

NARRATIVE OF DR. LEICHHARDT'S EXPEDITION: ITS OBJECT BEING TO EXPLORE THE INTERIOR OF AUSTRALIA, TO DISCOVER THE EXTENT OF STURT'S DESERT, AND THE CHARACTER OF THE WESTERN AND NORTH-WESTERN COAST, AND TO OBSERVE THE GRADUAL CHANGE IN VEGETATION AND ANIMAL LIFE, FROM ONE SIDE OF THE CONTINENT TO THE OTHER.

Daniel Bunce Narrative from 1846 - 1847, 1st attempt at Trans Australia crossing East to West.

Dr. Leichhardt did not expect to be able to accomplish this overland journey to Swan River in less than two years and a half. He purposed to travel over his old route as far as Peak Ranges, and then to shape his course westward; but thought it not impossible, as his course depended on water, that he should be obliged to reach the Gulf of Carpentaria, and follow up some river to its source.

It now becomes our duty to let our readers know with what success these intentions were carried out.

There are, perhaps, few names more closely associated with the rise and progress of the Australian colonies than that of the lamented Br. Ludwig Leichhardt, whether we consider the success attendant on his first expedition to Port Essington, and the valuable addition made to the geographical and scientific departments of the hitherto *terra incognita*, or tropical portions of the colony; or the hardships attending the two subsequent expeditions, in which he contemplated nothing less than the exploration of the whole of the island lying between Sydney and Swan River, with its animal and vegetable productions. The author acted in the capacity of naturalist and botanist to the expedition, and collected upwards of one thousand plants, with, where practicable, their specimen papers in triplicate; and among which were some, forming new genera, species, and varieties, in the

Botanical Gardens, Melbourne, which have been determined by the Government botanist, Dr. Ferdinand Mueller.

Until our arrival in Sydney, we were personally unknown to Dr. Leichhardt, although, with others, we formed one of those who admired the steadfast and courageous manner in which he had just terminated an undertaking that rendered his name, from one end of the continent to the other, as familiar as household words. My arrangements with the doctor were effected through a written correspondence; one of our conditions on joining the party was an equal share of any specimens in natural history which might be collected during the journey, and this threatened to be the cause of my not joining in the interesting movement of the forthcoming expedition. In a few days I received a reply favorable to my expectations,, with instructions to be in Sydney in time to start on the first of October. On the receipt of this letter, I made instant preparations for my departure, and took my passage in the "Himmalaya", under the command of Captain Burn. I bade farewell to this good city at a time memorable in the annals of Australia Felix, as on that day Dr. Palmer, the present respected Speaker of our Legislative House of Assembly, but who at that time occupied the civic chair of our then infant municipality, had the pleasing duty of reading the Riot Act to the playfully but mischievously-disposed citizens of Melbourne. I trust this interesting and important epocha may not be overlooked by the compilers of almanacs, in manufacturing their next chronological summary of *remarkable events*. But to proceed.

We left Melbourne on a Tuesday, in September, in the year of grace 1846, and, after a pleasing passage of six days, reached the picturesque entrance to the celebrated harbor of Port Jackson early on the Sunday morning following; and a gentle breeze wafted us slowly into the harbor, near the Circular Wharf, where we anchored in the evening. Our slow progress up the river gave us ample time to admire what has been on so many occasions, and by

able writers, graphically described. The apparently artificially-cut semi-circular inlets on either side, and in the back-ground scenery the most picturesque, relieved with innumerable villa residences, built from the natural free-stone, the abundance of which, combined with prison labor in former years, conduced materially in rendering Sydney, in point of buildings and architecture, one of the most important cities in the Austral Asiatic colonies.

On the following morning, we paid our respects to Dr. Leichhardt, by whom we were kindly received. We found him busily engaged in packing up, arranging, and putting by the various collections in natural history, the result of his former travels, in which he was being assisted by his faithfully attached friend (of the 63rd), Lieutenant Lynd, barrackmaster, and with whom we had been personally acquainted some years previously, during our botanical travels in Tasmania. Dr. Leichhardt expressed his satisfaction at our speedy arrival, as it enabled us to accompany his personal staff overland to Darling Downs. Had our arrival been delayed, we should have had the alternative of reaching Moreton Bay by sea, in which case we should have been deprived of the pleasure of an inspection of the Hunters River, the table land of New England, and the fertile district of Darling Downs, one of the most celebrated squatting localities in either northern or southern Australia.

This lovely country was discovered by poor Cunningham, the botanist, who has long since paid his debt at the altar of science, during one of Sir Thomas Mitchell's expeditions, in which he took the part of naturalist; his disappearance and death occurred most mysteriously, during a botanical reconnaissance from the camp. The only remains of this unfortunate gentleman was the remnant of a coat which he was known to have worn when he absented himself from his companions. This melancholy circumstance occurred on the Bogan, a tributary of the Darling, which, next to

the Murray, forms one of the great arteries of the western system of waters. How many botanists and naturalists have met with a similar fate to poor Cunningham!—Gilbert, Kennedy, Leichhardt, and lastly poor Strange, collector for Gould, the celebrated ornithologist, of London. Mr. Strange was one of our oldest and most constant contributors and correspondents: he had just returned from a visit to Europe, by the "Vimiera". Two months before seeing the melancholy account of his death by the blacks, in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which occurred in the Wide Bay district, he called for the purpose of seeing us in Melbourne, and for the first time, after a series of years in which we were correspondents, to effect a *personal* acquaintance. We did not meet, and in two or three short months he was numbered with the dead; and let us hope that, "after life's fitful fever, he sleeps well,"—if a man can be said to have had time to arrange his mind for that great event while suffering from the effect of several barbed spears, which had entered his body in various places. "Peace to his manes." And now to again proceed with the more legitimate subject of Leichhardt's movements.

It was proposed to leave Sydney on the following evening; and from the multiplicity of his arrangements, and the many calls on his time, which under present circumstances he could so ill afford to spare, he was desirous of concealing his intentions from the public. It is needless to say that in this attempt he was disappointed; as one who occupied so much of the notice of the people, a kind and attentive surveillance followed his every movement; and, on reaching the steamer "Thistle" at 10 p.m. a large concourse of the citizens was in attendance, offering their congratulations and good wishes for the successful termination of his intended and arduous undertaking. Among those who wished for an introduction, were some friends of our own. Excepting, however, to two or three who accompanied us on board, we did not encroach upon the doctor's attention.

Our passage up the Hunter as far as Newcastle being performed in the night time, we had no opportunity of observing the character of the adjoining country. We stepped upon deck at six o'clock the next morning, and found ourselves abreast of the harbor at Newcastle. We saw little to admire in this township, and believe its principal recommendation to be an abundant supply of indifferently-good coal. We reached the pretty township of Raymond Terrace in time to partake of a sumptuous breakfast with the Rev. Mr. Spencer, the officiating minister of that place. We waited for the arrival of the "Cornubia", on board of which vessel was our baggage, horses, and another group of our future *compagnons de voyage*—Mr. James Perry, saddler; Mr. Boecking, cook; and a Mr. Myers (as far as we remember), professor of music—to which we were introduced.

The next morning we started for Irrawing, the residence of James King, Esq., long celebrated for his growth and manufacture of colonial wine, as well as having been the first to establish a pottery for the manufacture of delf. Here we took the remainder of our horses, which had been grazing in Mr. K.'s paddock. awaiting our arrival; after which we proceeded to the residence of Lieutenant Caswell, where we were again kindly received, and our whole party most hospitably entertained until the following morning. From hence we made a start for the village of Stroud, at Port Stevens, the head station of the Australian Agricultural Company, at that time under the management of Captain P.P. King, of the Royal Navy. Dr. Leichhardt was anxious to reach that establishment, as he wished to see the twelve mules he had bought from the company, being apprehensive that some delay would be necessary in breaking in these playful animals. He had also purchased from William Charles Wentworth, Esq., M.L.C., the flock of Thibet goats, consisting of 270 head, at five shillings each. The doctor's object in this purchase was that he conceived they would easily travel, and furnish a supply of meat during the

early part of the expedition, in which case they would not impede our progress; and by the time that portion of our live stock was consumed, our mainstay, the bullocks, would be quiet, and carry us to Swan river, even should the time exceed the period of three years.

We made an early start, as the distance from hence to Stroud was of a somewhat hilly character. In the course of the day's journey, we had an opportunity, for the first time, of seeing some fine specimens of the apple-tree gum (*Angophera latifolia*), *Sterculia heterophylla* (*Corryong* tree of the northern districts), and, among crevices in the sandstone-rock, the *Dwarf zamia*.

On reaching the end of our journey, we were, as usual, kindly met and welcomed by the inhabitants, who furnished accommodation to the whole of the party during our sojourn, which exceeded a fortnight.

At Stroud, the various little gardens were divided by hedges of rose-trees, geraniums, olives, lemon and orange trees; the latter were of luxuriant growth, and had been clipped in the same manner as the larch, yew, and similar trees in Britain. The doctor was not wrong as regarded the mules, which proved to be stubborn to the fullest extent of the proverb—"stubborn as a mule", and as active as monkeys. Not to tire the reader with what might be appropriately termed "a chapter of accidents", the consequence of the attempt at breaking in the mules, and in the course of which an indelibly-impressed mark of an acute crescent, the result of a kick on the shin, fell to our share, it will be sufficient to state that Dr. Leichhardt purchased from the company fourteen, for which he paid fourteen pounds ten shillings per head. Many of these animals were of a cross from the Cleveland breed of horses, and in some cases were upwards of seventeen hands high. Mr. Hovendon Hely was despatched, in company with Wommaï, a black fellow, native of Port Stephens, to Windermere, one of Mr. Wentworth's stations, for the purpose of bringing in the flock of goats. In three

days they returned with their interesting flock of live stock. The prevailing color of the goats was white, the lot consisting entirely of ewes and wethers, and did not include a single billy. Fortunately, however, we were very kindly presented with a quiet and perfect male specimen by a gentleman at Gloster. This animal was a great pet with Wommaï, the native, who, at his urgent request, was allowed to accompany us in the expedition; and, during its continuance, the reader will discover that he did "yeoman's service."

Everything being now, as the doctor imagined, in readiness, and as he wished to reach the bounds of civilisation as early as possible, we made another start for the table land of New England.

It must have been extremely gratifying to Dr. Leichhardt's feelings to witness the many very liberal offers made to himself and party by the various residents at this interesting village, each person vieing with the other in pressing upon our acceptance articles which they considered might be of service to us during our long and solitary journey through the wilderness; but as the main feature of the expedition was to take only such articles as could not be dispensed with, they were politely declined.

Perhaps in no part of the work could an outline of the very limited amount of stores, and other matters, which our means of carriage allowed, be more appropriately furnished to our readers.

It is, of course, generally understood that our only way of transporting our supplies was on the backs of the mules taken from Stroud; each mule carrying one hundred weight and a half. The loads were so arranged as to be packed in three separate lots, fifty pounds in each leathern bag on either side of the animal, and the third placed on the top, so as partly to rest on the side loads; and over all was thrown and buckled a strong leathern belt, or circingle. The quantity of flour taken was just sufficient to admit of a daily allowance of three ounces and a half to each man for a period of eight months, by which time it was supposed that they

would have become sufficiently abstemious in their habits to enable them to dispense with that "staff of life" during the remainder of the journey, which it was expected would terminate in two years from that period. The party consisted of nine individuals: this quantity was usually made into a damper, and subdivided into nine parts; and we can assure our readers that to nine hungry fellows it appeared to be a mighty small affair. As regarded the meat department, that was allowed to carry itself in the shape of bullocks. Of clothing, each man took two pairs of spare trousers, one pair of blucher boots, one blanket, and other articles upon the same ratio; we had also each a light oiled calico poncho, through which in wet weather we were enabled to poke our head; and the bottom part of that article thus protected our lower limbs, as well as forming a shelter to our saddle-bags and blankets, which were strapped over the horse's withers; we had also thereon fastened, by their double wire handles, two pannikins, which were so made as that the smaller fitted into the larger one where it was fastened. We had also two small tents made (unfortunately) of the same (by far too thin and light) material as the ponchos, into which we, so long as they continued tenable, crept and sheltered ourselves from the wet and inclement weather, for which the year that we commenced our journey (1846) was remarkable.

During our journey from Stroud to Gloster, we passed over some fine,, rich, but broken country; and among the crevices of the moss and lichen-covered blocks of rock, we saw some beautiful species of *Epiphites*, *Dendrobium linguiformis*, *Dendrobium speciosum*, and a smaller glaucous-leaved species; with *Acrosticum alcicorne*, *Cymbidium sauveolens*. The glutinous but sweetly-tasted berries appeared to be much relished by the aborigines, as well as by ourselves subsequently during our long journey in the wilderness, as by that time there was not the slightest degree of fastidiousness remaining among us, We were kindly entertained at this place by



Mr. Darby, whose residence was beautifully situated near the base of two remarkably bluff-looking mountains, called the Buckens. Here we had the pleasure of meeting, for the first time, a gentleman who has since made himself, or has been made, the subject of a world-wide reputation, and for some time formed an ample field for colonial discussion. It is needless to say that the party to whom we allude is Mr. Hargraves, who, on that occasion, certainly could lay no claim to the precept held out in the much-quoted line, "Coming events cast their shadows before," as he was then looking for timber, in which he was a dealer; and not for what has since, by an extraordinary accident, laid the basis of a magnificent fortune—Gold.

We still continued our journey, through small farms and stations, the property of the company, and through which ran many free-flowing streams and rivers. At all of these places we were kindly treated; and on the Monday following the time of leaving Stroud, we commenced the ascent of Hungry Hill, whose top forms the table land of New England.

In the course of our ascent up the hill, we observed, for the first time, the large hillocks made by the white ant; many of them three to four feet in height, and, being constructed of the deep red clay common to the locality, they presented a singular and imposing appearance. Where they are situated near a hut, the hutkeepers convert them into ovens for baking bread; and in any case they form, if properly managed, floors as firm as Roman cement. We reached the top of Hungry Hill early in the evening, and were heartily welcomed by Mr. Lowry, the superintendent of the station, which also belonged to the A.A. Company.

After spelling one day at Mr. Lowry's, on the following morning we commenced our descent on the other side of the hill. We reached the residence of Mr. Thomas Rusden, at Salisbury Plains,

New England, where we were kindly entertained until the arrival of the rest of the party in charge of the goats.

The nights here were very cold. The elevation, taken by the boiling water apparatus of the Rev. W.B. Clarke, of St. Leonard's, was 3,127 feet.

From Salisbury Plains, we continued our journey over New England, through Falconer Plains, at an elevation of 4,386 feet, until reaching Rosenthal, the station of Mr. Bracker, at Darling Downs. Here we remained a few days, and made our final departure for Jimba, the furthest advanced station, and from where we intended entering upon our travels through the wilderness.

Not to tire the reader, it will be sufficient to remark that our journey from Rosenthal to this station was over a country unequalled in any other part of Australia, either as regards beauty of scenery, variety of surface, or the rich character of its grazing capabilities. All the intervening stations are situated on creeks and watercourses, falling from the western slope of the coast range, meandering through rich extensive plains until they join the Condamine river, which appears to form for a great distance the separation of the sandstone country to the westward from the rich volcanic plains to the eastward. These plains have become remarkable as the depositories of the remains of extinct species of animals of a gigantic size—the *marsupial* representatives of the *Pachydermal* order of other continents.

The station of Messrs. Hughs and Isaacs (Gowrie) has proved to be wonderfully prolific in the production of these gigantic remains; indeed, fresh specimens generally offer themselves after an unusually high flood, when portions of the banks of the creek and water-courses have given way. We believe Mr. Isaacs deserves credit for having sent the first perfect specimens for the examination of Professor Owen, of London, who devoted a pamphlet to that especial subject. It is, perhaps, remarkable that

similar remains should have been discovered in the vicinity of the Hopkins, Lake Colac, and other parts of the Port Phillip district. Among the herbage, which was luxuriant, were many plants of the *Leguminous* order, consisting of several species of *Swainsonia*, whose blossoms were both large and showy, and of the most brilliant colors; amidst which, in the richest soil and most sheltered situations, the *Glycine bimaculata*, and large groups of the *Crinum*, white lily. The *Mimosa terminalis* (native sensitive plant) was most abundant, its densely *pinnatifid phyllodia* collapsing at the slightest touch. In places which were slightly elevated, many species of *Acacia* made their appearance, including the celebrated Weeping Myall (*A. pendula*), with an erect-growing species, known as Coxen's Myall. The timber was principally composed of the box and apple-tree, together with the Moreton Bay ash and three species of the *Eucalypti*.

On reaching Jimba, we had the satisfaction of finding that Mr. John Mann had arrived from Moreton Bay with our stores, which he had brought from Sydney by sea, as also a Mr. Turnbull, from Port Stevens.

