

within the last three months, and the corn for many miles round the town remained uncut or uncarried. A more striking instance of the destroying character of this dreadful malady cannot be imagined, than this vast extent of uncut corn rotting on the ground, when you are told that not only there exists no one to claim it, but no one even to carry it away without a claim. The Governor might seize it as his own, but he could not find people to cut it, or carry it, or thrash it out. The very cattle have perished when tied up in the stables, because, when the owners were dead, there was no one either to feed them or to release them.

Under these circumstances, and hearing that the malady was raging with equal violence at Atáliyah, on the sea-coast, and throughout the intervening country, I determined to give up that part of my plan, and to return immediately to Smyrna by Ulúbúrlú (the site of the ancient Apollonia), Díncir, Ishekli, and Philadelphia; and, after a hurried journey, reached Smyrna on the 25th August.

XI.—*Considerations on the Political Geography and Geographical Nomenclature of Australia.* By Captain VETCH, Royal Engineers, F.R.S.

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.—The extent and boundaries of empires, states, and provinces, and the still lower political divisions of the earth's surface, have but too generally arisen out of accidental circumstances, mere caprice, or have been determined by impure and interested motives; so that the want of wise design and systematic arrangement in this department of politics is as manifest as it is unfortunate: for if we consider these divisions and subdivisions of States to be the organs and channels of government and links of social institutions, their defects cannot but prove highly detrimental to the true and complete administration of the laws, the peace and prosperity of the people.

It is indeed true that circumstances in many cases exist to prevent the establishment of political divisions on principle and system, but it must also be admitted that, in other cases, where neither difficulties nor obstacles presented themselves, the introduction of order has been equally neglected, and the omission not unfrequently only begins to be lamented when the measure is no longer practicable: much labour, expense, and trouble have then to be bestowed to remedy or palliate defects which a timely organization would have entirely obviated.

In no division of the globe could a system of political geography be introduced with so much ease, or with so many prospective ad-

vantages, as in that of Australia; and it is under the above considerations that the writer would humbly submit to her Majesty's government the advantage of an immediate adoption of a systematic arrangement for that country, by establishing at once the whole of the grand divisions into which the continent of Australia may be most appropriately apportioned, and of laying down at the same time the plan upon which the minor divisions and subdivisions ought to be formed.

In approaching this subject, we have, in the first place, to consider that Australia is a continent 2500 statute miles in length, with an average breadth of half that quantity; that it contains an area of 3,000,000 square statute miles, and that it is only one-sixth part less than the whole of Europe; and, if we reckon the population of Europe at 186,000,000, Australia may at a future day, on the same scale of density, possess a population of 153,000,000.

It is very probable that the native population of Australia has been stationary for a great lapse of years, and that there is small chance of its increasing. But if we look to the activity of British colonization, and the progress which the colonists are making in multiplying themselves, we may, with great safety, believe that the increase of souls will follow an equal ratio to that which has occurred in the United States of America, or even greater; because in Australia the ground requires much less clearing, and the obstruction from the natives is much less formidable; there is, therefore, nothing unreasonable in the expectation, that the population and power of the Australians may, in two centuries, equal those of the United States of America of the present day.

From the above general view it will be apparent that such a vast territory with a proportionate population can only be ultimately well governed by the division of the whole into a number of distinct States, and that, whether these rival communities become entirely independent of each other, or whether they be held together by a confederation, it will in either case be important for their general peace and individual prosperity, that they be pretty nearly balanced in power and natural advantages, and that in forming the grand divisions the following points should be attended to:—

- 1st. That each should possess areas nearly equal.
- 2nd. That each should be as compact as circumstances will permit.
- 3rd. That each should possess a tract of sea-coast.

With the above objects in view, and with the knowledge premised that Australia is of an oblong figure, twice the length of its breadth, it will be apparent that there is only one mode of division that will attain the required conditions. 1st. By dividing the continent longitudinally into two equal parts, and transversely into

four equal parts, from which will result eight equal grand divisions ; at least such would be the case if this continent were somewhat more regular in its form. It happens, however, that its breadth towards the eastern shore is so considerably expanded as to offer the facility of dividing the eastern sea-board into three portions as conveniently as into two, should such become, on other considerations, a more desirable arrangement ; or, in other words, the form of the continent presents a facility of division into either eight or nine provinces, and of affording to each the conditions and advantages already proposed to be secured to them. But it also happens that to one province of Australia boundaries have been already assigned, by charter and by Act of Parliament, which could not be materially altered without much difficulty, and therefore rendering it necessary to endeavour to combine what is proposed to be done with what has already been performed.

