

THE  
NARRATIVE  
OF A  
VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY,  
*PERFORMED IN HIS MAJESTY'S VESSEL*  
THE LADY NELSON,  
OF SIXTY TONS BURTHEN,  
*WITH SLIDING KEELS,*  
IN THE YEARS 1800, 1801, AND 1802,  
TO  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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BY JAMES GRANT,  
LIEUTENANT IN THE ROYAL NAVY.

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INCLUDING

Remarks on the CAPE DE VERD ISLANDS, CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, the hitherto Unknown Parts of NEW HOLLAND, discovered by him in his Passage (the first ever attempted from Europe) through the STREIGHT separating that Island from the Land discovered by VAN DIEMAN :

TOGETHER WITH

Various Details of his Interviews with the NATIVES of NEW SOUTH WALES; Observations on the SOIL, NATURAL PRODUCTIONS, &c. not known or very slightly treated of by former NAVIGATORS; with his Voyage home in the Brig ANNA JOSEPHA round CAPE HORN; and an Account of the Present State of FALKLAND ISLANDS.

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TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE ORIGIN OF SLIDING KEELS,  
AND THE ADVANTAGES RESULTING FROM THEIR USE;

With an APPENDIX of ORDERS, CERTIFICATES, AND EXAMINATIONS, relative to the TRIAL CUTTER.

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THE WHOLE ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.

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LONDON:

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1803.

I had not, from the time of my departure, a sick man among my ship's company, one man only excepted, whose skull had been fractured. He found himself somewhat ill, from the fatigue and constant wet weather we experienced during the voyage, but recovered soon after we came in, without any assistance from medicine. The unfavourableness of the weather prevented me from completing the whole of my instructions; but I had the satisfaction whilst in Botany Bay to learn, by a letter from Governor King, that he was well pleased with what I had done.

The Lady Nelson was now ordered to receive on board Lieutenant-Governor Colonel Paterson, and convey him to Hunter's River, which, from the abundance of coals found on its banks, has obtained the name of Coal River. The object of this voyage was to make a survey of the river, to gain a knowledge of its natural productions, and whatever else might appear worthy of observation. Having all things in readiness, we set sail on the 10th of June, with the Frances schooner, which latter vessel was to be loaded with coals. With Colonel Paterson, we received on board Dr. Harris, Surgeon of the New South Wales Corps, Ensign Barreillier (the Surveyor), and a number of workmen and labourers, for the purpose of cutting and sawing timber, digging and loading coals, and other necessary works. With us likewise went one of the natives, named Bangaree. At the mouth of the harbour we fell in with the ship Cornwallis, having convicts on board from England; and on the 11th at noon we had an observation in the lat.  $33^{\circ} 35' S$ . the north head of Broken Bay bearing W. by S. distance 10 or 12 miles.

On the next day the weather was variable, and having had a person sent on board as a pilot, who had lately sailed from Sydney to the river for coals, I thought I could rely on his knowledge of the place, but herein I proved to be mistaken. He was  
near

near entering a wrong place, being deceived by the appearance of an island,\* Hunter's, or Coal River, having one at its entrance; and as we had passed a place called Reid's Mistake (which lays to the northward of Broken Bay, and having an island before it, had deceived a man of that name for the entrance of Hunter's River), I thought this man, officially sent as a pilot, might be right. I had taken an observation, and did not find the latitude agree with that given me for Hunter's River, but our pilot supposed himself there, and was not convinced of his error till we got within half a mile of the island. As we were in 17 fathoms water, and the weather was fair, I got my boat out, and Dr. Harris went on shore to reconnoitre the place. In the meantime I brought up with the kedge, and set my people to fishing, who caught a number of snappers and other fish. On Dr. Harris's return, he brought with him a native, who, on seeing the boat had run down to it, crying out several times, *Whale Boat!* and *Budgeric Dick!* or *Good Dick,*—a name we supposed had been given him by the people sent in search of those who ran away with the Norfolk, as before mentioned. This man had some fish with him, which he threw into the boat first, and then jumped into it himself, without the least hesitation. The report which Dr. Harris made on board was, that not the least appearance of any river was to be discerned; but the sea broke very heavily in an inlet behind the island.

Our new acquaintance Dick, as soon as he got on board, continued his cries of *Whale Boat!* and in order to discover what he meant by them, I introduced him to Bangaree, with directions to the latter to question him on the subject. Bangaree pointed to him to sit down, which, I have observed before, im-

\* The Plate shews the entrance of the River, with the Lady Nelson and the Frances schooner going up it.

plied that a stranger was received with friendship. It was in vain for me to desire Bangaree to proceed in his enquiries, there was another etiquette, which could not be omitted, and this was a continuance in profound silence. This lasted for about twenty minutes, at the expiration of which time they by degrees entered into discourse, drawing nearer to each other, as they began to talk. We received, however, little information from Dick, whether it was that Bangaree did not well understand him; and I am inclined to think so, for some of our people, who were best acquainted with the language spoken by the natives round Sydney, were at the same loss.