Our party now consisted of nine individuals. Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt, leader; Daniel Bunce, botanist and naturalist; John Mann, draftsman; Hovenden Hely; James Perry, saddler; Henry Boecking, a German cook; Mr. Turnbull, assistant stock-keeper: Wommaï (*alias* Jemmy), and Harry Brown, both aboriginal natives of Port Stevens. The latter had accompanied Dr. Leichhardt in his former expedition to Port Essington. Of stock, we had 108 sheep, which had been presented to the party by the various gentlemen through whose stations we had travelled; Mr. Dennis, of Jimba, having very liberally given twenty out of the number. Our goats were 270, bullocks forty, horses fifteen, mules thirteen.

On December 7, 1846, having made every necessary preparation, we left Jimba, and, following the course of the Condamine river, which now presented a mere chain of water holes, we made a station which had been lately taken up by a Mr. Goggs, formerly of the firm of Goggs and Walpole, whose station was on the Yarra Yarra, near the Survey Paddock, Richmond, now called Hawthorne.

December 8.—Left for Mr. Stephens', another advanced station on the Condamine, the doctor and myself driving the goats and sheep. This was a tedious day's journey to the party in charge of the cattle and stores, as well as ourselves, owing to the frequency of *Brigalowe* scrub, which rendered the course very circuitous. The *Brigalowe* is a species of hard-wooded *Acacia*, apparently identical with the rosewood *Acacia* of Moreton Bay. At the latter place it assumes the character of a tree of considerable height, and isolated. Its leaves are long and slightly falcate, and of a silvery grey color. In addition to the scrub, the long, tangled tussocks of grass and *Polygonum*, offered great impediments to the sheep and goats; and we were compelled to camp for the night. Having no provisions, we had to fast until the following morning.

December 9.—We made an early start this morning for the station of Mr. Stephens, where we found that our companions had arrived late the night before, with the cattle, mules, and stores. Owing to the fatigue attendant on yesterday's stage, the doctor determined on remaining a day to rest the sheep and goats, as well as to enable the party to wash what clothes they might have dirty. We, of course, made up for our long fast of the preceding day and night. Peculiar to the scrub through which we passed, was a species of *Lemonia*, producing a fruit the size of a small apple. The stem is furnished with small privet-like leaves, and armed with thorns, or spines, of considerable length, very sharp, and consequently, however agreeable their produce, the shrubs themselves formed an

unpleasant obstruction to our movements while travelling through the scrub in which they abounded.

The weeping Myall was here literally overgrown with a very pretty and showy species of *Loranthus*, This parasite was at the time in blossom, and of which we obtained specimens. *Pentophyllum elatum* and *Ranunculus inundatus* were common in and around the melon holes, which were frequent, and of a tenacious and calcareous nature. The horses ate greedily of a species of *Eryngium*. A new composite, with white blossoms, made its appearance. The banks of the river were lined with the dark, sombre-colored *Casuarina*, of a tall pyramidal growth, These trees presented the nearest approach to the fir tribe of any we had as yet seen. The heaps of a large kind of muscle shell (*Unio*.) were apparent on the banks of the river and in the scrubs, to which they had probably been carried, cooked, and eaten by the natives, whose tracks were plainly to be seen. We disturbed many of the short, knobby-tailed sleeping lizard (*Agama*); Jemmy killed one, from which he took a number of eggs with soft shells, which he cooked and ate; he very kindly invited us to partake of his dainty repast. Kangaroo and Wallabee tracks crossed the scrubs in various directions.

December 10. Left Stephens' station, which proved to be the last between us and the wilderness, and from the time of leaving whence we expected to be confined to our own little party until we succeeded in reaching the "land of the west," namely, Swan River; and in order to effect which the doctor conceived would take at least between two and three years. The reader may easily imagine the cordial and friendly parting we took of our friends the Stephens prior to leaving the station.

We continued a north by west course, following the valley of the Condamine, until half-past two p.m., when we camped, having accomplished, as we supposed, a distance of ten miles. About seven miles from Stephens' station, and thirty-two from Jimba, we

found the skull of a horse, which on showing to Dr. Leichhardt, he at once pronounced as being the remains of the one formerly left by Mr. Pemberton Hodgson, while prosecuting the search for the doctor, during the time he was supposed to have been lost, while engaged in exploring the country between Moreton Bay and Port Essington. His alleged death created no ordinary sensation at the time, and was the theme of some very elegant and touching verses by his friend Lieutenant Lynd and others.

At a short distance from where we found the skull, a heap of bones was also seen; they had been partly burnt, and evidently formed a portion of the same animal.

The white lily grew here in patches, on the red puffy soil, producing a large coated bulb like the onion; its seeds are spongy and resemble the human testes, and from this circumstance the natives call it Byarrong, their name for that part of the body. They made us understand that the bulbs were a deadly poison. For dinner a fat cake was made of two pounds of flour, and afterwards divided into nine portions; and to avoid anything like partiality in the distribution, one of the party turned his back while another (Mr. Mann) called out to know to whom the pieces he then touched were to be given. This system was continued during the whole term of the expedition. Our night watching was divided into four parts, two persons in each watch of two and a half hour's duration. Latitude of our camp, 26 deg. 46 sec. 23 min.

December 11.—This day, for the first four or five miles, our course was N.W. and by N. when we came suddenly upon a large patch of boggy soil, into which the mules would persist in going, and several of them became bogged up to their girths. The spade that we had brought with us for the twofold purpose of either digging wells or graves, as either became requisite was brought into use in extricating them from the mud. After catching and reloading the mules we made another start changing our course to

west and by north. The country was a red, puffy sand, and very wet, and laborious travelling for the horses and mules. We encamped at three p.m., at what the Doctor called Charley's Creek. We had scarcely succeeded in unloading the mules, when L were visited by a very heavy shower of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning. After the weather had cleared up, we rigged our two thin calico tents, and a sheep was killed for the first time in preference to another goat, the latter being the best travellers. On unpacking our kitchen utensils, we found that the handle of our only fryingpan was unfortunately broken, this was a source of great vexation to Bucking, the cook. From the number of tracks of black fellows seen during the day's stage, we had every reason to apprehend the close proximity of those sable gentry, and a close watch was ordered to be kept during the night.

About ten o'clock there was a great commotion in the camp, many parties imagining that they saw a small fire in the distance, of course supposed to proceed from a camp of blacks. At eleven p.m., during the doctor's watch, the whole of our stock, excepting three horses, and the sheep and goats, galloped off simultaneously at great speed through the mud up the creek, nor could we account for this unusual commotion, unless by supposing that they had either seen or smelt the black fellows, who, for the remainder of the night were supposed to be, as our two black fellows remarked, *close up*.

December 12.—It was not until daylight this morning that we discovered we had the three horses remaining, on two of which Mr. Hely and Brown were dispatched in search of the missing cattle. At noon a number of blacks made their appearance, to whom we perhaps unjustly attributed the loss of our stock, for which reason they met with a very cool reception; indeed, the doctor waved them off with his hand. This was a hint they could not or would not understand, as they continued for some time to advance towards us; they at length, however, turned in the

direction of a small patch of scrub, where they made a small fire and camped. In a short time the doctor visited them, taking with him the handle of the fryingpan, which he presented to them. They did not appear to appreciate this gift very highly, as after looking at it they threw it carelessly on the ground. Among their number was a fine chubby little boy, who caught hold of my hand, in which I had a small piece of tobacco: "Bacco by ——," exclaimed the little urchin, shewing they had not only seen whites before, but had picked up as usual some of the worst words used in our language, and what was more remarkable, it proved to be the extent of their knowledge of English, as we endeavoured to obtain from them some information respecting our missing stock, but we could not succeed in making ourselves understood. Many of these blacks appeared to have a habit of closing one eye, or that organ was wanting altogether; they appeared to suffer much from ophthalmia, and each individual carried a small branch for the purpose of brushing off the flies which were both numerous and troublesome, and settled in large numbers around their eyes. Their bodies were horribly scarified, evidently inflicted by sharp weapons. We afterwards learned that they were in the habit of fighting hand to hand, inflicting on each other deep and dangereous wounds with pieces of stone, wood, bones, and other articles made sharp, and used for fighting instruments. I was much struck by the similarity of many of their words to those used by the aborigines at Melbourne, as instance the following, which are precisely the same: head, cowong; foot, geenong; eyes, myrring; nose, cong; leg, thirrong; mouth, worong; hair, yarragong; whiskers, yarra-gondock; teeth, leeang; fire, weenth; water, baanth; bark, willam; sun, nowing; moon, menia; this word slightly differs, as the blacks at Melbourne call that planet Meeniyang. There is also a trifling difference in their name for stars, tutbiern, the Melbourne word, being toothyroong. Mr. Turnbull and Wommaï, who had also been in search of the cattle, returned in the evening without success. They tracked them to a



dense brigalow scrub; among the cattle tracks they observed those of two blackfellows, who had very probably been the cause of the dilemma. Neither Mr. Hely nor Brown returned this night. The thermometer at two p.m., 104, while hanging under the shade of a large gum tree. Latitude 26° 44'.

December 13.—Sunday.—Mr. Turnbull and Wommaï were again despatched for the cattle, &c., with instructions to follow on the tracks left yesterday.

The weather being oppressively hot, Mr. Mann and myself entered the creek for the purpose of bathing, but our aquatic gambols were of very short continuance, as we observed many snakes in the vicinity. Their heads were the only parts at first observable, and we imagined they were nothing more than small aquatic insects, until one landed on the opposite bank, when his whole length was displayed, and we were no longer in doubt as to their character. We lost no time in getting ashore, and gave the reptiles absolute possession of the creek. The mosquitoes were very numerous, and we were not long in finishing our toilette.

Took a stroll along the bank of the creek, when I found its course to be from E.N.E. to W.S.W.; it abounded in the small tortoise. I found the following plants: *Zornia*, a small trailing species with orange-coloured blossoms, and rough articulated seed-pods. Two species of *Solanum* or Kangaroo apple. *Stenochilus*, two species: the one a dwarf shrub, the other growing to the size of a small tree. One very odoriferous *Cassia*: three species of *Grewia*, These plants have leaves exactly resembling the filbert nut trees; their fruit is a three-celled capsule, the flavour being that of the raisin of commerce. This agreeable taste is only extracted, however, by means of pounding or crushing the fruit between the teeth or otherwise. We afterwards, when in the tropics, were in the habit of collecting, crushing between stones, and afterwards boiling this fruit in water, which yielded a very pleasant and agreeable beverage, not to be despised by those who, like ourselves, were

not in a position to become even as abstemious as teetotallers; as a very short time after leaving civilisation sugar was a forbidden article to all but the leader; of tea, however, we had plenty, but without sugar even that was not much appreciated. Speaking for myself, I, in the absence of sugar, preferred the pure element, cold water. In the evening Turnbull and Wommaï returned with some of the mules and horses. Meteoric appearances or falling stars were very frequent this night to the northward and westward. Lightning very vivid was also seen from the westward. Thermometer at noon, 98; half-past three p.m., 110. I here commenced a practice which I afterwards followed at every convenient opportunity where the soil and situation was suitable, of sowing seeds of the most useful fruit and vegetables. The snakes here were both numerous and large; they were also bold and fearless in proportion to their size. Mr. Turnbull and Wommaï were attacked to-day while following the track of the cattle through a thick Brigalowe scrub, by one of these monsters of the brown kind!

December 14.—In the course of the night some of the horses and mules again escaped, and Wommaï was sent in search of them; he returned about noon, having found those for which he was looking as well as some that had strayed previously. Dr. Leichhardt, Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Bucking, went also to look for the mules. About four p.m. Mr. Hely and Brown returned with all the cattle, they had tracked them through a dense Brigalowe scrub to Mr. Gogg's station. At seven p.m. the doctor and his companions returned after a fruitless search. I collected seeds of a new *Glycine*, saw also another scarlet flowering species of the same genera, seeds not ripe. Along the banks of the creek I found a new species of bean, with long round dagger-like pods, and the blossoms large and richly scented, with many species of grasses, which I believe have not as yet been described; very common among the other plants was the little Australian Sensitive Mimosa (*Acacia terminalis*); this plant possesses contractility and the power of

mimicking animal sensibility in as great a degree as the sensitive plant (*Mimosa pudica*) of South America. I also collected seeds of a very handsome *Swainsonia*. The natives here collected and eat the bulbous root of a pretty species of *Atrodium*. The day until four p.m. was cloudy, and the glass stood at 81.

December 15.—The only stock missing at this time were eleven horses and mules, to obtain, which Mr. Hely and Wommaï were despatched in one, and Mr. Turnbull and Brown. in another direction. The two former returned at four p.m. after an unsuccessful search. Took another stroll down the creek to relieve the monotony of our long sojourn at this camp, and found a species of *Jasminum*, with blossoms white, waxy, and very sweet, and an interesting plant belonging to the *Hedysarææ* of Jussieu. Dr. Leichhardt had also taken a stroll up the creek and returned with specimens of the very remarkable pendulent and arborescent *Hakea Lowria*, and native daffodil or *Callostemma*, a bulbous plant belonging to the *Amaryllideæ*, Charlie's Creek joins the Condamine river about nine miles from our camp. At six p.m. two messengers arrived on horseback with a letter to the doctor, intimating the return of Sir Thomas Mitchell, and as an inspection of Sir Thomas's despatches were likely to form an important feature in our expedition, Dr. L. made arrangements for returning to Darling Downs on the morrow for that purpose. Thermometer four p.m., 98 in the shade.

December 16.—The doctor sent Mr. Hely to Darling Downs, instead of performing that journey himself. Mr. Turnbull and Brown returned after a useless search. After dinner the doctor and two native black fellows went in search of the missing stock; his two companions never having been on a horse before, mounted with caution. They returned with four; Wommaï shot some ducks. Several birds of the Ibis kind, having beautifully bronze-coloured plumage, made their appearance. Weather very close and hot. The saddler very busy altering the pack-saddles; the party taking turn-

about herding cattle. There was a great quantity of a succulent species of *Portulacca*, growing at this place on the banks of the creeks, which was boiled and eaten as a vegetable.

December 17.—Having been tolerably successful yesterday with his naked body guards, the doctor continued their acquaintance and went again in quest of the horses, &c., but returned, having been less fortunate than on the former occasion; he brought with him specimens of the *Capparis Mitchellii*, having large fruit, with a long stalk, the size of an apple, and leaves like the orange; the fruit was very pungent. Also a plant with leaves and thorns like the *Bursaria*, but producing a fruit as large as a plum. In the afternoon we were visited by a heavy thunder-storm, which was very agreeable, as the weather previously had been hot and sultry.

December 18.—Mr. Mann, myself, and Wommaï went up the creek to select a crossing-place, and found one at the distance of three miles; found a very pretty species of *Symphetum* and one *Cassia*. Our old friends, the blacks, whom we had seen on first making the creek, returned, bringing with them their gins, as well as my young friend who had so great a *penchant* for tobacco. They made their camp close to ours, much against the wish of Dr. Leichhardt. In the evening, much thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, which continued until midnight, when my watch commenced.

December 19.—This morning two of the black fellows had breakfast with us, on the understanding that they were to accompany Mr. Turnbull and Brown to look for the mules. I say on the understanding, as far as we were concerned, but the fact was that they themselves understood nothing more than that they were getting a good feed. They went, however, and returned, having found one mule and one horse. Preserved specimens of *Phyllanthus*, *Cassia*, *Fimbristylus*, *Justitia*, *Sida*, and another smaller kind of bean with yellow blossoms. Thunder and lightning

again in the evening, accompanied with rain. Thermometer, 6 a.m., 66; at 3 p.m., 90; sunset, 71. Wind from the S.W.

December 20.—Sunday.—The doctor. Brown, and the two black fellows again went in search of the mules. At one o'clock they returned, the doctor suffering from diarrhœa. I give a few more words of these natives (Charlie's Creek): Bockara, boy; Condamine river, Yandukal; a' a' da, wood; Thonee, woman; Thanthi, no good; Booathanth, stinking; Boging, dog; Gothong, cloud; N'yan n'yan, pot; Pard'ng, grass; Koranga, reed; Knownong, fœces; Powang, opossum. Thermometer, sunrise, 66, 2 p.m., 88; half-past five p.m. 82, in the shade. The pumpkins and some of the other seeds sown on the 13th made their appearance above ground.

December 21.—Mr. Turnbull and Brown were again despatched for the mules. Among the blacks who returned, yesterday was one more intelligent than any we had as yet seen; and he made his *debût* at our camp in the character of a wandering minstrel, singing as he went, or rather as he approached, for want of thought, the old English ballad—

He promised to buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,

He promised to buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,

He promised to buy me a bunch of blue ribbons,

To tie up my tiddelle lol de dol de dol de da.