If the limits and extent of the province named South Australia, as assigned by Act of Parliament, be assumed as fixed conditions in a system of grand divisions of the continent, it will not require much study of the map to show that a distribution of the land into nine rather than eight parts will most harmonise with the step which has been already taken.

Should it be proposed to divide the continent into a greater number of parts than eight or nine, it could only be accomplished by depriving some of the divisions of a sea-coast position, or otherwise, by constructing them of a long and narrow form, and departing from the compact shape so desirable for the easy and cheap administration of government. On the other hand, should it be proposed to make the number of divisions less than eight or nine, it must not be overlooked that, with a division into eight parts, each individual State would possess an average area of 375,000 square statute miles, or be of an extent one-fourth greater than Spain and Portugal combined, and that each may possess a population of 19,000,000 of souls, and consequently that a greater extent of territory and people would not be likely to ensure so good a government, or so much happiness to the people.

If from the foregoing reasons it be admitted that, in laying the foundations of a number of contiguous empires, careful design and systematic arrangement would tend to promote the future welfare of the inhabitants, and that an essential part of such design and system must consist in forming the grand divisions upon the principle above proposed, then it must also follow that the plan should be adopted and reduced to practice ere conditions or circumstances may arise to render the same either impracticable or difficult.

The accompanying sketch of a study for the grand divisions of Australia will serve to illustrate the author's views and aid his

explanations. On this subject he has at present only further to propose, that, should his views be deemed correct, not only should the adoption of some such similar division take place, but also that a colony or garrison, however small, should be at once established on some convenient part of the coast of each division.

By means of small garrisons, commanded in some instances by a person of no greater rank than serjeant, did Russia maintain some possessions or settlements on the west coast of America, although her original right to them might be somewhat questionable.

The utility of establishing these small garrisons of even a company of soldiers, or less, would be as follows:—

1st. The taking and maintaining possession, and consequently preventing disputes or even war with foreign powers in respect to right.

2nd. Serving as points of refuge and refit for vessels coasting either for trade or discovery, and these must shortly become numerous.

3rd. The acquiring useful information concerning the natives, and the capabilities of the country for future settlements.

4th. Constituting an organ of government, ready at any time to give effect to what measures may be deemed necessary in the progress of future settlements; and,

Lastly. They would be useful for advancing the geographical knowledge of large territories at present too little known.

In the accompanying sketch of the grand divisions of Australia, the boundaries are formed chiefly by means of meridian lines and parallels of latitude, and these, though not the most eligible as a frontier between hostile States, have several compensating advantages; they are easily described and precisely defined, and furnish the means of giving the required size and shape better than natural boundaries; and, lastly, they facilitate the system of allotment of the land, which has been followed with so much advantage in the United States of America.

Nevertheless, should it be found, in the progress of geographical discovery, that natural boundaries do exist somewhat conterminous with those of the imaginary lines, then it would, no doubt, be advisable to substitute the former for the latter. The only good natural boundary with which we are at present acquainted is perhaps that of the River Murray towards its mouth, where it might be advantageously substituted for the meridian line boundary at least, from the point of intersection of the two, down to the sea.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOMENCLATURE.—This is a branch of geography generally left to chance or caprice, and it will not be easy to find any department so left which has been more abused.

It might not be worth while to take much pains for the mere purpose of introducing a complete and faultless nomenclature. But good taste, and even common sense, is concerned in rescuing Australia from some barbarous and nonsensical names, which nothing but a positive necessity should tolerate.

Wherever native names exist, and where these names may have existed for a number of ages, it appears something like sacrilege to disturb or change them; such names, besides the sacredness of antiquity, are often significant, and contain in themselves useful information as to the migrations of the human race, and the former connexion which existed between tribes now far separated. Thus rivers in Australia may be found with names identical with others in America; native names possess this advantage also, that they are seldom vulgar or ridiculous, and they furnish a copious fund of distinctive terms to obviate the confusion which arises to geographical nomenclature in the repetition for the hundredth time of the rivers Thames, Trent, Tyne, &c., and it fortunately happens that in no country, however barbarous or thinly peopled, are the great features of nature, as rivers and mountains, without names; and the name of a river or mountain may be appropriately applied also to the district in which it occurs.

