yet seen and
 probably five or six miles in length,
 but all covered with the high Spear
 Rushes. 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 rushes on the surface of the water they are comparatively safe from the Natives who can only take those which incautiously 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 (Cooljait), both old & young, as well as eggs (Mooroj). 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 Peppercorn 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

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all around like the weeping willow. This tree is common near the lagoons and along the coast all the way down to the tight of Geographie Bay, & I think is about the most picturesque tree in the Colony. Inclining to the right from Millup we followed our guides along Native paths visible to none but themselves through an undulating country timbered principally with Toats with some Red Gum & Mahogany, & thick with the Turge tree or stink wood and 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 Toats, 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 and luxuriant crop of grass & sow thistles. The tide was out & 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 & Teal 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 & Peppermints, & the shadows of these hills gradually lengthening stretched across the Estuary, on the left bank of which appeared a dense thicket of tea tree

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and 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 untill 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 Leschenault Inlet, now glowing
with the warm tints of evening. The Na-
tives 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 pic-
turesque 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 and
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 Teatous 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 southistles half buried in the luxuriance of the feed. The smoke of our fires attracted rather a large party around us before dark but they were civil & 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 and hot days journey. I reckoned we had gone over about 25 miles to day 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 Leschenault Estuary, with so little difficulty or trouble; also to find that

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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 & 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 Tea tree or else of the leaves of the *Lanthorzea*, 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 well 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 "Ganga" or evil spirits or ghosts, & also of the Wow. - 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 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 fire sticks 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 & 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 63.rd Reg.^t under the command of Lieut. Mackleod 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 Gov.^r Sir James Stirling as a focus to attract & afford protection to any Emigrants inclined to settle in the neighbourhood, much land on the rivers Collier & Creston having been assigned to different parties, all of which remains to the present day unimproved and uncultivated. But, as if to render the ^{mere} Detach^{ment} perfectly useless & nugatory it was established upon the north shore, a long narrow slip of land varying from a $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 fourteen miles to the northward

then crossing the coast swamp if practicable & returning on the other side, Not even a boat was left with the party but by hard labour 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 Georges 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 are now far away in India. The only reasonable plea for placing the Detachment in such a barren, dismal & useless 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, & at the outer bar at "Didunup" as they call the place where the waters of the Intet 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. Simmons, the surgeon with the Detach^o. we are by all accounts indebted for the good feeling & friendship evinced by the natives towards me on this & subsequent occasions: This kind but eccentric gentleman appears 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 Pork was carried off & small blame to them for that. On the following morning after swallowing a tinful of exceedingly bad tea we proceeded along the edge of the

Estuary for some miles partly along the sand which was here hard and 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 Pines, Bankrias &c at the foot of which near the water were very thick Tuzze trees, Wattles, Bankria & 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 and blankets they were the strongest party & able to take them if they thought fit. While

Monang was on foot, progress was hope-
less, 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 & leg 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 & relations were
too numerous & too pressing for him
to refuse them any thing. By Relations
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 any one 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 day-
light till 10 o'clock P.M. going nine
miles, it is only fair that my nar-
rative 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
& often nearer two hundred but I re-
marked 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 fel-
lows, in very good condition & covered
thick with red earth, but grease to make
good "Wilghi" was scarce. At this season
food was plentiful both fish, the favourite
of which seems to be the Mullet & "Munghite"
as they call the flower of the Bankia
from which they extract by section a
delicious juice resembling a mixture

of honey and dew two kinds are commonly used, one the ordinary species with rather smooth bark & leaves but slightly serrated & the other the large oak leaved *Bankia 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 one's mouth & gums: in both of them beware 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 and 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 shoalest part, farther in the bottom is soft with weeds & grass & 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 & passed to the left bank by the sandy bar; nowhere was the water over ones hips but still I know nothing more tiresome or fatiguing than a long wade & it hurts ones feet for walking. This is the only place where the Collic 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 Collic I found about 150 Natives assembled to receive us, belonging to another tribe. These in addition to about a dozen followers from the former parties all joined me & we advanced towards the "Preston" 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 know two come up to it, this man & old Duroup 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 Preston debouches to the right but this River has not like the Collier 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 for above two miles abounding with most luxuriant grass growing under flooded gums, Stink 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
nither so wide or deep as the Collier has no
bar at the entrance & there are pools of
good fresh water throughout the year
about three miles from the mouth by the
River & 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 bends
some large & rich alluvial flats. The
Natives showed me a small swamp of red
ochrous or irony earth destitute of vegeta-
tion but full of holes containing brilliant-
ly clear chalky 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 crossing 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, & as the water was quite salt & influenced by the tides, it was evident that I must ascend higher to be able to cross. 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 crossing place but a very bad one the banks being high & steep with fallen timber and other impediments, but I succeeded by dint of perseverance, pulling down the bank I had to ascend & unloading the horses