The last, words appeared to be sung, or added, more from his having forgotten, or never having known, the finish of the verse in English, than as a chorus to the song. It was not until he had sung it two or three times, that we became aware of the name of the song, and we were even then more indebted to the air, which he was very perfect in, than to the words. His sable friends appeared to be much delighted at our enjoyment of Mr. Dennis' song. The said Mr. D. proved to have a very perfect knowledge of the geography of his own and the adjoining country. He drew a rough sketch on the sand, showing the number and bearings of the

different water-courses for a distance, as we afterwards discovered, of 150 miles. He represented the Condamine river as being joined a long way lower down by many more creeks, when it at times formed a vast body of water. This we afterwards, on our Fitzroy Downs' expedition, found to be the case, as the river is then called the Balonne, which, in the season of floods, leaves the surrounding country inundated for many miles; we saw watermarks on the large trees, six feet at least above the ground, at a considerable distance from, the river. Thermometer at sunrise, 65; noon, 85; sunset, 72.

December 22.—The creek had risen much within the last twenty-four hours. Our friend, the musical Dennis, took his departure. I gave him an old penny-piece, on which I had engraved, as neatly as I could, his name. This would appear to be the first piece of British currency he had ever handled, and he was apparently pleased with the Queen's head. Being in a state of nudity, and innocent of pockets, I put it in a small bag for him, after which he departed. Before going, however, he expressed a strong desire that we should follow the course of the Condamine, as far as we could judge by his signs, until we had made one of the water-courses which he had marked in the sands, and which we afterwards discovered to be Bottle Tree Creek. He appeared to signify that, by going in a north or north-easterly course, we should fall in with much *Brigalow* scrub, and many wild black fellows. I took rather a long stroll to-day over the red, sandy, puffy plains, and obtained specimens of three fresh *Leguminous* plants, a (to me) new species of *Stackhousia*, and a yellow, flowering *Senecio*. The goats' flesh appeared not to agree with any of the party excepting the doctor and myself, causing a laxity in the bowels. Nothing more having been heard of the stray mules, the doctor began to despair of finding them; and, in the event of their not being forthcoming before Mr. Hely's return with Sir Thomas Mitchell's despatches, he determined on using a large portion of the flour and sugar as fast

as possible, leaving the more necessary kind of stores to be carried by the mules at present at the camp.

From the heat of the weather and the large number of flies, great part of our mutton was generally spoiled before it was eaten, although we tried both smoking it by the fire, and burying it underground. Thermometer, sunrise, 65; noon, 89; sunset, 80.

December 23.—In addition to the common flies, we were this day much annoyed by the small sand-flies, whose bite was as sharp as the mosquito's. Thermometer, sunrise, 60; noon, 88.

December 24.—The doctor and Mr. Mann rode to Kent's lagoon, and in travelling through a Brigalowe scrub he found and brought me a rare specimen of *Hibiscus*, They also found a duck's nest containing nine eggs, a rather singular number, being exactly one for each of the party. They were reserved for to-morrow, which being Christmas day, we were promised a tapioca pudding. In the evening Mr. Perry, the saddler, who was out herding the cattle, did not reach the camp at dark, and fearing that he had lost himself, or that some accident had befallen him, the doctor and Wommaï went in search, the leader taking a horn with him which he blew with all his might, and Wommaï firing a gun continually. At the distance of a mile from the camp, they heard him cooeing, in answer to the horn and gun. He was driving the cattle up instead of down the creek, having, as we had anticipated, lost his way. The party were in high spirits, which was evidently pleasing to the doctor's feelings. Thermometer at daybreak, 60; noon, 82; sundown, 79.

December 25.—Christmas day, and a smoking hot one; tapioca pudding, each man having as much as he could eat, and had no occasion, like Oliver Twist, to ask for more. Thermometer at daybreak, 69; noon, 89; four p.m., 86.

December 26.—Early this morning two more black fellows paid us a visit. They were quite strangers, and to judge from their

having no knowledge of a single word of English, and their timid manner of approaching our camp, had evidently seen but little, possibly nothing of white people before; they were ushered into our presence by those already camping near us. As far as we could make out by their signs they had seen two of our missing mules, as they mimicked the actions of these animals in hobbles, and held up two fingers, evidently meaning that as being the number they had seen.

The doctor had gone this morning with Wommaï to have another search for the mules, and returned at noon, having found some of them in a small richly pastured opening, surrounded by Brigalowe scrub. He had taken with him the bugle, from which he blew a long and loud blast to announce his successful return. Some of us went to meet him, and we were followed by the whole of the black fellows; on our giving the leader three cheers, they joined to a man, and the noise was almost deafening. Thermometer, two a.m., 66; noon, 92; five p.m., 88.

December 27.—Sunday. This morning the doctor and Wommaï went with the two wild natives to look for the mules, which we supposed by their signs they had seen when on their way to our camp. They returned, however, at noon, after a long and useless ride. It was evident that they had either misled us with the belief of having seen the mules, with the view of obtaining some damper and meat, or we had altogether misunderstood them: the one conjecture was just as probable as the other. Their ride, however, was not altogether without its use, as the doctor found and brought me some very fine specimens of the *Logania*, growing to the size of a small tree, with semi-pinnatifid foliage. Our dog Spring caught a fine brush Kangaroo. Thermometer, sunrise, 64; noon, 89. It is to be understood that the glass was always kept in the shade.

December 28.—The doctor despatched the two wild black fellows with a letter stuck in a cleft stick, to be taken or forwarded by



them to Mr. Dennis or Mr. Bell, at Jimba, the object of the letter being to request either of those gentlemen to engage one of their civilised natives to interpret for those who delivered the letter, with the view of learning something respecting our missing stock, as we had altogether failed in making ourselves understood. Another diseased goat was killed, the flesh of which had the effect of giving the whole of our party a violent attack of vomiting and dysentery. In addition to which, they suffered much (myself excepted) from ophthalmia, occasioned by the flies perpetually settling around their eyes, where they so firmly attached themselves as to be readily killed, a dozen at one time. After crushing these insects, a most unpleasant and foetid smell remained on the hand. So numerous were they, that it was utterly impossible to keep the eyes more than half open. A solution of nitrate of silver was used as a dressing for the eyes affected. Thermometer, noon, 92; 4 p.m., 93; sunset, 82½.

December 29.—The doctor and Wommaï returned to the camp at noon, from an excursion undertaken with the view of ascertaining if it was possible, on leaving this camp, to travel in a direct course without the intervention of *Brigalowe* scrub. The weather being oppressively hot, we erected a kind of arcade, covered with boughs, which served in some measure to protect us from the heat of the sun. Wommaï shot two ducks, which we had for tea, and found them a most desirable improvement upon the diseased goat's flesh. Saw, for the first time, some whistling ducks, which were common here; they were smaller than the common black duck, and their plumage resembled the sparrow hawk. Thermometer at sunrise, 64; noon, 85; 6 p.m., 90; sundown, 83. Collected, from curiosity, to-day, upwards of thirty distinct kinds of grasses, highly nutritious, and eaten greedily by our cattle within a circuit of three miles of our camp. On mentioning this fact in a letter written and addressed to the *Argus*, sent with the two black fellows in a cleft stick with the doctor's, I afterwards, on

my return, read in one of the Adelaide papers, where it had been copied, the number of distinct grasses being, by mistake, stated as 250.

December 30.—As none of the missing mules, after the most diligent search and inquiry, were forthcoming, and as many of the others had sore backs, the doctor, with the view of lightening the loads, and moreover being determined to travel with those we at present possessed, he determined on eating 150 lbs. of flour as speedily as possible; and when it is considered that, since leaving the settled districts, we had been restricted to the ninth part of a two-pound damper daily, it was no wonder that we were somewhat elated at the prospect of having this addition to our daily quantity of bread, although we were fully aware that our rejoicing was premature, and we should feel its effects ultimately. What with the flies, bad eyes, musquitos, and our inactive position, the party were waiting anxiously for Mr. Hely to return with the despatches, when we should be enabled to make a fresh start, and progress on our long and mysterious journey. Thermometer, sunrise, 60; noon, 89; sundown, 82.

December 31.—This day a fine fat sheep was killed as a change to the goat's flesh, which appeared to disagree with the party, and in consequence of new year's day, to-morrow, when, in addition to the mutton, we were promised by the leader a suet pudding, with the additional indulgence of sugar. Thermometer, sunrise, 60; noon, 89; sundown, 83.

January, 1, 1847.—New year's day, and like Christmas, it was a smoker. For dinner we had our promised suet and sugar pudding. After dinner, I took a walk with Wommaï, crossed the creek, and went towards Kent's Lagoon to look for plants and duck's eggs; found a few of the former, but none of the latter. Thermometer, sunrise, 64; nine a.m., 89; noon, 98; sunset, 80.

January 2.—A number of black fellows again paid us a visit, and among them our old, intelligent, and musical friend, Mr. Dennis. They reported the safe delivery of the letter sent by the two wild fellows to Mr. Dennis and Mr. Bell, as well as that we might speedily expect the return of Mr. Turnbull and Brown, and another white fellow (Mr. Hely), who were, they said, bringing plenty more sheep and the missing mules. We soon discovered that they were in error in regard to the sheep and mules, as in the afternoon Mr. Turnbull and Brown returned without bringing any sheep, and had heard nothing of the mules. He also said that a report was current on the Downs that we had been rushed by the blacks, and one of the party killed. Had for dinner, by way of change, a dish of skillagalee, instead of bread. Mr. Mann shot two enormous guanans, measuring each five feet. They were given to our sable friends and visitors, our time for indulging in these luxuries not having yet arrived. Thermometer, midnight, 70; sunrise, 64; 10 a.m., in the sun, 90; from noon till half-past 4 p.m., 93 in the shade.

January 3 Sunday.—Our camp this day was one continued scene of mirth and activity, quite a change to our long, monotonous style of living, occasioned by the arrival of a great number of blacks of both sexes and all ages, from the child in its mother's arms, to men at least six feet in height, and stout in proportion. Among them were, without exception, some of the finest men I had ever seen as aborigines of this colony. As the men were large in comparison to other tribes, so were the women as proportionably small. To add to their decrepid and' miserable appearance, they had adopted the singular fashion of not allowing a single hair to grow on any part of their bodies. Over their heads they frequently run a fire-stick, to burn the hair the moment it appeared. Under the armpits, &c., I have seen a man engaged in pulling it. Occasionally he takes between his fingers more than one at a time, which gives / pain to the patient, and causes her to express as much by saying, in a

plaintive tone, "Yucca! yucca! eeburra!" All the Australian natives, as far as I have observed, have some singular and superstitious customs in regard to the hair.

In my late expedition to Adelaide, my black fellow, Jemmy, preserved every single hair until his return to Melbourne, where he intended burying it in some particular locality. Indeed, it is this very remarkable custom which leads them into the still more erroneous belief that none of their people die a natural death. No sooner is one of their number taken ill, than he appeals to the Kooloolook, doctor or conjuror, who tells him that a black fellow of a neighboring tribe has visited the camp of the invalid, and stolen some of his or her hair. If, after this, the patient dies, the thief is said to have burnt the hair he had formerly stolen, and was the cause of death.

Among them was a very young woman, who had several white spots on her skin, from which circumstance she was called by our party the Piebald. This was a problem in physiology by no means difficult to solve, it being nothing more than an absence of the usual quantity of pigment, or coloring matter; when this humor is wanting in a white person, the spots are black, or what are usually called moles. The whole of these people were on their way to the Bunya Bunya country, for the purpose of obtaining that very remarkable fruit, the product of the *Araucaria Bidwellii*. Perhaps I shall be better understood by representing it as a species of the Norfolk Pine, *Araucaria excelsa*. The present species is, however, much larger than the latter kind, with large, feather-like branches; altogether, perhaps a more magnificent tree it is difficult to conceive.

The fruit is as large as a common-sized cocoanut, and, then roasted, the taste is equal, if not superior, to a mealy potato. It is only produced in large quantities every third year, when the various tribes meet for many miles round to collect and eat it. It is also said, although I am not in a position to vouch for its truth, that the eating of this fruit gives them a strong relish for human flesh,

and that many people are killed, for the purpose of appeasing their unnatural and degraded appetites.

The *Bunya bunya* tree is confined to a narrow belt of elevated country on the coast range, averaging from twelve and a half miles wide by twenty-five in length, and in no other part of Australia has this plant been found. Thermometer, 2 a.m., 65; noon, 93; 5 p.m., 88.

January 4.—Having found all our mules, the doctor determined not to wait longer, for Sir Thomas Mitchell's despatches; and, for this purpose, he sent Mr. Turnbull and Brown for Mr. Hely, with instructions to the latter gentleman to return to the party immediately. I believe the doctor to have been led to adopt this measure from the fact of another and a larger body of black fellows having arrived, all being on their way for the *Bunya* fruit. The number of these people at our camp at this time could not have been less than two or three hundred. Their presence gave us considerable trouble in the management of our cattle, as they could not abide their close neighborhood. Thermometer, noon, 92; 6 p.m., 88.

January 5.—By eleven o'clock this morning we had all the mules loaded, and everything prepared for a fresh start. At half-past eleven, we took leave of our sable friends, who appeared, as far as we could judge by their looks, to be somewhat astonished at our taking a course still further from civilised life. Our journey was pretty generally over low, puffy, boggy flats, intersected by small patches of rising ground, very scrubby, principally Cypress pine trees (*Callaetris*), having an undergrowth of *Dodonea* *Ozothamnus* *Logania*, *Prostanthera*, and another very handsome pyramidal-growing tree, which we called white *Vitex*, The leaves were of a lively green, and, when rubbed, emitted a strong bitter smell. We camped in the evening on a small creek, a tributary of what the blacks called Koim, Baby Creek; the bed was rotten-

stone and pipe-clay. Saw many tracks of emus and kangaroos in the bed of the creek, where they had gone for water.

January 6.—Left the camp at 10 a.m., and travelled a N.W. and W. course. The country a loose, rotten sandstone, and very puffy. A new species of Eucalyptus made its appearance, having foliage, very large and bright green,—a great relief to the landscape, contrasted with the dark, sombre, and melancholy-looking cypress pines. About six miles after leaving, we again came to a bend of the creek we had left, and which proved to be a tributary of Charlie's Creek, or the northern branch of Koimbaboy. Camped at 4 p.m., on a fine chain of waterholes, called by the Doctor Thermometer Creek, Mr. Roper having broken one of these instruments at this place on his first expedition. Thermometer, on camping, 109 in the shade.

January 7.—Made an early start this morning, at half-past eight; our course being N.W. by N. Passed some finely-grassed country, crossed Acacia Creek twice, and, at two p.m., camped on the banks of Dogwood Creek, about two miles higher up than Dr. Leichhardt's old camping-place, where the soil was light and puffy, in latitude 36 deg., 24 min., 32 sec. Found in the red loose soil an interesting species of *Crassula*, with blossoms blue, large, and showy. The banks of this creek were in many places lined with plants of the native Dogwood (*Jacksonia*); hence its name.

January 8.—Our course this day was N. by W. The country was indifferent, but well watered. We crossed two creeks, running to the eastward, and camped at three p.m., on a third. The party were busy drying mutton in the sun. I collected seeds of two species of *Swainsonia*, *Ashonemonie*, *Cassia*, and an *Amaranthaceous* plant. Mr. Buckin expressed a slight disinclination to the performance of a part of his duties as cook, but was immediately silenced by the doctor, whose motto, like that of the great and immortal Nelson, was: Leichhardt insists that every man shall do his duty.

January 9.—We remained at the camp all day, for the purpose of drying the meat. The doctor took Wommaï with him on a reconnoitering trip. He fell in with the tracks of Mr. Pemberton Hodgson's party. The weather was oppressively hot, and the flies troublesome. In the evening, Wommaï caught some fish very like the English perch. Along the banks of the creek was another and remarkable kind of gum tree, having leaves large and laurel-like, with long, oval *Kalyptra*. The stem was a deep brown, and the bark fell off in small scales, which, laying in large masses at the roots, had, at first sight, a very singular effect. Latitude, 26 deg. 16 min.

January 10.—Sunday.—Course, north; 29 deg. west. Country very fine, intersected in every direction by waterholes, deep and plentiful, all running into Dogwood Creek. We camped at half-past four, p.m. On the banks of the creek were some fine specimens of the *Mallaleuca*, or tea tree.

January 11.—Here we remained until the return of Mr. Hely, Mr. Turnbull, and Brown. Weather very hot; saw many wood ducks. Latitude, 26 deg. 11 min. 12 sec.; longitude, 151 deg. 30 min. Here we saw two new species of gum; the one having the singular property of ejecting the bark from the stems in small shell-like pieces, which lie in large heaps at the butts of the trees, giving the stems of the trees the appearance of having been stripped of the bark by the natives. The other kind was very handsome: the flowers were large and abundant; the leaves were glaucous and laurel-like; the stems scaly, but closely attached to the trees. There were also, here and there, trees like the quince, but smaller, producing a fruit like a small peach, but of a bright orange color; the taste was very pungent, and would appear to be a very great favorite (as, indeed, are all bitter fruits) with the emus. For this reason we were in the habit afterwards of calling it the emu peach.