We got under weigh about three P. M. and at five saw another high perpendicular island, bearing N. eight or nine miles, which we took for the real entrance. In the morning we were well in with it; and at half past ten A. M. I went in the boat with Dr. Harris, in order to discover whether this was the place that we looked for. We found the entrance very narrow, with a reef on one side, and a very heavy surf breaking on it. On the other side were some heavy sand breakers, and the passage in very much troubled, and all but breaking. Finding this to be the case, I at one time put the boat's head round to the swell, and pulled out; but the risk of bringing in the two vessels, without exactly ascertaining the channel, made me determine to attempt it, and accordingly we pulled through, and carried from five to four and three and half fathoms with us close to the island. It was then just on the pitch of high water when we landed on the island, up the steep side of which, near the entrance, we clambered till we reached the top. This side is covered with grass, but the others are perpendicular, in a crumbling state, and falling by degrees into the sea. On the summit is a beautiful view of the river, interspersed with islands, and extending as far as the eye can reach. Here I hoisted an Union  
Jack,

Jack, as a signal to the vessel that this was the right entrance of the River we were in search of. I must remark, that this island is well calculated for defending the River's entrance, and a proper place for erecting a signal tower or light-house. Between the island and the main there is an opening of about three cables' length, which is full of rocks, with a heavy surf breaking over them, the effects of which are felt from side to side of the river. On this side, therefore, it would be dangerous to attempt a passage with a vessel, since, should there be any channel found, it must necessarily be narrow and crooked; vessels then must go round the island in entering, as it appears by the Plate, the *Lady Nelson* and *Frances* schooner are doing. Opposite to this chasm the different strata of coals are discovered, exhibiting a checkered-like appearance. It should seem that this separation from the main has been produced by some violent convulsion of nature. The rocks, from the disposition in which they now stand, and the strata of coals on the island, shew the connection which once subsisted between the main land and it. The Colony of New South Wales cannot fail of reaping great advantage from a mine of coals so near to it, and so easy to be worked.

We returned on board the vessel, and set about towing and sweeping her in with all possible dispatch. At noon the latitude was, by observation,  $32^{\circ} 57' 34''$  S. the island, which we named Coal Island, bearing W. N. W. distant three or four miles. I compute the true latitude of the island to be  $32^{\circ} 55'$  S.

By the time we approached the entrance the ebb had set strong out, and ran with much force; however, by dint of warping, we brought up under the island for the night in three and a half fathoms water, within pistol-shot of the shore. At daylight we proceeded up to a saw-pit made for the purpose of cutting cedar, which is growing in abundance on the banks of that

that river, of a large size, and excellent quality, and came to abreast of it in three fathoms water, steadying the vessel by a hawser made fast to a tree on shore. The harbour is of several miles extent, and capable of containing many sail of shipping, and is well sheltered from every wind that blows.

We immediately set about making the different arrangements for completing the object of our voyage. The Colonel and I went on shore to examine the different strata of coals, taking with us a miner, who pointed them out to us very distinctly, and we found them running from side to side of the mountain of various qualities and degrees of thickness. At low water, coals proper for fuel were to be gathered up from the reef before mentioned; and when the tide was up, we could work a pier. Accordingly, having orders to load the schooner with all expedition with coals and wood, I had the satisfaction to see her sail with a cargo of both on the 26th of June, eleven days after her arrival.

It may be imagined that coals were found in great plenty, when I mention that the schooner sailed with forty tons of coals on board, and that we had only one man employed to dig the mine. The spot where these coals are found is clear of tree or bush for the space of many acres, which are covered with a short tender grass, very proper for grazing sheep, the ground rising with a gradual ascent, intersected with vallies, on which wood grows in plenty, sheltered from the winds, forming the most delightful prospects. This place might serve as a station for the wood cutters and colliers; it affords pasture for sheep, its soil in general being good, though on the whole not so rich as on Western Port. Dr. Harris and Mr. Barreillier penetrated to some distance inland: they saw many kangaroos, and met with a native, who followed them some time, and then left them.