and making the Natives carry all the things over. To their credit be it said they did not attempt to steal anything 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 "Preston" in a rich flat where my horses soon filled themselves with grass, but the musquitoes & sand flies were dreadfully annoying as, indeed, the former had been all the preceding night on the Estuary. The latter fortunately only tormented 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 swell & suffer great pain from them. A very large party of Natives collected round me during my halt & sat down 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; skimming 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 & grease constitutes their favourite 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 Leschenault 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 farther 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 Kangaroo. "Waroo", as being softer & closer in texture & finer than that of the Male "Gowrot." & I have also though very rarely seen skins of the Brush Kangaroo & Wallabi used by

them, which are the prettiest by far, with
closer 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 on purpose, consisting of a
short stick tipped with the hard "Beever", or
grass tree gum in which is inserted a frag-
ment 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, un-
til 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 gra-
dually to the hind quarters & they are
sown 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 Gouert

or Male Kangaroos as being the largest are obtained by cutting round the skin about two or three inches from the extremity sufficient by 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 "Wonna" 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 grass or more often by a little stick or bone thrust through 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 oftenest over the left shoulder & back, hiding the hand which carries the spears & "Miro" & the knife "Dalba" & Hammer "Kadjoo" stuck in the belt or "Noolaban". If it is very cold however when walking they jerk their cloaks

forward, so as to cover their chest and belly & with the disengaged hand carry underneath it the firestick which is as constant 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 in one of them 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 "Cotto," of Kangaroo skin slung 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 sees another somewhat larger seated astride on his 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 grasp-

-ing tight by their hair: this ^{is} the only burthen
 except their spears that the men will ever
 carry, the women being not only compelled
 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 spun opossum hair, but
 slightly twisted & not strong, this is wound
 round & round the body even many dozen
 of times & its beauty is estimated accord-
 ing to its length; it is usually made
 tight & seems equally prized for supporting
 the stomach when empty or confining it
 when full, & 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 Noolaban, in which are stuck the
 Mannite tufts, or bunches of white cockatoo
 feathers which are highly prized as orna-
 -ments 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 and
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 wilghi. These are worn on the
head or as armlets & occasionally, when
plentiful in the belt: will adorned
with these & smeared with grease & red
ochre a warrior is fully dressed & a grotesque
figure he certainly appears. - The Natives
about Gombonye 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, & I also
observed that the spears here were nei-
ther so long nor so heavy, as those of the
Murraymen, who certainly carry by far
the finest & heaviest I have seen any.

where 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 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 & favourite 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 cobbles a kind of slimy fish without scales something between a loach

is 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 unskilful Fisherman it is however very good to eat. Mullet are also caught by the Natives in immense numbers by means of wiers 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 wier being suddenly stoped up, they are either caught as the water filters off with the ebb 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 these fish are in April & May, when they are caught in this way, & cooked Native fashion on hot ashes, the small fry bolted whole. About Gombone I remarked the way in which a large fish is cooked by them;

such as a Taylor or Jew 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 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 & 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 animals fur & stitched up with a piece of stick; the fur is then singed 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 better 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 sand flies & it is high time I should get on along my road to the Dasse or Gundorup as the spot where Mr. Russell has fixed his residence is called by the Natives.

About 3 P.M. 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 corobory with some other tribes whither 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 Preston we came upon the edge of the coast swamps, which is here very wide, partly thick tea tree & scrub with grass trees & on the edges & partly lagoons of fresh water with Spear Rushes & reeds. Across this we looked to the sand 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 S.E. side of this
line of swamp which extends with little
or no interruption from the Murray as
far south as Poby's Inlet in the light of
Geographic Bay about nine miles beyond
the Dasse. 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 chaunt or song un-
like anything I had ever heard from the
Natives before. - 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 abun-
dance of "Batta quabba". good grass for