January 13.—Mr. Turnbull, Hely, and Brown returned without bringing letters or information of any kind respecting Sir Thomas Mitchell's expedition. In the afternoon, some black fellows approached our camp, bringing in their hands branches of an integral-leaved wattle, or *Acacia*, as tokens of peace. They did not, however, come nearer than one hundred yards or so. I obtained the following words from them, by pointing to different parts of my body and by signs:—Bobboyarra, Dogwood Creek; mea, eyes; somborong, mouth; geenong, foot; keering, arms; maang, hand; maong, hair; mea, nose; deang, teeth; peenong, ears; ma-a, head; moo, stomach; bannanoobrim, breast. By comparing these words with those I have formerly given, and which I obtained from the natives of Charlie's Creek, it will be seen how closely their language assimilates with that of the Melbourne natives. I also obtained their names for the following species of plants, which I had then in my hand:—Tharrum, *Capparis*, or caper trees; N'yanggan, *Cymbidium*. This plant is an *Epiphite*, and common in the forks of the dead or diseased gum trees. Its blossoms are a rich waxy peach white, very sweet, and pendulant, succeeded by clusters of fleshy-like, oblong, and octangular seed pods, which are collected and eaten by the natives; N'yerroomburra, an *Asceplidaceous* plant, which clings to the larger trees, and produces large bags of cotton-like seed pods; Parree nettle, Coodjarra, swamp oak (*Casuarina paludosa*), Meen meerijarra, *Erythrina*, or fire tree, as it is sometimes called; N'gneera, a plant belonging to the *Laurinea*. They represented that, by making an incision into the stem of this tree, a violently poisonous juice exuded, which was dangerous to be touched by the tongue. Womma said they meant "Cobbon, saucy fellow;" Bookoroo cassytha, a parasite, and a very troublesome one. This plant very much retarded our progress while travelling through the *Dodonea* scrub. It produces a number of large, unwholesome, viscid-looking berries. Booboirra, another species of the *Capparis*, with long, thorn-like tendrils clinging to the neighboring trees.



The fruit is large and edible. Booyilling, a handsome shrub, belonging to the *Corymbosæ*. Geeinjee geeinjee, a name common, or rather applied by them to all the parasitical mosses and lichens.

January 14.—Made another, and, as we then thought, a final start, steering N.N.E. course for the first part of the day's stage, through tolerably good country, which, shortly before our camping, however, changed to rather thick, but low scrub, composed principally of white *vitex*, *Ozothamnus*, *Dodonea*, *Metrosideros*, and occasional clumps of *Mellaleuca*, or tea tree, in the highest, driest, and poorest situations, which was something remarkable, as these trees generally delight in wet, marshy places. Caught a very large and beautifully-marked mantis, or animated straw, which was crawling over Mr. Perry's shirt. Its length was, from head to tail, ten inches. Our kangaroo dog. Swift, caught a fine kangaroo, which was cooked and dressed for the dogs. At the distance of a mile and a half from where we camped, we passed a remarkably-formed conical hill, of sandstone formation, called by the doctor, on his former expedition, Roper's Peak, in honor of Mr. Roper, who was one of his persevering companions on that occasion. We encamped at noon on a small creek near the grave of a black fellow, for which reason it was called Dead Man's Creek.

15th January.—Course to-day, west, 66 deg. north, through the most magnificent volcanic and undulating plains-like country, equal to Darling Downs. We camped at half-past two p.m., at the head of the River Dawson. Saw, for the first time, a fine specimen of the Bottle tree, a *Sterculiaceous* plant, which, at the suggestion of Sir Thomas Mitchell, has been determined as a new genus, called *Dela Bechia*, in honor of a friend of Sir Thomas of that name. This tree grows to the height of from forty to sixty feet, and the stems have precisely the form of a sodawater bottle. The blacks appear to be in the habit of cutting through the bark, and eating the soft pulpy stem, which is almost as soft as a turnip.

With the bark itself they make nets and twine. The Doctor got a kick in the stomach from Parramatta Jenny (one of the mules). It commenced raining heavily yesterday afternoon, shortly after camping, and did not clear up until twelve o'clock this day. On the banks of the Dawson I collected specimens of a (to me) new and spineless species of *Bursaria*, *Commelina*, *Convolvulacæ*, another species of bean, mimosa with very large pendulant and closely pinnatifid leaves. *Glycine*, and on the rich open plains, *Sida*, *Anthericum* or *Bulbine*, with very large blossoms, *Ruellia*, *Phytolacco*, *Cassia*, *Symphetum* *Phillanthus*, *Justitia*, and a very graceful and abundant flowering *Sida*, five and six feet high.

16th January.—The same fine rich open country continues; our course was west by north. Another kangaroo was killed. The dogs gave chase to two large emus, but they took to the scrub, which put an end to the chase.

17th January.—The country to-day rich confined plains, and belts of *Brigalowe* and *Dodonea* scrubs alternately. Our course was north-west. Found a very beautiful species of *Pimelia*, with large globular-headed blossoms of a deep crimson; saw also in the scrubs for the first time some very beautiful trees of the *Bauhinia*; they were covered with long leguminous pods of seeds, which, hanging among the dark and somewhat sombre-colored twin-like leaves, had a pretty effect. About two o'clock p.m., we camped on a tributary of the Dawson, among a small forest of silver box saplings.

January 18.—Country nearly the same as yesterday; our course was north. Two hours after leaving the camp, we came upon a very large boggy flat, surrounded by silver box, *Brigalowe*, *Dodonea*, *Bauhinia*, and white *Vitex* trees. About half-past three p.m., we again made the river Dawson, and camped' on its bank. ,The river had a great fresh in it, that augured badly for our

chance of crossing it lower down. Latitude, 25 deg., 54 min. Thunder again this afternoon, but no rain.

January 20.—Travelled through a fine open country to-day; undulating plains, with trees in the distance. About noon we ascended a slight elevation, from whence we obtained a view of Lynd's and Gilbert's range in the distance, the former bearing N.W., the latter N. by W. On this patch of elevated land, was a group of seven of the remarkable looking bottle-trees, the largest we had yet seen. Heavy thunder again in the afternoon. The Doctor suggests as an improvement to our flour diet, that instead of damper or Johnny cake, each person makes his three ounces of flour into a dish of skillagalee, as being likely to go farther, or, to use his own words, "it would be more satisfying." After making each man his "mess of pottage", the great difficulty was to eat it, without swallowing with every spoonful of skilly about twenty flies; indeed, there was no alternative but to take a fair share of each. These were not times for being fastidious, and, after finishing, the parties could not fail to bear testimony to the truth of the Doctor's words, that it was more satisfying than the same quantity of damper or fat cake. For a great part of the satisfaction I have no doubt we were indebted to the number of flies we had compulsorily swallowed. The Doctor complained of rheumatic pains and palpitation of the heart. Collected a dish of *portulacca*, which was boiled and' eaten, and acted on the whole of the party in the same manner as a dish of jalap. We all suffered much from ophthalmia, occasioned by the flies. Thermometer, 8 p.m., 104 in the shade. The day's course was north-west.

January 21.—This day the heat was excessive; the glass at noon, 108. The flies were more numerous than on any former occasion. The leader and Wommaï walked down the bank of the river to select a crossing-place. The banks were clothed with a belt of silver box saplings, of from a quarter to half a mile in width. I took a stroll up the river through this miniature forest, and saw, in

the most sheltered and shady parts, large heaps of bivalve shells, the remains of aboriginal feasts. Many of these shells were as large as the usual sized cheese plates. Saw, also, hanging from the branch of a large tree, a string of some seven or eight breast bones of emus. On my mentioning this fact to Wommaï, on my return to the camp, he expressed much pleasure on hearing that I had not in any way disturbed them. He represented them as having been placed there by the natives in strict observance of some religious rite or ceremony; the same, or very nearly the same custom being followed by his own tribe at Port Stephens, of which place he was a native. In the evening, Wommaï and Brown, the other black fellow, absented themselves from the camp; and, on going to the scrub, we found that Wommaï was taking another degree as a young man. The blood was trickling rapidly from his breast. Brown having inflicted thereon, with a sharp knife, some sixty or seventy wounds. On healing up, these incisions would leave as many swollen lumps or vesicles, which are considered by them as adding greatly to the beauty of their personal appearance.

January 22.—We travelled down the banks of the river for the distance of five miles, when we came to a part where we observed that a large tree had fallen across the entire width of the stream. This was too favorable a chance to be thrown away, and we lost no time in availing ourselves of such unlooked-for means of getting our stores over dry. Here, it may be truly said, that our expeditionising commenced in earnest. To carry over our luggage with anything like safety, we found it was necessary to do the work barefooted; and, as the bark and other inequalities presented a surface very different to that of a Turkey carpet, and, independent of the log, we had to walk some distance before reaching our primitive bridge, and the same being the case after crossing over, ours was no pleasant task in perspective. Necessity, they say, has, no law, and as "needs must when the d——l drives," we had no alternative but to set to with a good will. The

first task was for two of the party, to place on the head of a third the load which it was his duty to carry over. On reaching the log, it required a considerable share of nerve to preserve the necessary balance during the critical journey across, the river roaring like a torrent below. After getting fairly under weigh, it was not a little amusing to see the caution exhibited by each individual in trying to place his feet on the smoothest part of the log; and was a forcible verification of the adage, "walking circumspectly". After effecting the transit of our baggage, the next job was to cross over the goats and sheep, neither of which would face the log. Wommaï at this juncture offered himself as architect, and succeeded in making, with saplings, boughs, and mould, a very ingenious substitute for a jetty running gradually down to the river. By this means, many of the animals took to the water, and we were progressing *swimmingly*, when, unfortunately, poor Wommaï's very cleverly conceived affair gave way, and we had much difficulty in crossing the remainder. "Perseveranda et prospera", says Leichhardt, in the midst of his employment; and, by following the precept conveyed in the proverb, we had everything finished by dusk, as the cattle, mules, and horses gave us but little trouble; the only deaths which it is my melancholy duty to record on that occasion being five goats and two sheep. I am sorry to say, however, that this day's work was the cause of the fever and ague which, a few days afterwards, attacked, first, myself, and subsequently the whole of the party. In consideration of our exertions, we were rewarded at night by the doctor with the true pastry of the bushman, a fat cake, to which was added an extra pot of tea with sugar.

January 23.—Left the camp at ten a.m., and travelled a north by east course, through a very indifferent and scrubby country, until reaching Palm-tree Creek, where we arrived just in time to catch the benefit of a heavy storm, before we had time to erect our two miserable calico apologies for tents. This creek was named from

the *Corypha* palm-trees which adorned its banks, and than which nothing could be more beautiful than their tall, upright, nearly cylindrical stems, and wide-spreading umbrageous palmate leaves. The unexpanded leaves found at the heart of the tree were very pleasant eating; the taste being that of the Spanish chestnut.

From the heat of the day, and difficulty in driving the sheep and goats through the scrub, poor Norval, our sheep-dog, was knocked up.

I tried my luck in the evening, after the rain had abated, at fishing for eels; but was not favored with as much as a nibble.

January 24.—The country improved to-day, but still continued scrubby. Our course was W.N.W. We had Gilbert's Range in sight the greater part of the day, bearing N.E. Encamped within two miles of its base, on the head of Palm-tree Creek. Latitude, 25 deg., 83 min., south. During the course of the day's stage, as Womma and I were following with the goats and sheep (I may as well say that we were always some miles behind those of the party with the mules and cattle) we passed a very large sheet of water, half lake, half lagoon, on the opposite side of which we saw, as I imagined, a fine bay horse, but to make assurance doubly sure, I dispatched Womma to the spot. He shortly afterwards returned; he had not seen the horse, but said there was a large quantity of horse-dung and tracks of hoofs.; he brought a portion of the dung with him.

This being Sunday, it was again suggested to the Doctor that he, as leader, should read the service of the Church of England. To this request he replied that it was better for each individual to do his share of that solemn and very necessary duty.

January 25.—We made a long stage of fifteen miles. The greater part of the distance the country was low, flat, and swampy, very rich diluvium, covered with a rank growth of *polygonum*, sedges, rushes, and such like rank-growing, semi-aquatic plants. As though we had not experienced sufficient misery from the

sandflies, common flies, and musquitoes, we had now to commence war with a more determined enemy than any which had as yet beset us, in the shape of hornets of a large size, and whose bite or sting was more painful for a time than that of a snake, and left an immense swelling that took two or three days to allay. These hornets were as treacherous as their sting was violent. They build their nest in the hollows of trees, and generally just such a height from the ground as left the head of a man on horseback on a level with their domicile, thus bringing literally a hornet's nest about his ears. Several of the party, as well the horses, were this day stung. The horses and mules had no sooner felt the violence of the sting than they commenced bucking, and one or two of their riders were unseated. Even my old Number 8 tried this game, which somewhat surprised me, as, judging from his generally quiet demeanour, I did not suppose, as Mr. Hely remarked, he had a kick in him. Our course was west and south-west.

January 26.—This morning we had to commence the ascent of the ranges of the Robinson, which were, in many parts, steep and precipitous; and, to avoid the chasms in the rocks, we were under the necessity of tracing them up to their commencement. This style of travelling, combined with the extreme heat of the sun, rendered our day's stage a long and tedious one. In one of these broken, rocky bites of land, we saw a clump of very large bottle trees. They had all been stripped, in many parts, of the bark, and a large quantity of the stem itself taken by the natives, very probably for food—indeed, many of our party were in the habit of eating the wood of this tree, which had very much the taste of a turnip. This remarkable tree belongs to the natural order of Jussien *Stirculeaceæ*, and has been determined as a new genera *De Labechia*, in honor of a friend of Sir Thomas Mitchell's of that name. Sir Thomas was the first to introduce a specimen of the plant to England; and I believe I may take the credit of having sent

the first seeds, which I found at a camp from whence the wild blacks bolted on our appearance. We only obtained, on that occasion, twelve seeds. In the course of the day's stage, while passing through a small patch of scrub, I saw and obtained seeds of a magnificent crimson flowering species of *Passiflora*, the seed pods were as large as pigeons' eggs and the flavor good; but as the quantity obtained was limited, they were too valuable to be used as an article of food. We camped in the afternoon on the bank of a small but well-watered creek, a tributary of the Robinson. We pitched our camp near a beautiful grove, composed of sweetly-scented *Myrtaceous* plants, and a species of *Tristanea*; many of the latter were as tall as the usual sized silver-leaf box gum. Clinging to these trees was a species of *Clematis*, or Virginian bower, having foliage different from any I had previously seen. They were not in blossom. We soon discovered that our camping ground was infested with ants of two or three kinds, whose bite was very violent, and kept the party on the move the whole night. Owing to the broken and mountainous character of the country, this day our course was much broken and indirect.

January 27.—It was no very gratifying sight to look at the apparently inaccessible chain of mountains, one tier peeping over another, laying directly in our line of route, and which we knew we must in consequence, pass over. We made an attempt, and left our camp at 10 a.m.; and by dint of dodging round the large boulders, and following up or down the fissures, or ravines, we eventually succeeded in reaching the summit of the highest part of the group. Here we had a fine view of the peaks of Expedition Bange in the distance. This was a broken chain of mountains, over which we should also have to march. On the top of the ranges passed over to-day, saw some fine trees of *Fusanus*, and a new arborescent species of *Hakea*, having leaves large and serrated at the edges, like the native honeysuckle (*Banksia Australis*), Shortly after descending the ranges, the country opened into fine rich flats,



of no great extent, however, intersected by water-courses, but many of them dried up. The trees were—the rusty gum, *Tristanea*, *Sterculea* (*Corrijong*), and emu peach. The greater part of the forenoon was showery, which made it bad travelling by the side of the gulleys, so common on the ranges. We camped late in the afternoon again on the river Robinson, where it assumes a very singular character, being of extreme breadth, with a deep bed of white sand, through which ran a chain of water-holes. Saw among the grass on the flats a great many different kinds of Mantis, with some large and gorgeously-marked butterflies. We followed, as nearly as the nature of the country would allow, on the westerly course. Latitude of our camp, 25 deg. 25 min.; elevation, 1,028 feet. I omitted to state the elevation of the head of the river Dawson, which was 1,461 feet.

January 28, 1850[sic].—One of the horses having met with an accident by staking his leg, occasioned us to remain at the camp the whole of the day. The weather was cloudy, and so far pleasant, as compared to the heat of the last few days. The grass and herbage were literally covered with innumerable varieties of the *Mantis* and locusts, presenting a fine field for the entomologist. Obtained a new species of *Aster*, The doctor and Wommaï reconnoitered for our next day's camping place, and found a suitable one at the distance of ten miles. I sowed some more vegetable seeds on the banks of the river.

January 29.—Made an early start, and travelled a N.W. by N. course over rocky ridges, and loose sandy confined plains, on which were some fine trees of *Metrosideros* and *Xylomelon*, or, as it is generally called, native pear; the large woody seed pods being as large, and very like that fruit. Crossed a small creek twice, containing but little water, and encamped upon a fine chain of water-holes, at the head of the Robinson, among a group of the beautiful, palm-like aborescent *Zamias*, many of them in full fruit. This fruit is collected by the natives, soaked in water, pounded and

roasted after a fashion peculiar to themselves, and eaten. Wommaï dressed and eat some of it; but, I imagine from not properly understanding the process of preparation, he was ill for some days afterwards. Much of the soil passed over to-day was soft and puffy, and the gulleys and intersections were of limestone formation. On the puffy ground the dogwood (*Jacksonia*) and Cypress pine (*Callaetris*) made its appearance again. The wood of the *Jacksonia*, when burnt, gives out a disagreeable, fœtid smell, from whence it has derived the name of stink-wood.