Our native Dick, already mentioned, thought proper to leave us in an excursion we made with him into the country. Colonel Paterson discovered some copper and iron ores, the latter strongly impregnated and rich in metal. The seine was hauled, and plenty of excellent fish caught, particularly the mullet, with a fish much resembling the herring, which I am inclined to think, like them, go in shoals. On an island in the harbour a tree is found in great plenty, the quality of whose timber much resembles that of the ash; and from the great numbers of them growing there, has given name to the island. Of this timber I had received orders to send a quantity to Sydney, and had brought out sawyers for that purpose; but as every object could not be at once accomplished, they were employed, in the mean time, in cutting down and sawing into planks, a tree, the bark of which is much like cork. The timber of this tree is light, close and durable, and promises to stand against the effects of worms on the bottoms of vessels. I had a boat built of this wood, which proved it to be good for such uses. This wood has much the resemblance of what is called wainscot with us. Mr. Barreillier's survey was all this time going on. Nearly abreast of the vessel was a Creek, which Colonel Paterson and I penetrated for a considerable way up. On its banks we found part of a net, made of strong grass, apparently the work of an European. We likewise found marks of fires having been lighted there; and in the stream the remains of a weir, the work of the native inhabitants, this being one of their principal devices for taking fish. We concluded the net had belonged to the unfortunate men who ran away with the Norfolk sloop, as mentioned before, it therefore became necessary to caution our out-parties against a surprize either from them or the New Hollanders.

On examining Ash Island, we found many large timber trees

trees intermixed with the ash, one of which I took on board as a specimen, which has much the likeness of hickery, and may be applicable to many of the purposes that wood is used for. I found several other woods, some of them light and pretty; and, in particular, a tree, the leaves of which sting like nettles: this acquired from us the name of the Nettle Tree. The native Dick now made his appearance with two of his companions, after an absence of eight and forty hours. One of these had been at Sydney, and was known to Colonel Paterson, by which means a kind of conversation was kept up. The fires of the natives and many individuals of them were to be seen on the side of the harbour opposite to Ash Island. We went up an arm of the river, in order to reach the place where they were; but after crossing the harbour, were disappointed in the design. We found the harbour here full of flats and shoals, over many of which we were under the necessity of dragging the boat by main strength. Here we found trees incrustated with oysters, and the shore covered to a great depth with oyster-shells, from which lime might be made on the spot, should it at any time be required for the purposes of building. We daily hauled the seine, and often took mullets of a very large size. Our several works went vigorously on, and now it was that a party was sent to work on Ash Island in felling and sawing that timber. These took with them a week's provision, with arms and ammunition. Their orders were to be on the watch against any surprize, either from the Norfolk crew or the natives; and in their intercourse with the latter to conduct themselves with prudence and moderation, and by no means to provoke an attack from them.

I visited the coal mine in company of Colonel Paterson, and we were shewn by the miner several veins, which he had discovered, of a most excellent quality. Amongst the rocks we found plenty of what is called liver of iron. Here were a va-

riety of birds to be seen, and the wild cat, of which animal, the men working the coals had taken some. They seemed to partake more of the nature of the stoat or weasel, like that animal sucking the blood of every thing they caught, and preying chiefly in the night-time.

On the 22d, Colonel Paterson went, attended by a party and the miner, to make an examination of the island. At the same time, Mr. Barreillier, Dr. Harris and myself, sounded the entrance of the harbour. The coal found on the island appeared to be of an inferior kind, called by the colliers chilters. It had been the intention to load the coals here, from the supposition that they were casier got at: however, the inferiority of the coals turned the scale in favour of the place where the *Frances* took in her cargo, and where vessels could lie in perfect security.

An object now presented itself to our view, which exhibited the completest picture of wretchedness I ever beheld. This was a man wrecked in a boat belonging to Sydney, with two other men, both of whom were dead; one of them by the hands of the natives, the other by eating greedily of the toad-fish, the prickly bones of which had choaked him. The poor wretch before us shed a flood of tears, and declared he was nearly starved to death, as he had subsisted for thirty-two days on what he could pick up along shore. It was fortunate for him he found us here, as he must inevitably have perished before he could have reached Sydney. I had him taken on board the vessel, fed with caution, and duly attended to, and in a few days had the satisfaction to ship him on board the *Frances* for Sydney, quite recovered.