the horses on the edge of the swamp or lagoon where the Corobury 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 & sand extending to ^{the very} edge of a large spear wood swamp. I therefore by Monang's 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 Gundorup; as to the distances 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 my horses but we had some difficulty in keeping clear of the ants which swarmed around. Mosquitoes also were very numerous & persevering in their attacks, but still the relief from the constant clamour, noise & annoyance of such a 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 Cuckoo 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 his natural idleness. Thus we were left to get on the best way we could, much to Monang's horror & dread, he did not know where he was, he could not comprehend my steering by compass & he was in a perfect agony of fear lest some strange Natives 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 large Estuary. After a time I got into a lower country with better soil, & some very large Foot Timber with surge & broom bushes & Peppermint trees of a large size. Here we met several Natives who accompanied us a little way and then dropped behind; & 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 & sow thistles growing within reach of the sprays in a gale, but the sand hills are here much lower than farther north & they evidently decrease in height & size from Port Lisheuantt towards the Vasse 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 W by S & I found that I was still many miles from that part of Geographic Bay where I expected to find the Vasse: 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 spear wood swamps & open spaces covered with grass & rushes with a deep black soil evidently entirely flooded in winter & even now hardly

dry from the October rains. Although the traces of Natives & their huts of tea 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 and 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 accomplished with some trouble after floundering along a path through 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 and difficulty sinking nearly to their bellies at every step. After reloading them we soon got into an undulating Toot 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 Gondorup now began to grope 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 "Mungbitis" 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 & leaving his spears held a long parley with them, each party gradually approaching each other, but conversing from behind the shelter 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 & 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 Soldierman at Gondorup & with much persuasion he agreed to show us the way, & luckily it was that he did so, as I soon found that 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 windi" 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 Mallooup

and near it is much most excellent land & 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 & growing on a very good stiff soil ^v apparently & resembling that which is turning out so well as arable land on the Canning River & about Pinjaroop. 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 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 & fertile & well timbered with large Red Gums which are perhaps the

most useful trees in the Colony for a new settle-
 ment, splitting freely for fencing or shingles. This
 stream hitherto unknown to the Colonists was af-
 terwards named the "Capel" by Mr. Bussel, &
 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
 westwards of S.W through a rich good country,
 with fertile soil & abundance of cattle feed.
 About four miles more brought us to a brook con-
 taining water but not running, called after
 the first discoverer of it the Ludlow; it runs to
 the NW 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, Bankswai, Homysuckh & other trees & on the right appeared a thicker country, with enormous timber principally Tocots mixed near the edge with red gums. The Plains or Clay Plains as they are called at the base extend more or less from the Cape to the westward considerably beyond the Dasse 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 grass & feed 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 "gonak" (crawfish). I here fell in with the two largest Emus 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 150 lbs. to judge by their appearance. The largest I ever killed weighed something under 100 lbs & he was quite a small one compared to these. About three miles from the Ludlow we crossed a brook very similar in character called the "Alba" & one mile & a half further on the "Sabina." of these more here after. The clay plains swarmed with Kangaroo but this time I found but few together they were lying amongst the bushes in pairs, or single Does with their young. Between the Ludlow and Sabina my poor dog Nero 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 Pass where his bones rest under a large tree. The Sabina has a larger bed than the Alba 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 Toats here, nothing but Red Gum & Mahogany, with abundance of ~~stink~~ wood or Fuzze 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. Bussell looking for his Cattle & very soon after, about

three miles & a half from the Sabuia we came upon the right ¹²²bank of the Dasse 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 Guns both in size & form that I have ever beheld, scattered around. I was most kindly & hospitably received by the Bussell family, who were not a little surprized at my visit, no one having ever penetrated before to their little settlement overland from the Swan.

23/ 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 Molloy, Mr. Lewis, &c. forming a large party & creating quite a stir in the little Dasse 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 Post about five miles E.N.E. from Gondorup between the two Estuaries of the Dasse 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 post of communication near Port Leschenault being formed I was sent to build barracks & form a township on a prairie more fit for 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 Governor's power to render us. There I remained about three months till having completed a plan of the township I rode up to Head Quarters to show His Ex^{ty} that the Surveyor Gen^l through ignorance of the locality had placed the town of Wonnorup where mud & water were far more plentiful than dry land. —