January 30.—The early part of this day's stage was of a breakneck description, which by noon brought us clear of the ranges of the Robinson. We entered, after the descent, a beautifully-confined valley, richly grassed, and where water-holes were plentiful; on one of these we camped about two p.m. Observing a remarkably broken-looking, rocky hill, or boulder, at the distance of about a mile and a half from our camp, Mr. Mann and myself wended our steps thither; he to take a sketch of the country, and myself to look for plants. On ascending this place, my companion had a delightful field for his labors, as we had a full and uninterrupted survey of the surrounding country in every direction. Mount Aldis and Mount Nicholson were plainly to be discerned; and, on casting our eyes in a north-westerly direction, we observed an unbroken chain of apparently perpendicular rocks, forming a double wall, the one peering over the other. Among the broken crevices in the rocks, I found a pretty, shrubby species of *Phyllanthus*, with an abundance of small, coral-like seeds, each about the size of a pea, as also a large species of *Asclepius*, and a great number of *Rutaceous* plants.

The weather being fine at the time of camping, we omitted to rig up our tents: and as, in the night, we were visited by a heavy storm of rain, we had the pleasure of being most completely saturated. Our course was N.W. by N. Elevation, 1,648 feet.

January 31.—Sunday.—Shortly after leaving the camp, we entered a narrow and picturesque rocky valley, which gave us much trouble to descend, the large stones following close upon our horses' heels in our progress. After travelling in this manner for the distance of five miles, we entered upon closely timbered country, which continued until meeting an apparently inaccessible bank of rocks. Here it was deemed desirable to camp, although it was early in the day, to enable the doctor, accompanied by Wommaï, to take a *reconnoissance*. From the broken character of the country, our course was very indirect: first, N.N.W., and subsequently N.E. by N.

February 1.—The first part of the day's stage was through poor scrubby country, much interrupted by gulleys, many of them containing water. After passing through one of these gulleys, more than usually deep, we came upon the edge of an immense precipice, extending further than the eye could reach. On the opposite side of this was another wall, equally precipitous. Between these gigantic enclosures was a deep and, as it would seem, fertile valley; and through the centre ran a fine water-course. These gigantic natural walls, or boundaries, presented appearances the most fantastic; occasionally your imagination would picture a large castle, which again changed to some of the old abbeys and nunneries, common in England and on the Continent. In fact, every style of architecture, [sic] as you continued to gaze, was presented, from the old abbey in ruins, to the more modern cottage *ornée*. With much difficulty we effected an entrance to the valley below. We travelled for some distance along the edge of the creek we had formerly seen, although we frequently met with interruptions, until three p.m., when we encamped on what the doctor named, from the romantic scenery around, the *Creek of Ruined Castles*. On following up a glen amid broken rocks, I found two new species of *Acacia*, with pendulent, viscid, horse-tail like foliage, three *Dodonea*, one *Notolea*,

two *Hovea Boronia*, and three of the *Grevillia*, one species very handsome. Towards nightfall, it commenced raining heavily, and, as the grass was long, made it unpleasant watching at night.

February 2.—Left the camp at half-past ten a.m., but were not able to travel more than three miles, the horse with the sore fetlock being knocked up. Just as we were unloading the mules, we experienced a heavy thunder storm, which drenched us all to the skin, and made it difficult to kindle a fire. As we followed up the course of the creek, we found this remarkable valley to open out on either 'side, the country still being confined and walled in. The extent of the valley was sufficient for four large cattle stations at least; and a few rods of fencing would have secured the whole area, from which it would have been difficult for the cattle to have strayed.

The timber was the emu peach, native pear, and silver-leaved box gum. Mr. Hely was very unwell. Latitude, 26 deg. 11 sec; elevation, 1,750.

February 3.—This morning was showery, and we remained at the camp. Mr. Mann, Hely, and myself visited a rocky eminence, and found another new species of prickly *Mimosa*, *Dodonea*, and the rock *Mitrosacme*.

February 4.—The lame horse being unable to travel, we made another start without him. We followed up this Ruined Castle Creek to its source, among a series of elevated ranges, through which we, with difficulty, succeeded in making our way. I found the country interesting, botanically, and collected the following plants, one remarkable shrub having a false corolla:—*Pittosporum*, a new kind of vine, having fruit like the black cluster grape, and pleasant eating: the slightly pungent *Eustrephus*, the *Cassia*, and several berry-bearing shrubs. On descending the ranges, we had to avoid deep gulleys, containing water in many places. Camped at four p.m. on a small, sheltered creek, with sandy and rocky bed. Our course was, as nearly as it was possible

to judge, N.W. by N. The creek on which we camped was called Zamia Creek, there being many of these plants on its banks. Elevation, 1,406.

February 5.—Continued following down Zamia Creek in a northerly direction. Crossed and re-crossed several times in the course of the day. The scenery was pretty, but in many parts very scrubby. Collected a new *Cassia* and one *Acacia*, trees *Bauhinia*, *Cyprus* pine, silver box, and three other species of the *Eucalyptus*. The *Zamia* adorned the banks of the river in many places. Thermometer at half past two p.m., in the shade, 93. Mr. Hely suffered much from *toothache*, and had his gums lanced previous to having one drawn. The operator was Dr. Leichhardt, and the instrument a bullet-mould. I need not say that, after a sharp jerk with this instrument, the tooth remained as firmly in the mouth as ever, although the doctor happily, or, as poor Hely thought, unhappily remarked, it broke or shook the nerve, which of itself was likely to give him ease. Pitched our tents at a small water hole, at 3 p.m., when Mr. Mann and myself ascended a hill, from whence he took another sketch of the country, including our camping grounds.

February 6.—We found this morning that one of our mules, Don Pedro by name, and one who had crossed the Cordilleras, in South America, on many occasions, had taken it into his head to wander from the camp; and we consequently made a late start, and continued following down Zamia Creek, whose many windings gave us the same trouble in crossing and re-crossing as yesterday. After travelling the distance of five miles, we again camped on its banks; the weather was oppressively hot, and the flies troublesome. We were, in the early part of the evening, visited with another thunder storm.

February 7.—We made a long stage this day, following a north north-easterly course; passed Mount Aldis on our left hand—country scrubby in places.

February 8.—From the time of starting this morning until camping in the afternoon, we were travelling through swamps. Camped, at three p.m., on the banks of Erythrina Creek; course, N.E. by N.; elevation, 914.

February 9.—This day we commenced the ascent of Expedition Range. The country broken, and in many places boggy. Passed thorough much scrub and closely timbered country. Saw many interesting plants. Our course was N.N.W. We encamped, about four p.m., on the bank of a small creek, where there were many plants of the dwarf *Zamia*, with a tolerable show of pine-apple like fruit.

February 10.—Continued travelling over the same range, and effected a clear descent by five in the evening, when we encamped on a finely-watered creek, the banks on either side being clothed with a great variety of shrubs. Saw, on the tops of the range, a large variety of the *Acacias*, obtained three (to me) new species, as well as two *Hoveas*, one *Glycine*, two *Hakea*, three *Boronia*, two *Eriostemon*, many new species of the genus *Acacia*, two of which adorn the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne; among them one with the stems compressed, after a very singular fashion, very like the *Anceps* common near Sydney. Our course was westerly.

The doctor named the pretty creek on which we had camped Expedition Creek, from taking its rise on the ranges bearing that name.

February 11.—Our course was W.N.W. In the course of the day's stage, crossed no less than four creeks, all running parallel with each other, and taking their sources from Expedition Range. The intervening country was boggy in the extreme, and the whole of the mules became fixed in the mud up to the girths; and we were under the necessity of taking off their loads to set them at liberty.

This morning I was scarcely able to mount my horse, having a violent attack of fever, which, in a few days subsequently, attacked the whole of the party, more or less. As the weather looked bad, and indicated a wet night,, we rigged up our two thin and almost useless calico tents. This was done in respect to my illness; indeed, my fever increased, and, to add to the misery of my situation, shortly after dark, it commenced raining in torrents, which soon swamped us out of our tents.

In consideration of my sufferings, Mr. Hely, my companion (allotted by Dr. Leichhardt), kindly undertook my share of watching the cattle for the night.

February 12.—The rain continued the whole of the night, and made the ground, which was naturally loose and puffy, in such a muddy and boggy condition, as to render it quite impossible for the mules, with their small feet and heavy loads, to travel; and we were necessitated to remain at the camp the whole of the day. Three or four of the party, in addition to myself, complained of being unwell. Wommaï, one of the black fellows, was positively ill.

February 13.—We this day entered a dense *Brigalowe* scrub, through the centre of which ran the Comet River, so named by Dr. Leichhardt from the fact of the comet having made its first appearance while he was travelling along its banks on his former expedition, and from whence we did not clearly emerge until after the lapse of many days. During the whole time it was a continuance of wet weather, and travelling was wretched; sometimes passing through a sheet of muddy water for the distance of a quarter of a mile, into which we had frequently to dismount to relieve the horses, who constantly got bogged. Sometimes the back water would nearly surround our camping ground, which was a place we had generally some difficulty in selecting, a little above the level of the inundated country around. On this mud we had every night to make our couch, which was

simply a few handfuls of boughs broken off the *Brigalowe* trees. Our only covering for many consecutive nights was the half of a wet blanket; and this, from the frequency of showers, and the dank; unwholesome, confined atmosphere of the *Brigalowe* scrub, we had not often an opportunity of drying. Watching the stock at night, the greater part of the time up to our knees in mud, was eventually sufficient to lead to a general sickness. Such was the opinion entertained at the time, and such was, in a few days, the result. We followed, as nearly as the scrub would admit, a north-westerly course; the only relief to the sombre *Brigalowe* scrub being a few trees of the *Bauhinia* and silver-leaved box gum.

February 14.—This was, perhaps, one of the best day's specimens we had of expeditionising. The country, for the greater part of the day's stage, was through muddy and boggy water-holes, up to the horses' girths. They were so frequently bogged, that we preferred walking the greater part of the morning. Course again pretty nearly N.W.

February 16.—Still roaming through the scrub—the ground a little more firm than formerly, and the travelling far better. We had, however, one large sheet of water to travel through, of at least half a mile in extent. It was very difficult for me and Wommaï to follow in the tracks of the party ahead, through this scrub, we being generally a considerable distance behind, with the sheep and goats—our only guide being the ripples where the water had been disturbed. About noon this day, I was nearly drowned in crossing a sheet of water, the horse, poor old Number 8, having been bogged; and, owing to my late suffering from fever and ague, I was unable, until assisted by Wommaï, who was in truth nearly as ill as myself, to extricate my feet from the stirrup-irons. With much difficulty, however, we managed to get clear of the water; but we were both so completely exhausted that we were compelled to lie down, and the sheep and goats were allowed to wander among the scrub at their leisure. About five p.m., the doctor, on account of our not



appearing at the camp, became apprehensive that something had occurred, and despatched Bucking, with the black fellow. Brown, as his guide, to look for us; and they found us in the helpless condition already mentioned. On reaching the camp (a bed of soft mud, over which had been spread a few Brigalow boughs). Dr. Leichhardt was at last convinced that I was really and truly very ill; and expressed some little sympathy, by having boiled for me and poor Wommaï a little gelatine soup. I only managed to swallow a few spoonfuls. Small as the quantity was, it was the first food of any kind I had eaten for several days. In the course of the night, much and heavy rain fell, and I was lying half-covered with water during the whole of the time; but of this fact I was not aware until the following morning. As the crisis of my disease took place during the night, I was unconscious of all and everything around me. I was told that I was very kindly attended by the doctor and Mr. Perry during the night. The doctor afterwards remarked that I had forcibly verified the old proverb of, "The ruling passion strong in death," as the only remark made by me during the night was, "Mr. Perry, take care of my specimens." Elevation, 1,048 feet.

February 17.—Shortly after leaving the camp this morning, the country began to open a little, but still continued scrubby. Saw a very fine species of *Datura*, or *Stramonium*, with large white, trumpet like blossoms. The doctor having made a long stage to-day, we continued travelling with the sheep and goats, which were knocked up, until nearly dark; and we were just on the eve of camping by ourselves as Wommaï sighted the smoke of the camp fire, when we pushed on to the party, the doctor sending Turnbull and Brown to fetch the sheep and goats. Course, W.N.W.

February 18.—Before the middle of the day We had the pleasure of finding ourselves clear of the scrub, and travelled over open flats of considerable extent; the soil being puffy, and very wet, made it harassing travelling for the loaded mules. We camped on

what Dr. Leichhardt called Deception Creek, where the sandflies and mosquitoes were numerous and extremely troublesome. Collected in the course of the day's stage specimens and seeds of *Trichodesma*, *Lasiopetalon*—a new *Stenochilus*, with beautifully-pendulant fuschia-like blossoms; and, among the silver-leaved box gum trees which adorned the banks of the creek, I found a handsome species of *Hibiscus*, with large, rose-colored blossoms; with several *Leguminous* plants having pink blossoms. Latitude, 24 deg. 27 min.; course, W.N.W.

February 19.—From the scarcity of grass, and the labor necessarily undergone in getting the stock through the *Brigalowe* scrub for the last few days, the doctor determined upon remaining a day at this place.

February 20.—We this day reached the Comet River, or, I should rather say, we were, for the first time, enabled to approach and camp on its banks, as the river, in fact, ran through the scrub from whence we had just, with so much difficulty, emerged, and where we had once or twice caught sight of it. The mosquitoes continued to be troublesome at night, and prevented the party from obtaining their usual allowance of sleep.

February 21.—This day the sandflies were so excessively troublesome as to render it necessary to ivrap our hands and faces in our pocket-handkerchiefs; so annoying did they become, about noon, as to cause the mules to buck and unship their loads. Unfortunately I overtook the party at this juncture, and was, of course, called upon to assist the others in the operation of holding and reloading them. This work could not be done, however, until a number of small fires were ignited, in the centre of which the mules were led while being loaded, as the smoke arising from the fires drove away the insects, and the mules were, of course, quiet. This work of loading was a severe trial to our tempers; and even Mr. Perry, the most religious young man of the party, was, on

several occasions, in the act of swearing a few oaths, but caught himself in the middle of each oath, and sought forgiveness for his half-committed offence; thus clearing his way and his conscience at the same time. We crossed and recrossed the Comet River twice before camping. The country was scrubby until noon, when we made some fine open plains; these were called Sandfly Downs, in commemoration of the trouble we had experienced in that locality from sandflies. Among the patches of scrub in the vicinity of the river, we saw, for the first time for many days, several black fellows gunyas. The timber on the plains was principally box gum. Course, north-west and westerly.

February 22.—Brown returned late this forenoon, with only a few of the horses and mules, the others having strayed; and we were compelled to remain all day in the camp. Saw, on the banks of the river, some fine trees, of the beautiful aborescent *Cassia*; but, unfortunately, they were neither in blossom nor in seed. Elevation, 920 feet.

February 23.—This was a day of accidents: two of the mules were nearly drowned; what little sugar and flour we yet possessed got saturated; and we lost our spade, as well as a portfolio, containing a few of the most interesting insects which had been collected on the expedition. Our course was north-easterly, through scrub, along the bank of the river. On arriving at the camp. Bucking and Brown were despatched for the lost spade, with a promise of a reward of a two-pound flat cake, if they were successful in their search. They returned in about an hour and a half with the spade, and received their cake, which they generously divided with their companions. Latitude, 24 deg. 10 min. south.

February 24.—Course N. by W., still following the course of the Comet River, which continues to be scrubby, and of the same character as yesterday.

February 25.—Course the same as yesterday, following the course of the river. About noon we came suddenly upon a number of blacks, who appeared to be much frightened, as they held up their hands, screamed, and ran away as fast as their legs could carry them. Found among the patches of scrub a very large and beautiful shrubby species of *Abutylon* in full blossom, yellow, and, when expanded, as large as a rose. Towards evening we were driven by the scrub to the distance of two or three miles from the river, where we camped on a large creek or backwater of the river itself. We had scarcely been camped two hours, when it commenced raining in torrents, and continued pouring down the whole of the night. The soil being black and tenacious, it clung to our boots in large flakes or clods, and made it difficult in walking round and watching the cattle during the night.

February 26.—It still continued raining; but from the trampling of the cattle during the night, the place was so muddy as to render it necessary to "up sticks!" and start for another, and, as we hoped, a better and firmer camping ground. We travelled for about three miles, when we came to a wide sheet of water, where, as it continued to rain, we again encamped. We had not remained long, however, before this place, like the one we had left, from the trampling of the cattle, was soon a bed of mud.