On the 23d, Mr. Barreillier and the second mate went on shore, and in the woods met with a native, whom they conducted on board the vessel. He was an elderly man, of the

class

class termed here, Bush Natives, who are considered as an inferior tribe by the inhabitants of the sea coast. This man's legs and arms bore no proportion in length to the rest of his body, and his manner of ascending this ship's ladder was remarkable, and plainly proved he was much accustomed to climbing. His method was to stretch out his arms as far as he could reach, and then bring his feet to the same place with a jerk. His language was unintelligible to all on board, and the sounds he uttered strangely dissonant and uncouth, having, however, something plaintive, but without the least similitude to speech. He had the whole of his front teeth perfect, contrary to the usage of the other natives of New Holland, who cause one of the *incisors* of the upper jaw to be eradicated at an early period of their lives. Of this custom, Mr. Collins has given a particular account in his work, relating to the manners and customs of the New Hollanders. This man could by no means be persuaded to eat or drink with us. I offered him sugar, supposing, as the Bush Natives live much on wild honey, it might prove acceptable. I was on the point of putting him on shore, as he seemed so averse to partake of our food, and was otherwise so far from docility, when he espied a crow of the carrion species, which one of my people had shot: this he seemed to express a longing desire for, and on its being presented to him, he went with it to the galley fire, and heating it a little, devoured it greedily, entrails and all. On his going on shore, Colonel Paterson gave him a tomahawk, which he took, and appeared to know readily how to use it; however, he did not seem to have any name to give it, which was what we endeavoured to make him express; but placing it under his arm went off with it. The crew of the boat, in which he was conveyed on shore, willing to have a proof of his dexterity in the use of his new acquisition, pointed at a tree, as if they wished

wished to see him climb it. He readily understood them, and making a notch in the tree with his instrument, placed his foot into it, continuing the same practice; thus he very nimbly ascended to the top, though the tree was of a great thickness, and without branches that could assist him in the ascent to the height of forty feet. From this tree he removed to another, by which he descended, and passing hastily through the bushes, was soon out of their sight. The natives have hatchets of their own, formed with sharp stones, and which they use for the same purpose, and I have indeed remarked that many of the trees are notched. Colonel Paterson, whose long residence in New Holland, and curiosity of observation, has enabled him to decide upon questions of this nature, declared that he never met with a native who differed so widely from the rest of the New Hollanders. It will probably appear to my Readers, that we have as yet but an imperfect knowledge of the natural productions of the neighbourhood of Sydney, and of its aboriginal inhabitants. This man appeared in a state of perfect nakedness, and was without the mark of the ornament described by Colonel Collins, of a stick thrust through the cartilage of the nose, of which he bore no mark. As there is thought to be a chain in Creation, beginning with the Brute and ending with Man, were I inclined to pursue the notion, I should be at a loss where to place my Bush Native, whether as the next link above the monkey, or that below it.

I have already mentioned the *Frances* having been dispatched with a lading of coals and timber for Sydney, on the 26th: she had on board a quantity of ash sawed out in proper lengths for making oars, which, from the trial we had made, it appeared to be better adapted for than the pine of Norfolk Island. This latter wood, though lighter, being very brittle, so that oars made of it are often broken short off. The ash cut on

Ash

Ash Island is not, indeed, so light as English ash, but it must be considered as a valuable acquisition in a country where the greatest part of the timber, hitherto discovered, is of that heavy nature as to sink in water.

About this time I was joined by a party which had been sent several miles up the river in order to cut cedar for Mr. Commissary Palmer. These men, finding their stock of provisions running short, had set off with an intention of reaching Sydney by land, but seeing our vessel from the heights, they changed their resolution and came to us. They were nine in number, and made no little addition to those under my command ; two of them were sick, and these I sent to Sydney on board the schooner, and would have ordered the rest to have made their passage by the same conveyance, but not being able to spare a guard with them, I did not think it safe, as they had discovered evident marks of a depraved and irregular disposition, from the time their stomachs were filled.

I now sent my carpenter and some hands on shore to build a large commodious hut for the use of the colliers, whose labour went on briskly. Birds of various kinds were daily brought in, many of which were new to us, and among the rest a species of cuckow. This bird is larger than that of Britain ; its feathers are a mixture of light brown and grey. We saw many of the hawk kind, and one in particular, commonly seen about the coast, which preys on fish. The goat sucker and snipe are likewise found here : of four-footed animals there was no plenty—the opossum, the flying-squirrel, the cat, and some others were all we saw. Fish was taken in great quantities, and of various kinds, particularly mullets, which were large and well flavoured. We caught also a species of jew fish, one of which weighed 56 pounds, and proved excellent eating. From the numbers of  
this

this fish, which escaped from the seine, I am inclined to think there is great plenty in this river.

On the 28th of June we proceeded further up the river, and moored in one of the branches about six miles from the entrance, where we lay securely sheltered from every wind that could blow. During this time, Mr. Barreillier was employed on his survey. Colonel Paterson, Dr. Harris, and Mr. Lewin, an ingenious draughtsman of subjects of natural history, who had joined me on the departure of the Frances schooner, went with a party up the river several miles to examine its course, and inspect the country. I found the woods here to abound with trees affording a light timber, and great quantities of the cabbage tree, some of which last I felled to try the eatable quality of it. I found this vegetable better in its natural state fresh cut than when boiled, it appearing to me that it was rendered unpalatable by cooking.