The River called the Vasse was discovered & named by a French expedition which surveyed the coast & named Cape Naturaliste, Geographic Bay, Port Leschenault &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 Geographic Bay and Port Augusta a small settlement close under the lee of Cape Levein which is the southwestern extremity or promontory of New Holland. The Dasse River is fresh during the winter & early part of the summer at Mr. Bussell's house, up to which there is plenty of water for boats from the B. tree near the beach, but instead of falling into the sea it discharges itself into the more western of the two estuaries where it is extremely shallow & even dry quite across in the summer. These two estuaries which were hitherto very imperfectly known extend between them about nine or ten miles from E. S. E. to W. N. W., & are divided about half way by what is usually called Wonnorup 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 sands 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 united by a narrow creek but the inlets or creeks communicating with the Estuaries 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 Sampsire & 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 Nonnup & 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 Estuaries & the sea runs a belt of land varying in width of a sandy nature but fertile & bearing luxuriant grass, fuge trees & small Peppermint which are the only trees growing very near the sea: on the southern or inner edge of the Estuaries 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, ²⁶ & within that is a strip of Toot country, varying from one to two miles in width, bounded by the Estuaries on one side & the abovementioned clay plains on 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. Bussells land. I donot 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 natives can cross either of them by wading in the dry season. Into the Wonnup Estuary, fall two streams, the Capel & the Ludlow, the former of

where she could ride out any gale in perfect shelter & obtain wood and 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 & 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 fertile tracts of land & valuable streams, and 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 recurs of where is the population to come from. It is evident that in England a strong prejudice exists against Swan River, the very name of which is become a bugbear sufficient to prevent emigration; various are the causes that have occasioned this feeling, 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 ~~many~~ 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 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 absurd and

which enters at the north east extremity running through the 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 weirs 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 S.W. parallel with the sea through a low very rich country until it enters the Estuary. The Ludlow 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 Dasse Estuary, viz. the Alba, Sabina, Dasse & 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 Wonnemup Island from the main. The Alba is fordable at the mouth & is salt about 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 and got between
gently sloping banks of sandy soil with Mahogany trees
& scrub, one finds two considerable deep pools of ex-
cellent water full of cobbles & Unios & swarming with
Ducks & Teal. - Above this I know of hardly any
water in the dry season. ²⁷ 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 very little way up,
but the banks being in many parts steep & broken it
is a more difficult brook to cross than the Abba although
in summer it contains less water. The Vasse is the
principal stream falling into this Estuary, but is much
inferior in importance to the Capal 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.

Bussell to mark where 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
Gundorup; one can either cross by the ford over the
Vasse near the Estuary or else in a boat at the
B tow a little higher up. Close above this the New
River joins the Vasse & 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 bank seven or eight miles, it is in
most parts swampy & muddy so as to be difficult
to ford and 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 dry foaled in
summer. The soil on this River is light but fer-
tite with abundance of grass, stinks wood & Pepper-
mint 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 be-
hind which again appear as usual Mahogany
& sand. - The land near the sea is evidently
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 expense of
 transport is naturally very heavy from the scarcity
 of hands & teams. There being as yet but little to
 attract vessels in Geographic Bay it is very im-
 perfectly known but I feel confident that here-
 after 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, and they are very numerous all
 round the Bay; timber is abundant, large and of
 good quality. Potatoes thrive uncommonly well, and
 certainly both cattle & horses look better & fatter than
 anywhere else in the colony; The Anchorage
 at the Dasse is safe during the fine season, & from
 the absence of sand hills & the marks along the bank
 I doubt if the winter gales ever blow with any violence
 into the bay, and 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

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 certainly better not go to Australia, but wherever 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 progressing & 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 dry-

ness & clearness 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 effectually 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 and cost of clearing would be so greatly increased as to take away all the profits, and 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, ³⁰ 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 as 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, Squanas, Snakes &c. 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 could 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. In New South Wales by gradual tho' rapid advances the sheep stations have spread from Argyle which a few years ago was the extremity to the SW, many hundred miles down the Murrumbidgee; over the Limestone & Miccaligo Plains, beyond the limits of the Colony to the southward across the extensive Menero Plains & when I was there in 1835, a few adventurous individuals had even driven their flocks across the Snowy River to the Oblio Plains which were known to exist only from the report of these few persons. Soon, there is no doubt, the stations will extend as far as Port Phillip 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 Murrumbidgee & the

Counties of Argyle & Murray will ere 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 Australian farmer on a large scale. It is very well for the small settler the hard working man with small capital to grow wheat and 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 necessary for the consumption of his own establishments.