We were all completely soaked, and were for a long time trying before we could succeed in lighting a fire to warm ourselves. Fortunately, about noon, it began to clear up, and we were enabled to dry our clothes and blankets. It kept tolerably fine until midnight, which was the time for me and my companion, Mr. Hely, to commence our watch, when it again came down thick and fast, and continued in that manner for the remainder of the night. We were still encamped in a scrub composed of *Brigalowe*, *Dodonea*, and *Stenochilus*, with a few scattered box trees. We heard some black fellows cooeing, in the night, during our watch.

February 27.—We were again compelled to remain at the camp, the continued rains during the night having rendered the country too muddy for travelling. The dogs gave chase to a brush kangaroo; but did not succeed in catching it.

February 28.—Sunday.—This morning I was early astir with Wommaï, having been disturbed by the repeated and continual bleating of a young calf, proceeding apparently from the confines of a thick patch of scrub at a little distance from the camp. After a diligent search we found in the midst of the aforesaid scrub a young calf which had been deserted by its mother. We had not the slightest idea that our only cow was so near giving us an addition to our stock. It was, however, a gratifying fact, as we were in hopes that we should from this circumstance be furnished for some little time to come with a supply of milk; but on this matter we were egregiously mistaken, inasmuch as we could not succeed in erecting a bail sufficiently strong to hold her during the operation of milking.

From the time lost in the attempt at milking the cow and in fixing the calf on one of the mules, it being unable to travel, we did not succeed in leaving the camp until near midday. We had not travelled for more than a mile when the calf commenced crying for its mother; this so alarmed the mule, on the back of which it was placed, that it became frightened and commenced bucking; this practice was followed by its companions, and in a short time we had the trouble of catching and reloading the whole of them.

The doctor was determined that the mule should carry its live burden, and this time he (it was a bull calf) fastened it under the tarpaulin, a slit being cut, through which it could put out its head and breathe. Another start was made, and we had travelled this time for not more than three quarters of a mile when the calf again commenced crying, and the mule to buck as before; the same trouble in catching would have been necessary, but after some persuasion the doctor agreed to camp at the place as we happened

to be, on the bank of the Comet River, which, from the late rains, we found to be much flooded.

March 1.—This day we had heavy travelling through patches of scrub, composed principally of *Brigalowe* and *Dodonea*. Had also to cross many backwaters of the Comet River. We travelled about eight miles, when we camped on the bank of the river, which was evidently rising. On unpacking our traps, we found that we had lost a small bag of sugar, one of tea, and one of salt. Bucking and Brown were again despatched for them, with a promise of being allowed to retain the sugar, and to which the doctor was to add some tapioca for a pudding on our reaching the Mackenzie River, if they were fortunate in their search. We were in expectation of reaching this river the day after to-morrow. Saw in the patches of scrub some fine trees of the *Santalum* (bastard sandal wood), and a new leguminous plant, from which I obtained both seeds and specimens.

March 2.—This morning we had to use all imaginary despatch to load our mules, as the river was rising rapidly, and the back current of water was surrounding our camping ground. Some of our cattle were missing, and Brown was despatched for them. Mr. Hely and Turnbull were ordered to remain until his return to the camp. This day the doctor made a very long stage, and Womma and myself, with the goats and sheep, and the party with the cattle, had much difficulty in making the camp; indeed had for the report of firearms, we should for the night have formed three separate parties, although we knew by tracks in the mud, and the repeated cooeing, that a number of wild blacks were at no great distance. We travelled until late, owing to the crooked course which the scrubs and backwaters rendered it necessary for us to adopt, although we did not make more than nine miles in distance, our average course being E. I did not observe an inch of ground on the Comet River that could by any possibility be turned to any account, although I think it probable that plains of some extent

may exist a few miles back. Brown reported that while looking for the cattle he observed the tracks of black fellows who had been following his and the course of our tracks yesterday, and very probably they had found our bag of sugar, &c., as Brown and Bucking returned without them. Mr. Perry was this evening taken suddenly ill. We camped on the bank of the Comet. Latitude 23 deg. 41 min.

March 3.—Mr. Perry much worse, and we remained all day in camp.

March 4.—To-day the whole of the horses could not be found until late in the afternoon, when we made a start for a place indicated by Brown as being clear of scrub, dry, and not more than a mile distant. We travelled, however, a distance of three miles, when we again camped on the banks of the Comet.

March 5.—We made the Mackenzie River at mid-day, and camped on a fine patch of open country, but not far distant from a thick patch of scrub. The river was much flooded, and there was every prospect of our remaining for at least a fortnight. This evening Mr. Turnbull was attacked with fever. The doctor also complained. Mr. Perry much worse. Mr. Hely had the toothache. The doctor recommended bathing.

March 6.—The weather being oppressively hot, and as the invalids, more particularly Mr. Perry and Mr. Turnbull, continued ill, we erected, with much labor, (owing to our weak state of health,) a sort of arbour or bower, to shelter them from the sun. The cow would not take the slightest notice of the young calf, and to prevent its dying of starvation, Mr. Hely killed it. It was afterwards cooked, and made into a kind of jelly. The doctor commenced a new arrangement, and allowed us to have two meals a day, and our three ounces of fat cake for luncheon; unfortunately, many of the party were too ill to eat, and had but

little appetite, and consequently the worthy leader's very humane system commenced, like many other good intentions in this world, too late to benefit the greater part of his companions.

March 7.—Sunday.—This morning, the doctor, Mr. Hely, and Brown, the black fellow, were added to the list of invalids. The others worse, and myself again very unwell. We were situated within four miles of the tropics, and the weather consequently very hot. Latitude, 23 deg., 34 min. To add to the misery of our situation, the musquitoes and sandflies were beyond measure troublesome, and prevented the poor fellows who were suffering from the fever getting anything in the shape of wholesome slumber, which was so necessary to them under the circumstances. The duties of watching the cattle at night, and attending upon the others, devolved upon myself and three others, two of whom were barely able to crawl about. In the evening, Mr. Mann, who had, up to this time, retained his health better than the others, complained of feeling some symptoms of the fever.

March 8.—The doctor and the other invalids better. Turnbull and Perry were, however, but a little better. The river going down rapidly. I attributed our sickness, in a great measure, to our so long travelling down the Comet River, which, as the waters receded from the back waters, as the river continued to fall, left a mass of vegetable matter, which, becoming putrid, a very unpleasant effluvium arose, and may have had some effect on the constitutions of the party who had already suffered so much from the bad weather and wet blankets. In such situations as the above, I observed always a greater number of musquitoes and sandflies. The black fellows, however, attributed it to our drinking the water in such places. Unfortunately, Dr. Leichhardt, acting upon the fact of having escaped sickness in his Port Essington tour, omitted to bring the necessary quantity of medicines, and we were completely helpless. Some of the party had fortunately brought a few papers of rhubarb, calomel, &c., which, with one small bottle



of quinine supplied by the doctor himself, was all the medicines we had. This omission led to much grumbling on the part of the invalids. The only thing we possessed, as being palatable to the poor fellows, was tapioca and gelatine; but, as he would allow no sugar with the tapioca, their stomachs were too weak to take it. Shortly after sundown, the sky became overcast, and every appearance of a tropical storm; nor were we deceived in its aspect, as it commenced raining hard, accompanied by heavy thunder and very vivid flashes of lightning. Our tents being useless, no attempt was made—indeed, we had not strength or time to get the necessary forks and poles for erecting them, and the sick had to bear the storm with all its force. The doctor, in the evening, gave us all a dose of calomel and scammony, which, he said, he trusted would allay the effects of the fever.

March 9.—Mr. Mann, myself, and Wommaï were the only persons in the party who were able to crawl about. In the morning, it was discovered that one of the goats had kidded during the night; and we took advantage of the circumstance to furnish the sick with a little milk. It was no trifling job, sick and weak as we were, to catch the brute. Having succeeded, Wommaï managed to extract a quart of milk. To prevent a recurrence of the party suffering from the effect of another thunder-storm, we managed to erect the two tents, previously sewing up the parts that were torn. The invalids' regimen now was gelatine, boiled with a little tapioca, seasoned with pepper and salt. Mr. Boecking was seized with a violent rash, which broke out all over his body, occasioned, the doctor thought, from his drinking too freely of cold water. Mr. Mann and Wommaï were the only sound persons in the party. From the number of sandflies by day, and musquitoes at night, the situation of the invalids was truly pitiable. In the middle of the night, during my watch, I heard a strange noise, very like the howling of a native dog, and, on looking round, I was surprised to find Wommaï by my side greatly alarmed. He had been awake by the same noise,

which, he said, was a kind of signal used among the natives when they were bent on any mischievous undertaking. On walking in the direction of the river from whence the noise proceeded, we distinctly heard them talking in a low hut hurried manner. I went and informed the doctor of this fact, who awoke Mann and Boecking, the others being unable to keep their feet. We loaded our pieces, and made a breastwork, or defence, with the pack-saddles and stores, behind which we kept watch for some time; everything, however, continued quiet, and morning appeared without bringing the threatened danger. Probably the noise of ourselves and goats may have alarmed them. Elevation, 787 feet.

March 10.—The greater part of the invalids were much better this morning. The weather was overcast and cloudy, with every appearance of rain. Should it again fall in any quantity, it will cause the Mackenzie River to rise, and prevent our crossing for some time to come.

March 11.—Our situation to-day was truly painful; the invalids, who were better yesterday, having relapsed, and Mr. Boecking and Wommaï, the black fellow, were added to the list. There were, consequently, only two of us able to go about and attend upon the others—namely, Mr. Mann and myself. The doctor suffered from the fever and ague, and lowness of spirits. I believe the latter feeling arose from his having brought no medicine, and seeing the helpless condition of the party—surrounded as we were by wild black fellows, who, although not visible, we knew, from their tracks, and occasionally overhearing them, that they were not far distant. The whole of the watching at night consequently devolved on Mr. Mann and myself. During my watch this night, the dogs were very uneasy, barking and running in the direction of a patch of scrub, at a short distance from the camp, sufficient to afford shelter to a whole tribe of blacks; and, being within spear-shot of our camp, we were completely at their mercy, had they been inclined to attack us. We, however, had taken the precaution of

having very small fires, covered with cow dung to hide the blaze, while the smoke drove away the mosquitoes, greatly to the relief of the invalids. Mr. Hely had recovered wonderfully; and it was arranged that, in the event of our being able to cross the river (which had fallen considerably the last day or two), to catch and load the mules, cross, and camp above the junction of the Comet River with the Mackenzie, where there was no flood, as the whole of the water came from the Comet. Our black fellows assured us that we might attribute our sickness to the *miasma*, arising from the decayed vegetable matter left or deposited in the gullies from whence the floods had receded, and to drinking the water in such localities. They consequently highly applauded the intention of Mr. Mann, Mr. Hely, and myself, as to our removal to above where the river was flooded.

Until removing, at the suggestion of the blacks, we used the water from a small water-hole in the scrub, in preference to the river water, although it was rather muddy. The doctor allowed the party to have a three-ounce allowance of damper, made into toast and water, and highly relished by the invalids. It was fortunate for us that our cattle, mules, and horses were tolerably tame, and went out to feed and return of themselves without herding; for this, however, we were indebted to the sandflies and mosquitoes, which generally attacked the cattle about ten or eleven o'clock in the forenoon, when they immediately rushed home to the camp, where we had several small fires lighted to keep the insects off. The fish in this river must livery large and numerous, judging by the noise caused by their leaping up above the surface during the night, and may, perhaps, be the occasion of its being so much resorted to by the blacks. To add to our distress, we were again visited by another violent tropical shower, and, so sudden was its approach, that we had not time to remove the invalids to the tents before it commenced; fortunately, however, it was not of long continuance, but sufficient to prevent the sick from removing from their tents during the whole night, where they were nearly driven mad by the

mosquitoes, as there was no possibility of lighting a fire and causing a smoke in the tent.

March 12.—Mr. Hely had a relapse to-day, which put an end to the possibility of crossing and removing higher up the river. In the night. Dr. Leichhardt was very ill, and complained much. Wommaï also had a relapse, so that Mann and myself were the only parties to keep watch and attend to the other duties.

March 13.—No visible improvement in the party, except Perry, who ate a whole quart of skillygalee, which he managed to retain in his stomach for the first time for many days; and I was rejoiced at the circumstance.

Boecking, Hely, and Wommaï took each an emetic. We were very uneasy this day, at finding that the cattle, horses, and mules did not return to the camp at the usual time. Both the blacks being ill, the duty of looking for them, of course, devolved on Mr. Mann or myself; and, as he was stronger than I, he kindly undertook the job, and started in the afternoon, and returned in the evening with the intelligence of having tracked them to a dense scrub, when he returned to the encampment. Our scrub water-hole becoming too thick and muddy, we were compelled again to have recourse to the river.

March 14.—Sunday.—This morning was ushered in by fine cooling and refreshing breezes from the southward; and, in consequence, Dr. Leichhardt, Perry, Turnbull and Boecking felt a little better. Wommaï also felt the effects of the cool breezes, and, although very ill, kindly undertook to ride and look for the cattle. We killed another sheep, although Mr. Mann and I were the only consumers. The doctor felt much better in the evening. Wommaï returned about four p.m. with the whole of the cattle.

Three other goats had kids. We had, however, much trouble in catching the rascals to milk them. Wommaï succeeded, at length, with the lasso, which he had learned to throw from the Spaniards, at his native place. Port Stephens.

It was not a little amusing to witness the various wants and wishes of the different invalids. Poor Perry wished me this morning to furnish him with a pinch of snuff. Mr. Boecking, who was suffering more from the fever and ague than any of his companions, would persist in eating his share of damper, immediately it was cooked, in preference to having it afterwards toasted, and made into toast and water. The only excuse to be offered for him was, that he invariably took his meals kindly under any circumstances. Mr. Turnbull's weakness was, a determination to eat the sop from the toast and water. I would not allow him to do so. The cattle came in of their own accord this morning about eleven a.m. Mr. Perry wished for a piece of grilled goat's flesh, which I cooked and gave to him. At the present time we had scarcely a mule or a horse in hobbles, they having broken them, from our inability to attend to such matters; and I desired to see Mr. Perry sufficiently recovered to attend to his duties. Dr. Leichhardt also took a small portion of grilled goat's flesh for his breakfast. It struck me that under the present circumstances a tonic would be advantageous to the invalids, and with this view I sowed early this morning some vegetable seeds.

Two more goats kided, making altogether five milkers. On retiring to my blanket at night, I found a snake coiled between its folds. Fortunately there was sufficient light from the Are to enable me to observe it; indeed, I am generally cautious in examining my blankets when I go to rest at a late hour. I was of course anxious to dispose of so dangerous a bedfellow as quickly as possible, and was in the act of shaking or kicking him into the Are, but Dr. Leichhardt (who occupied the opposite side) insisted on my not killing it, as it might prove a new species. I remarked, that if he wished the gentleman secured it was highly necessary for him to assist; he readily responded, and seized our boiler, which he held on its side until I with much difficulty managed to put the snake into the mouth, when the doctor immediately placed on the lid, where we left him regularly potted until daylight in the morning,

when we discovered that it was one of the common brown kinds, and as the boiler was required to boil the water for tea, the snake was ejected, and the pot full of water placed on the fire. This little incident shews how little fastidious are bushmen when engaged in these expeditions.

March 16.—From the heat of yesterday, the invalids appeared not to present any signs of improvement. The mustard and cress seed sown yesterday morning made its appearance to-day above ground. Early this morning a large congregation of crows came and settled near the camp, and continued for the whole day.

March 17.—The invalids were better this morning, except Mr. Boecking, and his remaining worse was on account of his humouring his voracious appetite. The doctor issued an order yesterday that he in particular should be allowed to eat nothing of a heavy nature. In despite, however, of this order, he went to Mr. Mann, the storekeeper, for enough flour to make himself a cake. Mr. Mann, however, refused to give him flour for any other purpose than for making skillagalee. Boecking took some flour on these conditions, but instead of converting the same into skilly, he made himself a half-cooked heavy cake. Fortunately the doctor observed the "dodge" before he had eaten it, and took it away from him. On being denuded of his cake, the poor fellow gave such a melancholy look as could only have been equalled by Adam when expelled from the gates of Paradise. So deeply did he appear to feel his loss, that, although I knew him to be wrong, I could not do less than pity a man who appeared to be fated to carry with him so destructive an appetite. The history of the cake was not allowed to stop here. One of the others, who was not so sick as Boecking, took it and fried it in the pan in fat with the view of eating it. In this matter, however, he was as much mistaken as was poor Boecking when Leichhardt deprived him of it; for while the cake was swimming and phizzing away in the pan, and while the party occupied in its cooking turned, for a moment only, his

back from his occupation, Boecking whipped his hand into the pan, walked off with and after all enjoyed the pleasure of eating the cake of his own making. In consequence of this transaction the doctor issued an order that none of the invalids should be allowed to have flour diet in any way for the next three days. A two pound damper had been cooked before the leader had issued the order, which consequently fell to the lot of Mr. Mann and myself, as being the only parties able to get about. The sight of so much bread falling to us nearly proved fatal to poor Boecking. We had now thirteen or fourteen goats in milk, and we found it a great improvement to our tea. The doctor was much better, but Mann and myself were the only two capable of keeping watch.