On the 4th of July the launch returned, dispatched with a letter from Colonel Paterson, dated from Schank's Forest, Pasture Plains, the name he had given to the spot which he had then made his quarters, at the distance of forty miles from the vessel. On the 7th I set off to join him, with a necessary supply of provisions, accompanied by Mr. Barreillier. The day we set out on proved to be very wet, so that when we pitched our tents at night, we found the greatest difficulty in lighting a fire. As soon as it was day-light we proceeded on our passage up the river, and found the country on both sides for the most part level and swampy near the river, but with distant views which were delightfully pleasant. The river made a very serpentine course, and for many miles up appeared to be as broad as the Thames at Kingston. From the marks left on the trees it should seem, that it is subject to be greatly overflowed at times, the cedar (or rather the mahogany of New Holland) growing

growing near the river, appeared to have been immersed in water to the height of 40 or 50 feet. I am inclined to think that these floods must proceed from lakes in the vicinity of the mountains; the banks, though high in many places to a considerable distance, having the appearance of being overflowed.

On our way up we landed at a small Creek, which we traced for a considerable distance, coming to a gradual ascent, covered with the most luxuriant grass. Towards the land there was an extensive view from this height, of a fine champain country, sufficiently secure from the inundations of the river. This spot I think worthy of notice, as it might be made a convenient settlement. I named the eminence Mount Egerton, after a seat belonging to the Duke of Bridgewater, then living, of the same name. In the evening we found, by the sound of the bugle-horn, that we had reached the neighbourhood of the Colonel's head-quarters. We answered the welcome signal with the same instrument from our boat, and before it was quite dark we joined them.

The Colonel had erected a comfortable hut, and had been successful in killing a number of new and beautiful birds. The cedar grew here in great plenty, and to a very large size. Mr. Palmer's party had sawed many fine planks from these trees. Colonel Paterson, Dr. Harris, Mr. Barreillicr, and myself, penetrated to the distance of thirty miles further up the river, in the course of which we met with many rapids, which obliged us to get out and drag the boats up. We had hitherto seen none of the natives, but discovered places where they had been, by the marks of their fires. We now descried some of them at a distance, who fled on our approach. We came to a spot which they had just quitted, and observed the marks of children's feet. The ground was covered with the shells of fresh water fish, of the sort found in the rivers of England and Scot-

land, and called the horse muscle, having sometimes small pearls in them.

We ascended two heights, which commanded views of the country for several miles on every side. To one of them Colonel Paterson gave the name of Ann's Mountain, after Mrs. King; the other he called Elizabeth's Mountain, that being the Christian name of Mrs. Paterson. We now found that we had got behind the range of mountains extending along the coast to the south and west. We likewise saw the coast of Port Stephens, and the chain of hills inland stretching in a direction towards the north-east. Between us and the hills was a space perfectly level for many miles, covered with trees and underwood, and to appearance swampy. The land on the south side of the river was interspersed with lagoons, on which we killed some ducks, but found them very shy. The country seemed not to be destitute of inhabitants, some of whom we descried at a distance. The river here meandered so greatly, that to have pursued its course the boats must have been pulled a whole day to have gained a direct distance of four or five miles from our present station. The time, therefore, limited for our departure for Sydney approaching very fast, and the survey still to be made not being less than seventy miles up the river, it was judged prudent not to proceed any further.

Passing the night upon the banks of the river, we descended it the next day to our former rendezvous, Schank Forest, Pasture Plains, where preparations were made for a general embarkation.

The next morning, I left Colonel Paterson in company of Mr. Barreillier, who then proceeded on the survey of the river. On our passage down it, we saw several natives with their canoes. As we passed the canoes we left some biscuits in them. In many of them we saw fires, and in some of them observed that kind  
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of eatable to which they give the name of cabra : it appears to be abominably filthy, however when dressed it is not disagreeable to the taste. The cabra is a species of worm which breeds in the wood that happens to be immersed in water, and are found in such parts of the river wherein trees have fallen. Indeed, I have found no place I have ever visited, where this destructive worm makes greater ravages, either in salt or fresh water. They grow to a great size, and soon reduce timber to the appearance of a honey-comb. They are of a glutinous substance, and after being put on the fire, harden to the consistence of the spinal marrow of animals. When fire is not at hand, the natives eat them raw : some of them being found at a fire near one of the canoes, I tasted them on the recommendation of one of my men, and found them not unpalatable ; so that hunger providing the sauce, they may be considered as no bad apology for a better meal. It must, however, be acknowledged, that the New Hollander feeds most filthily.