That Australia is not defective in native names, and of good sounding names, may be shown by the following random specimens, the freedom having been taken of curtailing the double letters, with which the English are so apt to encumber their orthography of unlettered tongues, and apparently to so little purpose:—

Monam	-	Downs.	Anglicised Brisbane Downs.
Colaie	-	a Morass.	„ Dalrymple's Marsh.
Morumbigi	-	a River.	
Molonglo	-	ditto.	
Paramata	-	a Town.	
Waragamba	-	a River.	
Kernok	-	a River.	
Gelong	-	a River.	
Tramo	-	a Down.	„ Oxley's Plains.
Pannara	-	a Mount.	„ Maclachlam Mount.
Belubula	-	a River.	
Waragong	-	a Range of Mountains.	

We may now contrast the above with the following new names:—

The New Year's Range.	Tunbridge Hill.
Cockburn River.	Darling River.
McQuarrie River.	Reid's Mistaken Hill.
Encounter Bay.	Sir Joseph Banks' Island.
Peaked Hill.	Mount Disappointment.
Back Stairs Passage.	

It is presumed the above will suffice to show the inexpediency and impropriety of explorers placing their own names, or those of their patrons, in lieu of *existing names*, in every way preferable; and it would only be necessary for the ruling powers to express a wish that the native names should be ascertained as far as possible, and adopted, to establish that line of future proceeding.

Where towns and villages are to be founded, there can be no remedy against bad taste; but the founders may then indulge their fancy without interfering with names already sanctioned by age.

The Spaniards rarely attempted to change the Indian names in America, but contented themselves with providing a patron saint, and prefixing his name to the towns, which prefixes are now becoming obsolete; and if we contrast the Indian names of Peru and Mexico with the jargon of new and old names introduced in the United States of America, we shall have good reason to admire the better taste of the Spaniards.

That good native names were to be found in the United States as well as in Australia, we have only to recur to some that have been preserved—as the Ohio, Oswega, Ticonderaga, &c.—and to regret that a greater number should not have been handed down in place of the Brandy-Wine, and such like.

It is not, however, to be expected that we shall find any native name used to designate the entire of Australia, or even of any large portions of it, as the circumscribed knowledge and power of the present native races cannot be supposed to reach, or to have any motive for reaching, to so great a grouping of land.

The names of the whole continent and of its grand divisions must, therefore, necessarily be of modern invention or application.

The whole continent long went by the name of New Holland, until Pinkerton pointed out the absurdity of it, and Flinders suggested that of Australia, which has happily come into general use.

There can be no impropriety in calling a new town New Carthage, or New Orleans, &c., as colonised or founded from parent cities of those names; but the term “New” cannot with the same propriety be applied to the face of a country, or its features. The New Thames, or the New Tiber—the New Alps, or the New Grampians—would not be tolerated; and, upon the same principle, New Holland, New England, and New South Wales have only ceased to excite the smile (from use) which New Turkey or New Egypt would readily create.

The name Holland is descriptive of a low country, and the term is not applicable to Australia; but the further absurdity was embodied of naming a great continent from a small province—an objection which applies also to the term *New South Wales*, an example of a name consisting of a sentence, and implying the

necessity of designating the inhabitants by the names of New South Welsh men and New South Welsh women.

There are two names which have arisen lately to denominate two provinces of Australia which are hardly less objectionable than that of New South Wales. These are South Australia and West Australia. These names consist of two words in two different languages, and if put entirely into English would imply in one case a repetition, and in the other a contradiction, viz., South Southland and West Southland. Surely one language and one word might supply a better appellation than a confusion both of tongues and terms.

If we adopt the term Australia, as distinguishing it in its southern position from other continents, then, according to the usual system of classification, some other distinguishing character ought to be used for the genera than that for the classes. If, however, South Southland is a term meant to describe and distinguish a province, it will not effect its object, since the same name will be equally descriptive of three other provinces of Australia, and West Australia will be equally so of two of them.

The name in present use for the whole of the continent (Australia) is admitted to be good, nor would it appear a matter of much difficulty to supply simple and distinctive terms for the provinces, and if any such proceeded from a quarter of authority, no one would feel disposed to subject them to criticism, unless involving some manifest impropriety. The case, however, is much altered when a private individual ventures to cater for the public taste; he must be both prepared for criticism, censure, or sarcasm. The writer, having no predilection of his own in the matter, would have left the task to other hands, could he have seen any hope of its being so performed. If he, therefore, now ventures to undertake it himself, it arises from the consideration that we should otherwise *still* remain without the means of classifying the various parts of Australia; whereas by means of a system of division, and corresponding terms, we can at once refer any spot of that continent to its admitted place in the system, and which, if established for no other purpose than that of facilitating geographical description, cannot but prove of obvious utility.