But, I have wandered a long way from the Tasse where I had just arrived on the 14th Dec^r at Mr. Bussell's 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

and 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 Spearwood, 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 and pleasant in summer but in winter too much so & the chinks can be filled up. Shingles are the universal covering of houses by all advanced in civilization in Australia, but in some respects I prefer thatch, which keeps out the sun best in summer & the cold in winter but it is dangerous in so dry a climate and invariably lets in the wet when the first rains

commence. A great deal of care is bestowed upon
the garden at Gundorp; ³¹ it is very well situated
upon the bank of the River & is extensive with
a strong high wattled fence to keep out the
cattle, it yields excellent vegetables, espe-
cially potatoes, & what is a great point in
a dry climate, produces a constant suc-
cession of crops throughout the year, the
part next the River being sufficiently moist
to yield abundantly in the very heat of sum-
mer. - There is no land in cultivation for corn
at the Dasse except a few acres in the township,
the Bussells having hitherto confined their at-
tention to their garden & dairy, getting their
supplies of flour &c. from Fremantle. The family
consists of old Mrs Bussell the widow of a cler-
gyman with five sons & three daughters all grown
up. Some of them came out in 1830 when they
they took land & 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 Tasse 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 Bussells on the western side of the Tasse; his selection is particularly good, & he intends building a house & removing to it immediately; as at Augusta so little can prosper, the land is not very bad, but the timber upon it is so large and extremely thick that a settlers 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 Bussells, there are no inhabitants at the Tasse except three brothers of the name of Chapman, labouring men, one called Layman 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. These all have a few cattle & at present the whole are herded together with the ^{5th} Bussell's, & they subsist upon the produce of the potatoes & butter they sell, & on the payment they get for work done for the Mess^{rs} Bussell. A colonial cutter belonging to a man named Curtis trades constantly between Fremantle & King George's Sound touching at the Vasse & Augusta, where he buys all the potatoes he can obtain at the rate of $\$2$ 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 $\$1.6$ to $\$2$ per lb at the Vasse & about $\$3$ 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, and although the grain is certainly much superior they cannot hope to sell it to advantage while it costs them so much as $\frac{4}{5}$ per bushel to bring to market & that is the very lowest calculation at present & most people say $\frac{4}{5}$. 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 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 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 immediately, thereby causing a glut and reducing the price to $\frac{5}{3}$ or $\frac{5}{4}$ per bushel: however there was luckily no vessel to take it away

one or two monied men bought up a large quantity at the low price, but many settlers proposed ¹³³ 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 $2\frac{1}{6}$ per bush. & bread was $\frac{1}{2}$ for the 2 lb loaf, the grain remaining being in the hands of Mr. Leake and Mr. W. 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 $\$10$ on the spot or $\frac{1}{2}$ in Perth; so, ^{the} keeping horses was attended with no trifling expence at Head Quarters. The principal evil of all this & the cause of the successive fluctuations 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, for example 100 bushels of wheat for which he pays $\frac{10}{100}$ per bushel at a moderate computation, to repay this after harvest, the price of wheat having fallen to $\frac{5}{100}$ he has to sell double the quantity, supposing he has no interest to pay in the mean time, & 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, $\frac{2}{100}$ on the Swan & $\frac{2}{100}$ per bushel at York, so that taking into consideration the loss 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 and 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 pay-³⁴ment of pressing debts & flour is purchased on

credit little by little as it is wanted, & 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 their 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. Leake 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 judgment in the Court against them, have their property sold by the Sheriff, but he well knows 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 ticks 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. ³⁵ 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 upon the pianoforte or harp, net purses or embroider, & are acquainted with many other elegant accomplishments, who consider it vulgar to make or mend the clothes

of the family and are totally ignorant of the management of a dairy, cannot make butter & cheese, rear calves by hand, cook & do any of the hard work about the house. I certainly recommend such fine ladies to avoid Swan River, they can do no good & only swell the number of the disaffected. Then there are Cockneys, Grocers, Falter Chandelers, Waddlers from the Stock Exchange, retired tailors, West Indians with extravagant ideas & scanty means & many men with no means at all; these & 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 hang themselves, perhaps to 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 mys to sit down to daily are by in the habit
of shying for themselves & do not generally succeed
as settlers where constant hard work is necessary.
The Middle class however; or that of the small
farmers & yeoman in England is that which pro-
duces the best settlers, not above working them-
selves; they understand what they set about,
their own labour saves them the hire of a
man, & content with more frugal fare & fewer
luxuries & comforts, their household ¹³⁶ expenses
are far less than those of a gentleman settler,
with active regular habits they may soon
obtain 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 is not
to be wondered at, but it is lamentable at
Swan River to see not only the labouring