We saw several of the natives at a small distance, one of whom looked earnestly at us, and seemed to be waiting our approach. One of my men called to him in his own language to stop, which he appeared well inclined to do, but at length he got behind a tree, from whence he presented only his head and shoulders, brandishing a fish-gig in his hand. He waited our landing, and seeing we were unarmed, he threw down his *muton*, so they name the fish-gig, and came readily to us. For what reason I know not, (for we appeared without any marks of distinction) he addressed himself first to me, and taking from his forehead a small net, which their women weave from the fur of the opossum, he bound it round mine. In my turn I took out my pocket-handkerchief, and bound it round his head, which pleased him much, and we became from that moment the best of friends. I invited him on board the boat, and he readily

accepted my invitation. When on board he was called to from the woods on the opposite shore by a number of voices, which surprized us a little, as we did not expect they were in such numbers. My new acquaintance called out in his turn to those on shore, and their cries immediately ceased. I have reason to think, they made enquiry, whether he apprehended any danger from us, and that he assured them he had nothing to fear, which quieted their alarm and made them easy.

Proceeding further we saw a flock of ducks, and I ordered one of the people to fire, which he did, and was lucky enough to kill two. Never did I witness stronger marks of surprize than were depicted on the stranger's countenance, when he heard the report of the gun, and saw the two ducks fall into the water. His astonishment was increased when he got on board the vessel; every thing he beheld seemed to fill him with wonder and amazement. During the time he stayed on board, he never quitted my side, and at the hour of rest he laid himself down near my bed place. I presented him with a small tomahawk, which pleased him very much, and he pronounced, with much earnestness the word, by which I then understood they call a hatchet *mogo*. He readily ate of whatever was set before him, but refused salt and mustard; spirits he would not touch, but sugar he took freely. He endeavoured to repeat our words after us; and, upon the whole, was infinitely more tractable than the native last described. He was an elderly man, short in stature, but well made: his arms and legs were long in proportion to his body, which was slender and straight. Having occasion to dispatch the first mate in a boat to Colonel Paterson, I took that opportunity of sending off my New Hollander, with directions that he should be landed on the precise spot from whence he was taken, which was accordingly done.

When the first mate was returning, he was surprized to find  
his

passenger of the day before on the banks, who begged to be permitted to return to the vessel with him : he had a young lad with him, whom he desired might accompany him, and they were both brought on board. This lad appeared to be about 17 years of age ; his arms, legs and thighs were remarkably long : he made me understand that he wished to have a *mogo*, and I soon found that I could not make a more acceptable present to a native of New Holland. Mr. Lewin, the draughtsman of natural history, before mentioned, sketched out the portraits of these two, and I was promised a copy of this design, but was never able to procure either copy or original. Our old and new acquaintance passed one day with us on board, after which they were both landed near the spot where they had been first seen. They were perfectly naked, and exceedingly well pleased when they understood that their likenesses were about to be taken, for which purpose they submitted themselves to be placed in any attitude that was thought proper. It is observable, that all the New Hollanders are proud of being noticed in the same manner.

On the 19th we were rejoined by Colonel Paterson, with the whole of his party. The Colonel had explored a branch of the river, on the banks of which he found a species of flax growing, which he thought was valuable. He had collected specimens of many rare and uncommon plants, particularly some varieties of the fern tribe ; but, unfortunately, was in one moment deprived of the fruits of his skill and industry. His servant had made use of the bundle of plants as a pillow, and having heedlessly placed it too near the fire, it was soon in a blaze, and he was awaked only time enough to save his face from being scorched by the flames. The Colonel possesses a general knowledge of botany, and every branch of natural history. His politeness and attention to make every thing agreeable to me, during the short

short voyage we made together, demand the tribute of my acknowledgement and thanks.

We were now growing short of provisions, and no vessel arriving from Sydney, we set about making preparations for our return thither. There was now a small establishment made for the colliers: I had built them a convenient hut to shelter them; I left them a boat and seine, with what provisions I was able to spare, besides arms, ammunition and tools. We took our departure for Sydney on the 22d of July, 1801, and arrived there on the 25th following, having met with nothing worth recording during this passage of three days.

I now proceed to lay before my readers such cursory observations as I have been able to make with respect to this flourishing Colony, and its aboriginal Inhabitants.

New South Wales is now known to be separated from Van Dieman's Land by a Strait, as has been fully ascertained in the Voyage related in the foregoing sheets, the Lady Nelson being the first vessel that ever entered these Straits from Europe, and passed through them to Port Jackson.