The principle followed in selecting names for the great divisions has been that of doing honour to the most original discoverers of the respective portions, but preserving, at the same time, names which have been long attached to various parts; and if this principle has been departed from in two instances, the inducements for so doing will, it is hoped, be duly appreciated. Taking, therefore, the divisions as numbered in the accompanying map, and proceeding on the principle alluded to, the following terms are very humbly submitted for adoption:—

I. DAMPIERIA. In honour of the intrepid and celebrated navigator who, in 1688 and 1699, explored some of the coast in this quarter, and whose name is still attached to an Archipelago, and a tract of the shore comprised in this division.

II.—VICTORIA. In honour of our gracious Queen, under whose auspices it is to be expected, the great Australian empire will receive a form and development corresponding to its magnitude and prospective importance.*

III.—TASMANIA. In honour of the celebrated Dutch navigator, *Abel Janz Tasman*, who, in his second voyage in 1644, discovered the whole of the N.W. coast from lat. 11° to lat. 18° south.

IV.—NUYTSLAND. In honour of *Pieter Nuyts*, who, in the ship, *Gulde Zeepaard*, in 1627, discovered, and ran along 1000 miles of the south coast, and to which his name has long been most justly affixed.

V.—CARPENTARIA. So named from the great Northern Gulf, said to have been so called from the Governor-General *Carpenter*, who, in 1625, was Governor over the Dutch East India possessions.

VI.—FLINDERSLAND. In honour of *Flinders* the eminent navigator, to whose enterprise and surveys we are so much indebted for our knowledge of the shores of Australia, and whose name as a discoverer is especially connected with this division.

VII.—TORRESIA. In honour of the Spanish navigator *Torres*, who discovered this portion of Australia in the year 1606, and whose name is deservedly attached to the straits situated at the north cape of this division.

VIII.—COOKSLAND. In honour of our celebrated circumnavigator, who, in 1770, discovered and examined a great extent of the eastern coast, and from whom, therefore, this division may with much propriety derive its name.

IX.—GUELPHIA. In honour of King George the Third, the zealous and munificent patron of geographical discovery, and under whose auspices the first settlement of the British in Australia took place, in the year 1788.†

Before quitting the subject of Australian geography it may not be misplaced to express regret and even surprise that so little

* The names of the navigators Edels, Vlaming, Vancouver, and D'Entrecasteaux, claim to be recorded in the subdivision of this province, but as it would be difficult to apply any one of them to the whole division without committing an act of injustice to the others, a fit opportunity presents itself of doing honour to our august Sovereign and Patron of the Geographical Society.

† The name of New South Wales, long associated with this quarter of Australia, has been shown to be in many ways objectionable, and a fit occasion therefore occurs of honouring the memory of our Third George, in whose reign possession of the country was taken, and a new continent added to the British empire.

progress has been made in the inland discovery of a country where the general climate is so mild, and where the native hostility is so little formidable.

It is now half a century since the first settlement of the British in Australia was effected, and we may still say that we know little more than the sea-coasts. The face and features of the central regions are still matters for conjecture, and the geographer is still anxious to learn whether the great hiatus has to be filled up with lofty mountains or with lakes and marshes, whether dismal swamps or arid wastes may forbid the settlements of man, or fertile plains and rich valleys invite his approach.

British enterprise and perseverance have explored the frozen shores of North America amongst all the dangers, privations, and difficulties which the extremity of cold can inflict, and the same qualities have carried our daring travellers into the heart of the burning and pestilential climate of Africa, in the midst of a dense, savage, and bigoted population, while the genial climate and thinly-peopled tracts of Australia have failed to excite the enterprise of discovery, when to all appearance it would be attended with so many more prospects of success and utility.

To those who have been accustomed to traverse the vast spaces of continental America, the undertaking of crossing Australia in various directions would appear a matter of no great magnitude or difficulty if furnished with the hardy horses and mules and the well-trained muleteers of Spanish America.

But travelling with success and safety over great spaces in wild and savage countries is an art which can only be acquired by considerable practice; and the British travellers in Spanish America must often have remarked the insufficiency or uselessness of European servants in their journeys, while the natives, trained to travel, seemed prepared for every contingency.

In contemplating the causes which may have prevented or damped the spirit of discovery in Australia, the most important one appears to be the want of points of *appui* for rest and refitment, or for succour when the journey is accomplished. The traveller must have some haven in view to which to direct his steps, and where, at the end of his toils, he can expect safety and repose; but if this haven be the one he started from, then his resources and toils will but procure half of the discovery which might have been obtained by proceeding to a different terminus.