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 & avoided by every one, 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 pitied & met with much kindness & sympathy; mismanagement & ignorance of business or farming have reduced some to indigence who still retain their moral & honorable character unimpaired in adversity. - I do not think that the account I can conscientiously give of a Settlers life is likely to induce any one 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 contin-
-ual toil & 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 and
herds a good house & garden with homestead and
numerous teams; but on the other hand this is
all in the wilderness far from ones friends and
relations; and ³⁷ if married ones wife is deprived
of the society of her equals, & of the comforts and
luxuries of a more civilized life; and worse than
all ones children are brought up as demi savages,
& without the greatest care & attention which one
has no time to bestow become scarcely more ci-
-vitized than the young Blacks with whom they as-
-sociate. This evil is however not near so great at
Swan River as in New South Wales, where the asso-
-ciation 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 getting 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 anarchy & 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 any one in his sober senses going there to buy land at the exorbitant price fixed on it, while he 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 when they pay four times the price for the land. It is a palpable absurdity to begin with, for persons to buy land at 1^l per acre situated in

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South Australia before they leave ³⁸ England on the report of persons who were near there. Would any one in his senses purchase an estate in Great Britain without further information concerning it than the ipse dixit of the Agents for 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 its locality & soil; it may be a salt lagoon for any thing 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 favourite term with them at home) & for mutual protection & assistance. They state in their prospectus that it 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 & 2^{ndly} that it is owing to the settlers having too large grants & being widely separated, the first assertion I deny

in toto, & consequently the 2nd dependent upon 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 valuable. — But any one 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 country to feed a flock of sheep, at the most moderate calculation three acres per sheep, not of average but good land, are required taking the whole year through. Who could buy land enough to feed many ³⁰ thousand sheep at this rate & how can they keep sheep when crowded together on small allotments for mutual support. All this time they are holding out wool as to vastly profitable and as the future staple commodity for exportation from their Colony, but they seem to forget that the profit of the wool naturally diminishes in proportion to the expense 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 Govern-
ment 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? and yet they boldly
declare that all former systems were wrong and
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 evil
was extensive & generally felt: it was that emi-
grants 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 surveyors became acquainted with the rivers & other features of the country; thus the means of the settlers 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 assigned. 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, & where 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 Colonel Light with whom they seem to be well pleased. — The fact is surveyors should be sent out to a New Colony with ^{an} 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 & surveys which lead to endless trouble afterwards in the office from disputed claims & 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 Vasse 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 both their own & every one else's heads with wild theories that are incapable of being reduced to practice. About a mile lower down the Vasse River than Gundorup is a small Government Reserve for the town of Bussellton, of which a small portion is on the right bank & the remainder between the River & the sea; from the anchorage being good & lips open than at the Inlets, or Wonnemup, 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 & I do not know of any stone near to improve it, the easiest plan here

after would be to bring it from the opposite side of the Bay. At Wonnup there is an excellent landing place for boats in the western Inlet whenever the bar can be crossed by laden boats, but the water is too shoal with heavy rollers in bad weather to attempt it when it blows fresh; in that case, the "Tub" is the best place to run for. There are two ways of going from Gundorup to Wonnup; one by the shore of the Estuary crossing the Sabina & Alba 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 passible 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 to the passage of carts: I was however authorized by the Governor to cut a road all the way through & bridge the streams and should have done so long ago had not the schooner in which I was, failed in reaching

the Voyage whether I was returning in June
1837. I could have found a good dry line of
country all the way through the Toots to the
Sabira & 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. Bussell's house & my
party at Wounerup 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 halted
my men for the winter on the edge of the Toot
land on a slightly rising ground overlooking
the entrance to the island & over that to the
sea; the site was excellent, & the ground
sufficiently clear to prevent the too near hidden
approach of the Nations to the camp & I should
not have hesitated to build permanent Bar-
racks on it had I not found that it lay
in the very centre of Mr. Layman's land in-
stead of being, as was supposed, in the
township, so having made my men as com-