New Holland, which comprehends New South Wales, is an island of very large extent, lying between 10 and 39 degrees, nearly, of southern latitude. From its vast extent its climate is various, and future settlers will be able to make their choice. It may be presumed capable of producing whatever is raised in the same degrees of northern latitude, which will include silk, wine, oil, fruits, grain, &c. It has a number of safe and capacious harbours. The horned cattle which had strayed into the woods are now greatly multiplied; and it is matter of regret that swine have not strayed in the same manner, as it is probable, from the prolific nature of that animal, the breed of wild hogs would by this time have been considerable. Sheep are found to succeed well; and the specimens of yarn spun from their wool, and brought

brought over here, have been much approved of. The breed of horses is good, and the encrease of that useful animal is great. Materials proper for the purposes of dyeing are plentiful, and fustick is now cut in Hunter's River. Iron is found in the neighbourhood of Sydney, and in other parts. The salutary effects of the air of New South Wales is perceptible in that part of the dwellers brought over in banishment: these are observed to become, in a short time, stout and healthy, and their offspring vigorous and promising. The small-pox, that dreadful scourge of the human race, which has proved so fatal at the Cape of Good Hope, and other Settlements, has been hitherto unknown in New South Wales, for which reason inoculation has never been practised here: when vaccination is introduced, it will effectually remove all apprehensions of the disease in future. I have mentioned marks like those remaining after the small-pox have been observed upon some of the natives; and it is certain they are subject to a disorder which has the like symptoms. It is, moreover, remarkable that this disorder is known amongst them by a different name from that they give to all other eruptions on the skin. One of the natives was taken into the Hospital with this disease upon him, which though not caught by any European, infected an African negroe who died of it.

In speaking of the New Hollanders, I should be under the necessity of gleaning after Colonel Collins, as that Gentleman has given the fullest and most accurate account of their manners and customs; I shall therefore confine my observations on these natives, as far as they agree in their habits and manners with other Savage Nations.

The native of New Holland is found in the genuine state of nature; he goes perfectly naked in winter as well as summer. His wants, being those of all the animal creation, are easily sup-

supplied ; these are, food and rest : the former is supplied to him by the elements of earth, air, and water, the latter he finds when and wheresoever he chuses to seek it. That labour which is so necessary to procure him food, together with its simplicity, contributes to the enjoyment of the soundest and most refreshing rest at the hour he is inclined to take it. He has then only to seek for the longest and driest grass, and the tree that affords the most shelter. This when he is ranging the woods alone ; but when he is with his horde, he stretches himself at ease before a blazing fire, and is protected from the storm which is howling over his head in a wigwam, or slight hut, raised with a few branches.

Such being the uniform course of his life from day to day, and from year to year, his stock of ideas must necessarily be very small ; and his language, as he can have very little to communicate or to discuss, must be greatly circumscribed ; confined to a very few words, liable to be exchanged for new ones as objects arise or vary from time to time. This being considered, it will not appear strange that there should be no settled nor fixed speech prevailing amongst the natives of New Holland ; and it will account for what has been thought matter of astonishment and wonder, that the New Hollander coming from one part appears to find a difficulty in conversing with the native of another, though perhaps separated at no very great distance. In the course of the foregoing narrative, the Reader will find a relation of interviews betwixt the natives of distant parts, wherein the difficulty herein remarked upon has occurred.

If their ideas are narrowed, their ingenuity and invention must be equally so ; and the reason of this is, that in reality the New Hollander has little or nothing to excite the talents of invention and ingenuity. To take a fish visibly gliding along  
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the clear stream, the first suggestion that naturally occurs is to arrest it in its passage with a stone, or some sharp instrument. The shadow of the stone, as the New Hollander has experienced, alarms the nimble fish, which then escapes him, the sharp instrument therefore answers his purpose better; and such an instrument he generally carries with him. It is a slender stick of the lightest wood he knows, and made not unlike our fish-gig. The spear, which is fashioned to a point with a flint-stone or oyster-shell, is the weapon with which he defends himself against an enemy, and it is an engine to catch birds. These instruments are all that is necessary to supply him with every thing he wants to sustain life. If through his own labour, or otherwise by gift, or as a kind of family succession, he possesses a *mogo* or hatchet, wrought from a sharp flint, with a rough handle, he is completely enriched. With the help of the *mogo* he can climb the highest and most bulky trees to gather fruits, wild honey, or catch squirrels; he can cut branches to build up his hut, or by darting it dexterously at an opossum or kangaroo, if he chance to kill it, can feast on the game. It must, however, be acknowledged, that some of them have fish-spears not inartificially formed; and that they have javelins wrought with a degree of ingenuity. They also use the fish-hook and line.