Settlements and points of succour are now becoming numerous on the coast, but in a continent like Australia, without inlets of the sea and great navigable rivers, it must be manifest that no considerable progress can be made in a general knowledge of the interior, until some permanent posts are there established to which the traveller can direct his steps, either by design or in case of need: the number of such posts need only be three, at or near

the points marked *a*, *b*, and *c*, on the accompanying map, and as a measure of facility, the post marked *a* might be furnished by the governor of the Swan River settlement, the post *b* by the governor of South Australia, and the post *c* by the governor of New South Wales.

These three posts established, it will be seen, from the imaginary routes traced on the map between them and some nine points on the sea-coast, that the face of this continent may be very generally ascertained and traversed in many directions from sea to sea without subjecting travellers to any greater journey than one of about 500 miles without coming to a place of rest and succour; nor must it be considered that the establishment of such inland posts with a small garrison would be so much expense incurred for pure motives of curiosity, since much advantage must result to the settlements on the coast from a knowledge of the natural resources of the interior, from knowing and bridling the numbers and power of the natives. Such posts and garrisons would also prove useful in checking the movements of roving Europeans disposed to lead a life of plunder and aggression, as has so unfortunately happened in Diemen's Land.

The establishment of three posts in the central portion of Australia may appear at first sight a measure attended with difficulties; but it is to be considered that the country is generally free from thickets and dense forests, that on the contrary it is essentially open and transitable, not only for foot and horsemen, but also for carriages, so that the transport of a small body of armed men in a fine climate, for a distance of 500 miles, with a supply of provisions, could not, in any degree of probability, be an enterprise either of difficulty or danger. The servants of the North West Company, in a rigorous climate, would not estimate such an undertaking highly, neither would it be so deemed in many other parts of America.

Thirty soldiers, with a portion of settlers, might readily maintain themselves in provisions by means of an original stock of cattle, sheep, and swine, in a country so peculiarly pastoral, and might, moreover, in a short time have a superabundance for barter and profit; and where horses are so soon likely to abound, the making communications with head-quarters could be effected (when required) in a space of ten days or so, in favourable seasons of the year. The only precaution necessary to be taken would be the selection of a good site for the post, and route to it, by means of a previous exploring party.

Attention of late has been much turned to preserve the indigenous population from injuries by the colonists, and to draw them gently into social and civilised habits; and if the person in charge of such a post was a man of judgment, he might, with the assistance of a missionary, be mainly instrumental in forwarding

these objects. On the whole, I can view the establishment of such inland posts in no other light than a duty to all interests,—to the government, the colonists, the natives, and the acquisition of geographical knowledge. Nor do I see how any considerable progress is ever to be made in inland discovery without such means. Are we to wait till population gradually extends from the shore to the centre? or till some rival nation, establishing a colony on the shore, shall push on discoveries in the interior? All difficulty and delay would in that case speedily vanish, and we would yield to pride, if to no other inducement, in the performance of a duty which science, no less than policy, demands of that nation to whose guidance the destinies of Australia are committed.

In relation to the early history and migrations, not only of the human, but also of the brute races, the geography of Australia exhibits some strange anomalies, which are the more interesting and deserving of study in proportion to the difficulty of their explanation.

Of all continental land, Australia (as far as it is known) presents man the most scantily disseminated, in the lowest state of civilization and knowledge, and the most abject in the means of bodily comfort or enjoyment, the most deficient of all history or tradition, and with the fewest monuments of past times; circumstances directly contrary to all *à priori* deductions from the geographical position and physical condition of the country, which—enjoying a most favoured climate, both for the rapid increase of the human race and the development of its best powers, and immediately connected by numerous islands with China on the one hand, and India on the other, the most anciently populous and civilised of nations—would well have warranted the conclusion of an ancient numerous and civilised people, in possession of all the knowledge and arts which India and China could supply; and if, through the accident of time, the present race had sunk into barbarism, that we should still find the monuments of former prosperity and past ages, marking the ruin of empires and revolutions of nations. But as far as the most recent researches permit us to speak, there is no indication during the space of four thousand years, or since the origin of the human race, that colonies had been established in Australia by any civilised nation until the present epoch; whereas Java, at little greater distance from Australia than England is from Spain, appears to have been early populated and civilised, as so emphatically shown by the following statements of Sir Stamford Raffles respecting that island:—“The numerous and interesting remains of former art and grandeur which exist in the ruins of temples and other edifices, the abundant treasures of sculpture and statuary with which some parts of the island are covered, give evidence of a former state of religious

belief and national improvement, which are represented in images, devices, and inscriptions." And again—"The grandeur of their ancestors sounds like a fable in the mouth of the present degenerate Javan; and it is only when it can be traced in monuments which cannot be falsified, that we are led to give credit to their traditions concerning it."