portable as circumstances would permit, & surveyed
 townships I went to Head Quarters for further in-
 structions, & after failing once in an attempt to
 return, circumstances have prevented my ever,
 in all probability, seeing the station again
 & I have now left the Colony, leaving behind
 at the Dasse Sulit, a Horse, four dogs and
 a large quantity of all kinds of stores which I had
 laid in to supply me through the next six months.
 Our bush method of building is very simple and
 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 V reversed 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 fitted up with rushes & part of the front leaving, leaving a gap to serve as door & window & to admit the warmth of the fire blazing in front, round which congregate the Hangaroo dogs & such Natives as may be with one; it also serves for cooking & boiling the Kettle. The battens inside are also extremely useful to stick one's tools, tobacco pipes, dressing things &c. in between & a hammock stretched across forms one's bed, & the rest of one's 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 canteen & a trunk of clothes completes one's equipment for the bush, besides the necessary supply of stores. In such a habitation did I live several months at Pinjarnup & afterwards built a similar one at the Vase where I resided three months, but as the weather became very cold & wet I was about building a chimney to it when I left. ¹¹² The soldiers had a large hut of a similar construction to which

They added a large chimney of turf, 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 & damp without chimneys. Two days were amply sufficient for the erection of a T. hut even where, as at Wonnoupe we had some difficulty in finding straight poles to suit as rafters. Poor "Bero" lies interred beneath a Totat tree near my hut having been killed by a Kangaroo in April 1837. He was brought out from England in 1834 in the "Joshua Carroll" when he was quite young having just attained his full growth & was a very powerful dog, a cross between a Blood Hound & 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 Pinjarupe for the Vasse 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 & meet his death in consequence, as he, single handed brought a Yowert weighing above 150 lbs. to bay & seizing it by the throat, the big brute gave him such a hug across the loins 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 and expired himself shortly afterwards, with speed, 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 any body I set him at; he was the terror of the Natives, none of whom could approach the camp day or night without

his giving notice, & in all respects he was a most excellent watch, hating strangers & black fellows, in short, the terror of every one approaching "Dunbury mia" as my hut was usually called. I never saw so jealous or savage a dog over a kangaroo, he would hunt with none but my little bitch "Fly" & when they had killed, neither man or dog would he allow to approach, except me, he would lie with his paws over the dead game & if any one 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 ^{not} 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 favourite of the whole Detachment, 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 too Kan-
garoo 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 ra-
tions from Government.

I mentioned meeting the Governor at Gardorup
on the 18th December, & in consequence of an arrange-
ment with him I started on my return home-
wards on the evening of the 19th agreeing to meet
him again at Port Leschenault. I only got that
night as far as the Sabina where I had a very
comfortable halting place & good feed for the
horses; it is a great point for expeditious
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 any
ones house, where waiting breakfast, saying good
bye, packing the horses &c 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

cup & 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: see the stuffing of the saddle is free from hard knots & bits of stick or any thing 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 and be off. Taking care that your tether ropes are properly coiled & the saddle well put on, & you thus find yourself well advanced on your way before the 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 & is useful to cover the loins & back at night if very wet or cold, but it heats 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; but the best way I think is to do without it if the saddle is soft

and 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 heats the back & is apt to rumple up & gives a sore back sooner than the ~~the~~ & gives a sore back sooner than the saddle. There is nothing requires such anxious care & attention as the management 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 Peats 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 & then beat it with a switch to soften it where it cokes 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 trap 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, the straps & a cinch 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 swivels, one of them at-
tached 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 travel-
lers horse is fully equipped & for himself I
earnestly recommend woollen clothing in
all seasons. Fustian or Moleskins 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, & not liable to catch cold, even if con-
stantly exposed to wet for days together. Let
those who will, laugh at precautions or abuse
smoking but I am sure I am indebted to to-
bacco & woollen clothing for my total free-
dom 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 Puyarrup on foot:
 from the time I left the Cannings that afternoon
 until I reached the Williams⁴⁵ River on the 23^d 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 break
 fast, sixty four miles of lilly country with my
 boots worn out, showing my toes out in front
 & full of sand & pebbles. - I donot know if these
 boils are the effect of exposure to wet or overex-
 ertion 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 Vase, 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 sowthistles abounding on the banks, & I then steered about N.W.E., 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 Tocot country, very undulating with low limestone hills, & large timber of various kinds but the bushes not so thick as more 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 outwards route, after about two
& a half hours walk from the Capul which showed
how we had been before delayed by the swamps and
thickness of the bush. Monang now again got upon
our old tracks which we had left on the Capul; from
whence I had started by compass, but it was now
better to trust to the sagacity of a Native especially as
we had been before conducted this route by those
well acquainted with the neighbourhood. The
distance now to the Preston was seven or a half
miles & we arrived well tired late in the day,
falling in ^{on our way} with some of our former friends sucking
Munghtis, who favoured us with their company
to camp & assisted in collecting fernwood. As grass
was abundant & of excellent quality on the Pres-
ton I did not so much mind making a force
march to day, ^{as} the horses were well supplied
with food & water, otherwise, if there is any un-
certainty of procuring these, it is a bad plan to
press them much & more moderate travelling
answers best in the end. A considerable num-
ber of Natives joined me at the camp by the
food & I sent off one with a note (papel wanghi)