March 18.—"Many happy returns of the day to you," were the salutations I received on rising from my blanket this morning, on which I commenced my thirty-fourth year of a crooked and somewhat eventful life. The morning was dull and cloudy, and being surrounded by so many invalids, whose spirits partook in a great measure of the melancholy character of the weather, their salutations were received by me in a very different manner than when uttered in the midst of social life, and under other than the present circumstances.

March 19.—From sundown last evening until sunrise this morning the weather was cool and agreeable, and the invalids obtained a little wholesome repose, the effect of which was agreeably perceptible this morning, as they arose with better spirits. Dr. Leichhardt, availing himself of this improvement, had a horse saddled, on which we lifted the worst of the invalids, who took a little exercise in that manner, alternately. Brown (the blackfellow), considerably better, rode out with the doctor, and shortly returned with the whole of the cattle. This was a great relief to our minds, the cattle being our main stay. Mr. Hely suffered much from constipation and had no relief for nine days, nor had Boecking for

eight. I attribute this in a great measure to our being destitute of the necessary medicines.

March 20.—Not the slightest improvement in any of the party; and to add to our misery, we found that the only palatable article we had was turned sour, namely our flour, and the doctor issued an order that none of the invalids should be allowed to eat any. Of course this order did not affect Mr. Mann or myself, as we continued the only two convalescents. Poor Turnbull begged hard for a portion of my three ounce cake, and I gave him a small grain, not much larger than a penny piece, with which he appeared much pleased.

March 21.—No improvement in the invalids. No medicines of any kind, save calomel and quinine; the only stimulants being fat mutton, goats' flesh, and sour flour. If they recover, they will have reason to thank the Almighty for the possession of good constitutions, and a more than usual share of human patience and endurance. This continued sickness has driven many of them to their bibles and prayer-books, a practice that I trust they may continue.

The doctor gave the party a feed of skillygalee, made of flour, which had been previously roasted in a pan with the view to remove the acidity.

This delicacy was enjoyed by the whole of the party, invalids and otherwise. He also promised us a similar treat on the following day.

March 22.—Much disappointment was expressed this day by the party from Dr. Leichhardt having broken faith with them as regarded the feed of skillygalee similar to that of yesterday. Wommaï was much better; this was fortunate, one black fellow being worth two, or I may say half-a-dozen white men, from their sagacity, and capacity in tracking and finding cattle, and general knowledge of locality.



March 23.—The invalids were a little better this morning. I went down the banks of the Mackenzie river with a tin plate, and knife, to cut a dish of the mustard and cress which I had sown, and which I promised them as being ready for use this day. On arriving, however, at the spot, judge of my surprise and disgust at finding that the whole of it had been cut, and that too by some one wearing European boots. Now, I knew that we were surrounded by wild blackfellows, who might have cut it, although it was not probable, but when I considered that they were not in the habit of making or wearing boots, my suspicion rested on three persons only, namely. Dr. Leichhardt, Mr. Mann, or myself, the others being too ill to get about. Of course I was in a position to account for my own innocence in the matter, and as I had an equally good opinion of Mr. Mann, I was compelled to appeal to Dr. Leichhardt for a solution of the mystery, who at once admitted that he had cut and eaten it. This admission on the part of the doctor was a sore disappointment to the poor helpless invalids, who were unable to eat anything as substantial as meat, And had been led by me for the last few days to expect on this particular day a dish of this salad. Dr. Leichhardt observed, that there would be more fit for cutting in two or three days, and if the invalids liked to cut it themselves they might have it, but not otherwise. This was tantamount to saying that they should not have it, as they were not capable of moving twenty yards from their blankets without assistance.

March 24.—Last evening, Mr. Mann, for the first time exhibited symptoms of fever and ague, and took an emetic. We commenced early this morning to make a kind of pen of boughs for the purpose of swimming the sheep and goats to the opposite side of the river. Mr. Mann (who was by profession a Civil Engineer and Surveyor) was architect on the present occasion, but was, shortly after commencing his labors, attacked by the fever and ague, and compelled to take to his blanket. I was consequently the only one

to keep watch from dark until midnight; this I considered to be necessary, owing to the patch of scrub which left us at all times open to an attack from the natives. The evenings, about eleven p.m., began to get cool and pleasant, and from midnight to sunrise positively cold. The sheep pen on the bank of the river was finished this evening by Dr. Leichhardt, Boecking, and myself. A sheep's head was skinned, cleaned with much trouble, and boiled. Each of the poor unfortunate invalids was, in imagination, apportioning to himself a part. One was going to secure a piece of the cheek—another a little of the brain—another a small portion of the tongue. The whole matter was, however, very shortly set at rest, greatly to the disappointment of their prematurely formed expectations, by the following accident:—Mr. Boecking, who had, as cook, the management of the boiler, turned his back for a short time, and by the sudden falling-in of a log, the pot was capsized, and the broth, for which many of their numbers had been waiting, was spilled and lost. Dr. Leichhardt very coolly picked up the sheep's "jemmy" from the sand» and placed the same on his plate; and, deaf to the remonstrances of the patients, very quickly and quietly swallowed the whole, bones excepted. None of the horses returned to the camp to-day; and, as we had neglected to retain one on the tether last evening for riding, much anxiety was manifested on that account.

March 25.—Wommaï was this morning despatched for the missing horses, and Brown was compelled to accompany him in the search, although the poor fellow was afraid it would either kill or make him worse than ever. A few of the sick having passed the crisis of their disorder, had an appetite, and complained bitterly at the thinness of the skilly and tapioca.

The moment they had an appetite to eat, the allowance was shortened. With the exception of Mr. Mann, they were all a little better, which was, considering their treatment, a miracle. As we intended crossing the river shortly, if the party were well enough, I

dug a hole at the butt of a large gum tree, on which Dr. Leichhardt marked the word "dig". Here, as it was a problem if we should ever reach this side of the river again, we buried a powder cannister, containing a letter from Leichhardt, representing the miserable and helpless condition of the party; one from myself, addressed to the Melbourne *Argus*, and one or two from the party. As Dr. Leichhardt has taken the same route in his present expedition, should a party be organised to ascertain his fate, it would be as well for them to note the present remark. The tree is very large and isolated, at an angle of the Mackenzie River, formed by the junction of the Comet; at the base is a dense patch of scrub, at a distance of probably one hundred yards.

March 26.—We this morning made an attempt at crossing the sheep and goats; but I first buried the powder cannister, as mentioned yesterday. After placing it in the hole, I strewed a quantity of charcoal all around the cannister as a preservative. The doctor, Wommaï, myself, and Boecking were the only parties able to assist in the work; poor Boecking was knocked up, however, in half an hour. The heat of the sun, before getting the whole of them across, was intense, and Wommaï was nearly knocked up.

March 27.—This morning Dr. Leichhardt issued orders for all the people to rise and be in readiness for crossing the river, as he strongly recommended exercise and violent exertion under a tropical sun, as a substitute for medicine. I had scarcely crossed and re-crossed the river, leading the pack mules a second time, when I had a relapse, and was once more as helpless as some of the others.

March 28.—In consequence of the exertions of yesterday, the whole of the party were much worse, myself nearly dead. We had not as yet had time or strength to erect a bower of any kind to shelter us from the heat of the sun, which had thrown us into a violent fever. The only sound persons now were Dr. Leichhardt

and Wommaï. Altogether, our situation was at this moment truly alarming—worse than on any former occasion.

March 29.—Towards daylight we were visited with a heavy fall of rain, soaking the whole of the party excepting the doctor. He, being well, had rigged up and occupied one of the calico tents. A cat fish was caught and cooked, and we all ate a small piece. From the heavy rains of this morning, the whole of the party, as the night closed in, were worse than ever, and, from their continued sickness, began to lose all heart and confidence, fancying they would never recover.

March 30.—Was ushered in with another fall of rain. It was really heartrending to see the debilitated position of our little party, principally, I am sure, from the absence of medicines, seven out of nine not being able to stand on their legs for fifty seconds together, and reeling like drunken men. We had every reason to believe that our sheep were lost. As the evening threatened rain (and from my extreme sickness), I was invited by the doctor to occupy a part of his tent. Dr. Leichhardt and Wommaï took a ride, and fortunately returned with the whole of the cattle.

On the day preceding that on which we crossed the river, there was some more mustard and cress fit for cutting, and of which I, on this occasion, took care that they partook.

March 31.—The weather continued to be oppressively hot, and the situation of the invalids was rendered more unbearable from their inability to erect a bower to shelter them from the heat of the sun. I regret to remark that many of the party, from various circumstances, expressed a desire to return, and indeed made an application to the doctor to that effect, requesting that he would allow them to do so under the conduct and guidance of Brown, one of the blackfellows, who was as anxious for this step as any of the others. In this matter of trusting themselves to the guidance of Brown, they were acting, in my opinion, with very poor judgment, as a blackfellow in a new country is one of the most helpless and

stupid companions imaginable. Ill as I was, I strongly objected to returning, after having progressed so long a distance on the expedition.

April 2.—Continued grumbling at being debarred the use of sugar.

April 3 and 4.—It never rains, they say, but it pours. On the first of these days Dr. Leichhardt gave the party a quantity of dough-boys, or, as we called them, dips, and on the following day a suet pudding.

April 5.—Whether arising from the quantity of dough taken for the last two days, in the shape of dough-boys and suet pudding, or from the heat of the weather, I know not, but they were much worse this morning, and in consequence the doctor very wisely came to the determination of taking the worst of the invalids a few days' stages towards Peak Range, where the country was more elevated.

April 6.—We were early astir this morning, catching and loading some of the mules to take with us to carry stores for the invalids. We started early, and took with us Brown, Boecking, Perry, and Wommaï. We took the latter, however, merely for the purpose of bringing the cattle, in which duty he was assisted by Boecking. We encamped on a back water, or tributary of the Mackenzie river. Much anxiety was manifested on account of Boecking and Wommaï not making their appearance until after dusk, and only bringing with them a portion of our herd of cattle, namely 26 out of 38.

April 7.—We made a short stage, and camped on the bank of the Mackenzie, at a hole where the water was very clear and good. Our black fellow, Brown, on observing the goodness of the water, pronounced his opinion that we should soon recover. After assisting in unloading the mules. Dr. Leichhardt returned, with

Wommaï, to the camp he had left, promising to rejoin us in a few days with the remainder of the party and stores.

April 8.—Brown and Turnbull exhibit signs of improvement, which Brown attributes to the goodness of the water at this place.

April 9.—We were this day visited by a large school of crows, who not only annoyed us by their unpleasant croaking, but flew off with pieces of our meat.

April 10.—Boecking was better this morning, and undertook to go in search of the horses and goats. We mounted him on the horse which we had tethered at the camp. As he did not return in the evening we commenced firing guns; but no signs of Boecking all night.

April 11.—Boecking not having returned last night, and as Brown was too ill to go and track him, I myself took a walk along the bank of the river, where I observed his trail for some distance. I continued on his track until I was knocked up, and being fearful that I might be required at the camp, after taking a little rest, I returned, and left poor Boecking to his fate. About 3 p.m. he made his appearance, and accounted for his absence from having mistaken the gullies and backwaters of the Mackenzie for the streams of the river itself. This is a mistake very commonly made by parties who are not in the habit of travelling, and taking notes of localities in the bush. He complained bitterly of having forgotten to take his tinder-box, which deprived him of the pleasure of a smoke or fire. There was a great show of fruit or berries on various kinds of salsolaceous plants, which were good to eat; of this fact poor Boecking was fortunately aware, and he appears to have made so good a use of his knowledge, that on travelling down the river in that direction afterwards, there was scarcely a berry to be seen. These fruits appeared to act on Boecking as a powerful tonic, and oil reaching the camp (although

I cautioned him to the contrary) I placed by the side of the blankets on which he was reclining a leg of mutton; on my return to him shortly afterwards, what was my surprise at finding that he had cleaned the meat to the bone, and was swelling and straining his eyeballs like a frog in convulsions. But the most remarkable feature in the whole affair was, that after this very remarkable feat, which would have done credit to the celebrated Dando, he continued to recover apace, and he ever afterwards attributed his recovery to this leg of mutton.

On our way from the old to the present camp, the country in places opened with small patches of plains, surrounded by *Brigalowe*, *Myall*, *Dodonea*, *Santalum*, and innumerable other shrubs and trees, forming thick scrubs. On the surface of these plains were large blocks of fossil or petrified wood, in some cases whole stems of trees in this state of petrification, and occasional blocks of bright-looking coal cropping out along the banks of the river and back waters, might be seen. I am certain that at this place coal of the best and most gaseous description might be obtained, sufficient to supply the colony for centuries. But how it is to be brought into requisition, unless the Mackenzie river may prove to be navigable, is beyond my power to show. It would not be practicable in the direction in which we travelled, from the large belts of scrub, and broken ranges, to take waggons even for the purpose of occupying the country for grazing.

About four p.m.. Dr. Leichhardt returned with the remainder of the party, in whom there was no improvement. Ours was now a sick camp, indeed; myself and the doctor being the only two individuals able to get about.

April 11 to 16.—The whole of my time, during this interval, was devoted to searching for the horses, mules, goats, sheep, and cattle. The sheep and goats were completely lost, and, if not immediately forthcoming, the doctor intended abandoning them,

and depending, in future, upon the cattle for subsistence, of which we had yet left thirty-eight head.

April 17.—We made another start this morning, leaving the goats and sheep to their fate. Our day's stage was at no great distance from the bank of the river, and the country was much broken, uneven, and intersected with innumerable dry, or nearly dried up, backwaters and lagoons of the Mackenzie. This style of travelling was very trying to my poor fellow-sufferers, who had to be lifted on their horses on starting in the morning, and who were so exhausted from the exertion of having to hold on by their horses' manes in rising and descending the numerous gullies that, on sighting a lagoon containing a good supply of water, the doctor was induced to camp. Adorning the edge of this lake were some very magnificent trees of the *Bauhinia*, from which I collected seed. These trees were growing among *Brigalowe*, which formed a thick scrub in one direction. On the immediate bank of the lagoon, they were but thinly scattered, sufficient only to add to the beauty of the scenery. It is a remarkable circumstance, that a tree so common in its growth, and so generally distributed—so much so as to be one of the greatest enemies to the settlers in the newly-formed countries in the northern latitudes—should never have been known to have produced either a seed or blossom. Among the *Brigalowe* scrubs, as we drew nearer the tropics, I found the undergrowth of smaller plants to change their features: instead of the various kinds of *Dodonea*, frequently mentioned, and similar plants, we had now many species of the *Myaporum*, very dwarf, with bright, shining foliage, and waxen blossoms, highly odoriferous. Three species of *Jasminum*, or sweet jasmine, with blossoms plentiful, very large, and as fragrant as the European species. These plants, were succeeded by large clusters of black, brilliantly-shining berries, which the aborigines led as to understand were poisonous.



Three new species of *Cassia*; one species was in full flower, and very fragrant—indeed, all the plants, as we approached the tropics, appeared to possess a richer and more powerful perfume.

In the hollows, so common to the scrubs from whence the water had receded, were a large species of *Anthericum*, or *Bulbine*—a very remarkable sedge (*Fimbristylus*), and a very pretty dwarf, growing densely *pinnate*—species of *Ashonemonie*. On approaching the lagoons, or water-holes, towards sundown, we seldom failed to disturb large flocks of the little partridge pigeon, which we were in the habit of shooting, and found an agreeable variety to our very limited diet. Of kangaroos, emus, and turkeys, we had seen but few since leaving the Dawson River. Of snakes, however, and iguannas, we had no stint; the largest specimen of the former myself, Mr. Boecking, and Dr. Leichhardt saw while camping on the Mackenzie River. Its place of abode was a very large, hollow tree, standing at a considerable distance from our camp, and on the edge of the river. Mr. Boecking was the first to observe and report the circumstance; but, from his representation of its immense size, we gave little credence to his statements. He had only seen two-thirds of the creature, as it was in the act of entering the hollow of the tree. Subsequently, however, both Dr. Leichhardt and myself saw it at the same time, and precisely in the same position as described by Boecking, with his head and part of his body in the tree; but, having no gun at the time, we were unable to kill and take its dimensions. It was certainly the largest snake I had ever seen, and longer than I had imagined any of these kind of reptiles to exist in Australia.