Of such easy access to the maritime nations of South Asia, and in the vicinity of a country so anciently peopled and civilised as Java appears to have been, it can hardly be ascribed to accident that Australia should have remained during the great flood of time unvisited and uncolonised; that, amidst the pursuit of conquest and discoveries by some nations, and flight from oppression by others, Australia should have continued unreclaimed from the state of nature, a sealed and secluded land to the migrations of man, so much nearer to the presumed cradle of his race, while the far distant countries of Peru and Mexico offer proofs of ancient and civilised nations.

The inference would seem to be, that in former times some physical difficulties or conditions existed, which do not now exist, which placed a barrier to the colonization of this continent, or else that some convulsions of nature destroyed in this division of the globe both the race and the works of man. These are, however, inferences which we cannot venture to adopt until the progress of inland discovery be farther advanced, for we are still allowed to expect in the interior traces and proofs of the ancient dominion of civilised nations.

But, on the other hand, the absence of most of the larger quadrupeds of Asia, and the possession of a few peculiar to itself, rather confirms the presumption of the long seclusion of Australia from the rest of the world.

Some have supposed that Australia is a more recently formed land than the other continents, but if even such a notion was admitted for the sake of argument, it could only hold good in respect to mineral composition, while in respect to the epoch of man, there are sufficient geological proofs of an equal antiquity with the other divisions of the globe.

The curious problem of the long-secluded state of Australia from the rest of the world, while apparently so easy of access, must remain for the present matter of conjecture, though we may justly entertain the hope that the progress of inland discovery will throw considerable light on the subject. We shall learn the present physical state of the country, and also a probable knowledge of what that state has been during the last four thousand years, We shall learn in what state the indigenes of the interior remain—their languages, customs, and manners—what connexion may be traced between them and the tribes of other

countries—and whether there exist any remains of a more ancient and more enlightened people.

But while we remain in want of more decided facts on which to ground deductions, too great care cannot be taken to preserve the vocabularies of the various tribes, their manners, customs, and rites, and the names of places, which, in other countries, are sometimes significant in languages no longer spoken on the spot.

Much credit seems due to Mr. Scott Nind for his attention to the above subjects, as exemplified in a paper communicated to the Geographical Society,* in which he describes a law of the natives near King George's Sound, of so extraordinary a character, and yet so similar to one adopted by some tribes of British Guayana, as may well justify the temptation of placing the two accounts together in this place for the purpose of showing the value of such researches.

“The whole body of the natives,” says Mr. Nind, “are divided into two classes, *Erniung* and *Tem*, or *Taaman*; and the chief regulation is, that these classes must intermarry, that is, an *Erniung* with a *Taaman*: those who infringe this rule are called *Turedangers*, and are subject to severe punishment. The children always follow the denomination of the mother—thus, the man who is *Erniung*, will have all his children *Taaman*, his sister's children will be *Erniung*. This practice is common to all tribes in the neighbourhood, with the exception of the *Murram*.”

“The Arrawack [Arahuc] tribe of Indians, in Guayana,” says Mr. Hillhouse,† “consists of twenty-seven families. The cast of blood is derived from the mother, and the family genealogy is preserved with the greatest care, as a preservation from incestuous intercourse, one family (clan) not being allowed to intermarry within itself. The children of a *Maratakayu* father cannot therefore be *Maratakayu*; but if the mother be *Queyurunto*, the children are also *Queyurunto*, and can marry into the father's family, but not into the mother's.”

It does not appear probable that a law so extraordinary, but so well devised for the regulation of marriages, could have been adopted accidentally by savage nations, so far apart, and in opposition to the general habits, the want of restraint, and hasty passions of man, in a barbarous state of existence, and we might therefore infer that this institution has been derived by each of these tribes from some people in a more advanced stage of knowledge than themselves; and if at any time we shall be able to trace this custom to its source, and observe its greater extension, these circumstances may tend much to elucidate the migrations and connexions of the early families of man.

* Journal, vol. i. p. 37.

† Ibid. vol. ii. p. 228.