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 "Cuibra" with "bons coojal" was in the bay and 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 rapidly 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 21st 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 crossing the horses proceeded leisurely through the low rich country on the right bank of the Preston and coming out on the bay in the Estuary between that & the Colliu, turned to the left & 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 pipe & 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. Every 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 a bundance of wilghi for the occasion, & whose shouts & 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 Monang announce to the other Natives which was the Gubbernor, whose reputation was well known as the distributor of flour & blankets to the Blacks about Perth. While one boat went to fish with the same I accompa-

-ried the Governor up the Preston through the rich flats to some distance above my ford & crossing over, returned by the south bank where 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 trunks & 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 ^{tracks to} the waters edge & it was some time before I could ascertain clearly how they got over: I have since know 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 Collic about five miles from the mouth I found the water from 25 to 30 feet deep and nowhere in the Preston above half that depth. Both of them abound 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 snap-
 per; but the Taylors like fish best, of which
 Mullet if possible or else a piece of silver snap-
 per 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 & 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 aston-
 ishment 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 we call Guard fish in New South Wales, which is the most delicate and best flavoured of any I know on the Continent. It is about the size of a large smelt, long & slender, & when living, clear & almost translucent; on the under jaw projects a long point something like a narrow spoon, with smooth edges; which probably serves for scooping its food out of the sand. Its mouth is small and 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 or 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 especially the larger one are of that color. The Guard Fish appears to fore-

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quent all the parts of New Holland yet known
as it abounds in Port Jackson & the Parramatta
River where it is taken in great numbers, and
sold as a delicacy. In Van Diemens Land they
are also found as once when out with my dingy
at night one of them jumped in to me, I believe
to our mutual astonishment. They appear to fre-
quent 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 exporta-
tion. It is a large fish much resembling the
Newfoundland Cod, with a large head & varies
from 25 to 40 lbs weight; it may be constantly
seen making its way up the Inlets from the sea
towards the Estuaries of the Murray, Port Lisch-
enault, &c. and it is there just within the bar
that they are taken with a hook baited with
some small fish; it requires some 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 & the large Bay Snappers 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 properly cured but hitherto too little pains has been taken; and very little has turned out good of that salted on Rottnest Island, off which Snappers are taken in great abundance as well as very large few 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 20 lb. & frequent in shoals certain banks or spits of sands 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 mood 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 don't 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 Preston to the outer bar and 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 ²⁹stream then turns suddenly to the northward & northeast to the bar, to cross 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 twelve feet water within half a mile of the bar & the water gradually 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 far as NW by W but it is quite open to gales from NNW and 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 merely covered with low scrub to seaward,

it is richly clothed with wood on the east & north east side and a fertile 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; and 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 from the reef I mentioned as stretching out from the south head. Along the beach about ^{Port} Leschault and again in the Vase Inlet one finds a quantity of black sand, which on examination appears to be a ponderous metallic sand, bright and sparkling or specular & apparently iron; I have never found it occurring elsewhere but at these two Inlets it occurs in abundance about high water mark. About thirty miles out at sea a little

to the southward of west from Gomborup, there
is a very dangerous reef apparently entirely de-
-lacted from either the land here or about
Cape 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 any ascertaining
the real extent or nature of it, whether vol-
-canic, of coral, or only a continuation or
reappearance of the range of hills extending
from Cape Leuwin 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 Geographic Bay & accounts for
the comparative stillness there and absence
of sand hills. A township has been formed
or at least laid down on the Maps, compri-
-sing the southern promontory & part of
the north beach at the entrance of Port
Leschenault Inlet which the governor named