The rules of equity and justice are short, plain and simple; the code is written on the mind of him we call a Savage, or man in the state of nature. It is only in the intricate confusion of a state of society that digests, pandects and commentaries, with a distinct class of men to expound them, are necessary. The New Hollander needs them not: he is known to administer justice with the strictest impartiality. In cases where a canoe has been wantonly injured, he has been remarked to adjust with precision the reparation to the trespass. When the life of an

individual has been taken away by treachery or malice, there are instances of the offender being capitally punished.

The New Hollander is naturally mild and placable, and, unless injured and aggrieved, quiet and inoffensive. He is not deficient in point of courage, and is skilful in the use of the club, shield and spear. To the honour of the Settlers of New South Wales be it recorded, that no instances of cruelty or oppression can be proved to have been exercised against the natives; but, on the contrary, every means used to render them comfortable and happy, and, if possible, bring them into a state of civilization, and lift them above their present groveling level of savage life. How different is this conduct from that of the nation which first colonized South America!

With this Work will be found a Plate representing a canoe of New Holland. The native seated in it, holding up a paddle, is a chief, a sort of troublesome fellow, named *Pimbley*. The resemblance is thought to be striking by those who have seen him. The other represents *Benelong*, and is esteemed a good likeness of him. *Benelong* visited England with Governor Philips, and returned to New South Wales with Governor Hunter; and I am sorry to add, far from being improved by the voyage. He has unfortunately acquired a fondness for strong liquors, and is apt to take them to a great excess, at which time he proves very disorderly and ungovernable. He still retains the highest respect for Governor Philips, and discovers a grateful sense of the favours received at his hands.

The mind of man in the state of nature seems to be the *rasa tabula* of the philosophers: it has not been wrought upon by education; it is wax, of the purest and softest kind, fit to receive and preserve any impression. It cannot be a wonder that manners so different, as those of the Settlers of New South Wales, should excite the admiration and imitation of the New Hollander.

lander. The same observation has been made of the natives of Otaheite, and other islands of the South Sea. Hence the attempts at mimicry, for which the native of New Holland is remarkable, may be accounted for. This talent he is allowed to possess in a very eminent degree: the gait, the gesture, the minutest particular which discriminates one individual from another, the New Hollander hits off instantly. The females likewise possess the same talent, confined to their own sex; and I have had all the ladies of my acquaintance exhibited before me, in a most striking manner, by a female native of New Holland; though, at the same time, I found a difficulty in prevailing upon her to display this talent. Probably she might have discovered that it gave offence to the ladies thus played off in public.

It is said in the *Book of Ecclesiasticus*, that “the Lord hath created the physician,” and likewise, that “he hath created medicines out of the earth.” This text must now, perhaps, be only applied to man in a state of nature, who relies on his own skill for relief in the few disorders to which he is subject, and has his antidote every where at hand.

In cases of wounds or contusions, the New Hollander seeks his cure in rest. But the subtle poison of the serpent is extracted by the following method:—He makes a ligature above the wound, and pressing on the part, extracts the poison with the blood by sucking the wound with his mouth. It is common with them, after extraordinary fatigue, to chafe the limbs with their hands, covering them profusely with saliva; and this operation seldom fails to relieve in such cases. Amputation is always performed, as has been already observed, by means of a ligature. In common with other savage nations, they have amongst them those who pretend to skill in the art of divination and working spells and charms.

Of the police of New South Wales I have little to say ; and, perhaps, in cases where little favourable can be said, it is best to be silent. In entering upon such a subject, I may, moreover, be thought to venture out to sea without rudder or compass : and it may be asked me, how can you, who are a seaman, presume to decide upon such matters ? Far be it from me to presume any such thing. As a Briton, I have conceived a strong partiality for that bulwark of British Liberty, a Trial by Jury : and I was sorry I could not discover any thing equivalent to such an institution in the proceedings of the Courts of Judicature in New South Wales. I am aware that I shall be told, it is an infant Colony, peopled by a particular class of Settlers, persons over whom, as they have forfeited their rights as good subjects, and are of suspicious character, it is good policy to hold the rod of coercion, which can only be done by a summary mode of administering justice, whereby the punishment shall speedily follow the crime, and offenders have little chance of escaping it : that, it is true, there are Settlers of a very different description, and when their numbers are increased, and the country more fully settled, a system of jurisprudence, approaching nearer to the British model, may take place. Be it so ; and may this country prove as flourishing as it promises to be ; persuaded as I am that every Settler in it might be happy here, if he had but the disposition to be so !

The chief object of my voyage to New South Wales having been accomplished, as has been shewn in the foregoing sheets, the mortifications and disappointments I met with, from which I had no prospect of relief, induced me to seize the first opportunity of leaving the country. And this presented itself with a vessel bound to the Cape of Good Hope with coals, and spars for topmasts, yards and booms, which voyage she was to make by rounding Cape Horn.

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