April 18.—One of the mules not being forthcoming this morning, we were necessitated to remain at the camp for the day. I took a stroll amongst the *Brigalowe* plantation, it was not dense enough to be called a scrub; and I saw scattered in various directions a number of very curious shells, *convolute*, and flat like the *ammonite*, as well as a fine specimen of the *Paludina*, with

the *operculum*s perfect. These were, however, only seen in or near the little water-holes, surrounded by aquatic weeds, of which I found one that both Dr. Leichhardt and myself considered as a new species of *Vallisneria*, with pyramidal, showy blossoms. I also saw in this scrub the beautiful arborescent *Capparis Mitchellii* in full blossom, for the first time. I endeavoured to preserve a few of these large, graceful, and fragile blossoms; but my specimens, on opening them some months afterwards, on my return to civilisation, I found to be much injured, and very imperfect. Womma shot a wallaby; the specimen was much smaller than the common kind, and had a dark brown stripe on either cheek. It was skinned, and the skin preserved; but, unfortunately, it was afterwards accidentally lost, with the whole of our collection of animals and insects, of which he had collected a great number.

April 19.—This day, shortly after starting, the character of the country changed to large, open, and very extensive plains of volcanic formation, over which was scattered a variety of pretty-looking pebbles, mixed with broken fragments of quartz and agates; many of the latter were very clear, and presented a variety of colors. About two hours after leaving the camp, Brown, the black fellow, caught sight of Peak Ranges. They were merely two very remarkable-looking pyramidal hills. Having again entered on the region of plains, we had a renewal of our troubles with the mules. Very common to these plains, was a large-growing *salsolaceous* plant, belonging to the *Chenopodeaceæ*, of Jussieu. These weeds grow in the form of a large ball, to the height of five or six feet, and, being annuals, die away in the autumn, and, as they do not speedily decay, lie loose on the surface. Whirlwinds were very common, and, as these weeds came within its influence, they were taken up to a considerable height, sometimes out of sight. Very frequently these eddies took place within a few yards in advance of our cavalcade. No sooner were a

few of these balls (or, as we were in the habit of calling them, "rolly-poleys") taken up with the current of air, than the mules began to kick and buck, until they had relieved themselves of their loads. The exercise necessary for catching and reloading them again was very trying, when the smallness of our numbers and the heat of the weather is considered, we being now seven miles within the Tropics.

Continued travelling longer than usual, and began to apprehend that we should have to camp without water, when Brown was heard to cooe. We followed the direction of the cooe, and came upon a fine lagoon of good water. The flies continued troublesome, and we travelled with our eyes but half open, and the mosquitoes to-night prevented any of us getting a fair share of sleep.

I forgot to remark, that on the Mackenzie we found a large climbing papilionaceous plant, probably a glycine. The fruit was a large pod, nine inches long. The beans contained in these pods were, at the suggestion of Dr. Leichhardt, roasted and made into coffee, in which character it was used; one dose of this beverage was sufficient, as it created a violent vomiting and diarrhoea.

April 20.—Left our encampment this morning about ten a.m., and continued travelling over the same fine open country, the soil being rich and of deep black color, covered with the richest verdure, consisting of two grasses, much admired by sheep-farmers, namely, *Panicum Leavinode*, or millet grass, and *Anthistiria*, or kangaroo grass. The *Panicum Leavinode* is the plant from which the natives make their bread, and is called by the blacks of Liverpool Plains, *coola* grass. This plant produces an abundance of a small firm and heavy seed. which when ripe, is by them collected in nearly the same manner as corn by the Europeans. It is cut, dried, and threshed, and after the seed is properly winnowed from the chaff, it is crushed and pounded to a pulp between two heavy stones, after which it is made into bread.

It has often puzzled me to know how the wild blacks contrived to cut the grass, having, as far as I have observed, nothing in the shape of sharp instruments at all adapted for the purpose. We occasionally came across very large heaps of the refuse, that had evidently been cut by some sharp instrument. From the Hunter's river to the Tropics, the aborigines appeared to have been fully aware of the value and importance of this plant, and they all appeared to adopt the same method in its preparation.

Among the grasses on these plains were a great variety of aromatic herbs, which, from the trampling of our horses and cattle, gave out a sweet refreshing perfume. Among them I found a new species of marjoram, which we were sometime afterwards in the habit of cutting, drying, and using in the liquor in which our dried meat was boiled, and was a great improvement to the flavour to our apology for soup. The only trees on these plains were a few solitary individuals of the *Brigalowe*.

To this fine country, unfortunately, there appeared to be no means of approach with a dray, which was in every way so admirably adapted to the purposes of keeping either sheep or cattle, as, in addition to the richness of the herbage, the little clumps of shrubs first mentioned would form excellent places of shelter during the heat of the day. The weather continued hot, and the flies as troublesome as ever. We had travelled until late in the afternoon without sighting water, or anything like a water channel, and we began to fear that we should have to camp without it. This was no pleasant prospect, as the invalids, who were still suffering from the effects of fever and ague, were beginning to complain much of thirst.

The cattle, also, from the excessive heat of the weather, appeared to be suffering from the same cause. Brown, the blackfellow, was dispatched to search for this much coveted agent, with instructions to fire a gun in the event of his being successful. Should we find water first we were of course to fire a gun in the same manner, as a signal for him to join us.

Shortly after Brown departed we observed what appeared to be a very small channel in wet weather; by following this down for a little more than an hour, we came to a hole containing a small quantity of liquid mud. We had much difficulty in keeping the mules from rushing into it and getting bogged. Although we succeeded in keeping the mules from it, we were not so fortunate with some of the party, who, more stubborn than the mules, would persist in drinking a small quantity of this lukewarm and muddy deposit. We continued following the course of the channel until sundown, when we came, as we expected, upon a fine creek at a bend where there was a fine sheet of pure water, with sandy banks. The party were much exhausted on reaching the camp. Just as we came upon the creek. Brown rode up and joined us, with the intelligence that he also had found a waterhole.

April 21.—In collecting the horses this morning, we perceived that four were missing; and we were consequently compelled to remain at the camp the whole day. It was fortunate for us that along the bank of the creek were some fine green spreading gum trees, which partly-sheltered us from the scorching rays of the sun. Growing and twining round the branches of *Dodonea*, bastard sandal wood, and other shrubs, which clothed the bank of the creek, were a large number of the native melon (*Cucumis mollis*), or downy cucumber, which, some months subsequent to the present time, we were in the habit of collecting and converting into an article of food, when we had but little else to eat. We now, for the first time, began to feel the loss of our sheep and goats. We had no meat, and it was too late to kill a bullock. In this dilemma. Dr. Leichhardt ordered the cook to mix up a lot of flour, and treated us all to a feed of dips. These were made as follows:—a quantity of flour was mixed up with water, and stirred with a spoon to a certain consistency, and dropped into a pot of boiling water, a spoonful at a time. Five minutes boiling was sufficient, when they were eaten with the water in which they were boiled.

April 22.—Having no meat, and as the morning broke fine, the doctor determined on killing and drying our only cow. As this was the first beast we had dried after the South American fashion, in the sun, perhaps a short description of the process may not be considered uninteresting. The bull, or, as in our case, the cow, being killed, it was first cut into quarters, or large pieces, and placed on a stage erected for the occasion. In this manner it was allowed to remain one night. I should have said that we always killed in the evening. In the meantime, the party—at least, such as were able to job about—were engaged in various duties connected with the drying; some in cutting saplings and forks, which others carried to the place where they were wanted for the stage. After a sufficient quantity of forks and poles were cut, and on the ground, they were rigged up in the shape of a stage, on which the meat was hung. The stage being erected, in readiness at daylight in the morning, the whole of them were employed in sharpening their knives, and cutting off the meat from the bones in long steaks, and not more than one inch in thickness. As the meat was cut off in this manner, others were employed in hanging it on the poles. Generally speaking, a bullock would be cut up, and hung out by two or three p.m. It was allowed to remain in this fashion until eleven o'clock on the following day, when it was turned, much to the annoyance of myriads of blow-flies, who had deposited thereon a tolerable quantity of *larvæ*. On the third day, these *larvæ*, or fly-blows, or maggots (it is best to speak in the vulgar tongue), might be seen in full life and activity travelling and exploring the piece of meat which had, for a time, become their adopted home. In turning, we, of course, knocked off as many of these gentry as possible. If the weather proved fine, a bullock was dried, chopped up, and packed in four or five days. We were doomed in this, as in everything else connected with the expedition, to be unfortunate.

April 23.—The party were busily employed in cutting up the beef; and a great portion was hung out to dry. Before, however, they had finished cutting up, it commenced raining heavily, and continued for the remainder of that day and the following night. Having no tents, we were, of course, completely saturated in our blankets; and this, we had every reason to apprehend, would tend to a relapse with the invalids—who had, for the last few days, exhibited signs of improvement—as well as the destruction of our meat.

April 24.—The rain still continued until nearly noon, when it cleared up, and the sun made its appearance, when we lost no time in turning the meat. It continued fine, however, for a very short time, when it commenced again raining in torrents; and, as the party had no means of shelter, the fever and ague again made its appearance.

April 25.—This morning broke fine, and the sun rose in all its splendor. The meat was again turned, and was found to be eatable, although, from the late rains, it was much and strongly tainted. Several of our horses were missing.

April 26.—The weather was very warm; and many of the party, from their late soaking, were very weak again, and moved about with difficulty.

April 27.—The doctor had intended going this morning, accompanied by Brown, to look for the stray horses, but they both found themselves too unwell.

April 28.—The doctor and Wommaï went in search of the horses, but found two only. Great dissatisfaction was expressed at the camp this day, from the doctor having reduced our rations of tainted meat to two-thirds of a pound to each individual. It was

rather unfortunate that he should have done this just at the time when they were most in need of nourishment.

April 29.—Both Dr. Leichhardt and Wommaï went out this morning to look for the horses. The former returned shortly after starting, being too ill to continue the search; but the latter did not return all night. From the last two fine days, the meat was well dried, and was cut up with tomahawks into small pieces, of about two inches in length, and packed in sacks for the convenience of carriage. The entrails were dried and packed up in a similar manner, for the use of our four canine companions—namely, Spring, Norval, Camden, and Wasp; the latter was a small terrier, and a great pet of the doctors.

April 30.—From the continued ill state of the doctor and many of the party, a proposition was again made to him to return. Upon hearing this second application, he came to me, and asked if I was one of those for going back. I told him that I was not, but, on the contrary, desirous of reaching Swan River; and I thought that, by studying the wishes of his party, he would find them pretty much of my mind. And, in the first place, I suggested an increase in flour, which was immediately granted.

May 1.—We were busy this day in packing up, and making arrangements for another start. The increase of our flour diet had already done wonders, and given a fresh impetus to the invalids.

May 2.—This morning made another move from our camp. Just, however, as we were leaving, our usual bad luck began to show itself. Mr. Mann was taken seriously and suddenly ill. As everything was in readiness for moving, the doctor commenced the march, and left poor Mr. Mann behind with Brown, who was also unwell, with instructions, as soon as Mr. Mann felt himself sufficiently recovered, to follow upon our tracks. We continued travelling over well-grassed plains, of great extent, until nearly



sundown, without finding water. Dr. Leichhardt caught sight of a number of cockatoos; and, by tracking the course of their flight, we, in a short time, reached a creek well supplied With water. Scattered over these plains were some fine trees of the laurel-leaved and box gum. We had the remarkable Peak Range in view the greater part of the day, and, by evening, we had approached it so closely as to be able to discern the outlines of trees on the tops of the peaks. Neither Mr. Mann, Brown, or Wommaï appeared that night.

May 3.—About eleven in the forenoon Mr. Mann and Brown reached the camp. They appeared to be much exhausted, having had nothing to eat except a few very small fish, found in some small shallow water holes, and were caught easily with a pocket handkerchief. Night closed without Wommaï making his appearance with the cattle. This circumstance created much uneasiness at the camp, as we had nothing but the cattle to fall back upon for subsistence.

May 4.—Wommaï reached the camp by breakfast time, but without the cattle. The poor fellow was nearly starved, and otherwise in a bad humour. He had tasted nothing since parting with us, and having missed our track in consequence of Dr. Leichhardt having made a sudden turn to the right, he had taken the cattle back to the old camp, where he had left them, and had since followed upon our track on horseback until reaching the camp, to avoid (as he said) being starved to death. Before leaving this morning, Mr. Hely and Brown were dispatched for the cattle, with instructions to bring them in the direction of the Peaks, as our stage Would be in that direction. Our day's journey was over the same fine rich open plains, and we encamped in the evening at one' of the doctor's old camps, when on his way to Port Essington, at no great distance from the Peak.

May 5.—Made a short stage over a beautiful undulating park-like country, better grassed if possible than any we had as yet passed over. We saw many kangaroos and emus. We camped early in the afternoon, at a fine waterhole. We fixed our camp on a patch of elevated land, a kind of terrace, on which were some fine patches of scrub. It was from this camp that we intended to commence making our westing, or longitude, for Swan River. Neither Mr. Hely or Brown made their appearance with the cattle.

May 6.—Here we had to remain until the arrival of the men who were absent, which was not until the evening, and then their appearance was anything but of a gratifying character. They had seen nothing of the cattle, and returned with but one horse between them. Brown lost his, the day after leaving us, at the camp where we had killed and dried the cow.

May 7.—Here we were again fixed for probably some time, as it was not at all unlikely that the cattle may have taken their journey homewards. Dr. Leichhardt went out to reconnoitre the surrounding country, and Mr. Hely, Brown, and Wommaï to find the cattle and horses. They took two or three days provisions with them. Mr. Mann shot a few small partridge-pigeons at a waterhole this morning, Dr. Leichhardt did not return to the camp at night, and much anxiety was manifested on his account. Of course, neither Hely, Brown, or Wommaï, were expected for two or three days.

May 8.—The doctor did not join us until noon this day, and accounted for his absence by having lost his way. He blamed us for not firing guns, on his not appearing at the camp last night. We of course expressed our regret at his having to sleep all night without a blanket, food, or society. But after taking his food he fortunately lost his appetite and ill humour together. He spoke highly of the country to the westward, our intended line of route.

He had seen plenty of water. The country was, however, rough and stoney, and bad travelling for horses.

May 9.—Erected a kind of bower, as the doctor was unwell. The other members of the party suffering from a violent attack of diarrhœa.

May 10, 11, and 12.—The nights became cold. Thermometer average—sundown, 64; sunrise, 42. Our latitude, 22.54 south; elevation, 1,038 feet. The cook, Boecking, put leaven in our miniature damper—a great improvement.

May 13.—The nights continued cold. The doctor was requested to fulfil his promise to the party in giving them some flour and sugar to celebrate our reaching Peak Range. He refused. In this matter he may have acted from a feeling of economy, fearing that we may have lost our cattle, as well as several horses; nothing as yet having been heard of the party gone in search.

May 14.—This morning Dr. Leichhardt rode to a waterhole, three miles from our camp, to ascertain the capabilities of that place for killing another bullock, if the cattle are found.

May 15.—The party in search of the cattle had now been absent nine days, and great anxiety was manifested for their safety. Symptoms of fever and ague were again apparent with those whom we had imagined to have recovered. Of what incalculable benefit to the party would have been a package of those invaluable pills manufactured by Dr. L.L. Smith, the infallible properties of which are modestly represented by the inventor as being capable of curing every disease incidental to humanity, from a *corn* to a *consumption*. Dr. Smith was, however, *non est*, and his pills consequently not comeatable, so that it is now useless to lament their absence. The moon changed, and the weather became cloudy and overcast in the evening. I believe this, however, to be pretty

generally the case at every change of the moon in the northern latitudes.

May 16.—No signs of the cattle, or the party who were in search of them. We had only dried meat enough to last us the day, and the country being destitute of game, our position was not of the most cheering character. If they are fortunate enough to find and bring in the whole of the cattle, they will not be more than sufficient to carry us to Swan River, which we cannot expect to reach in less than eighteen months.

May 17.—Mr. Hely, Brown, and Wommaï, returned with only nine head of cattle, which they found in one mob by themselves, having separated from the main herd. They had also seen two more mobs, one consisting of four, and another of three, making altogether eighteen head, and there were consequently twenty more of which they had seen nothing. If we are fortunate in finding the whole herd, it will be very difficult in future to prevent their straying. They were fortunate in catching, with the assistance of the dogs, an emu and a kangaroo, or they would have suffered from want of food, having eaten their rations by the fourth day after leaving the camp. They had come suddenly on a camp of wild blacks, before either party were aware of it. They endeavoured by signs to make themselves understood, but.

May 18.—This day it was the doctor's intention to return to the creek we had previously left, for the purpose of killing and drying one of the nine bullocks, his object being to get the benefit of water, as our present water hole was nearly exhausted. But not being able to find the horses, and many of the mules also having strayed, he determined on killing the bullock at our present camp. We had been already two days without meat; and we were not sorry to see Brown take aim with his rifle, and bring down one of the fattest of the remaining nine. We were all very hungry, and set

to with a will in rigging up a stage, in order that no time should be lost, while the weather proved fine.

May 19.—Mr. Hely and Brown were again despatched for the cattle, with a stock of provisions for five days. Brown intimated having found a fine camp at some distance from this place; and Hely and Brown had instructions given to them by the doctor that, if our present stock of water proved insufficient, we should move on to the place indicated, where they were to rejoin us, if they found we had left the present camping ground on their return. We were all busy in cutting up and drying. A killing day was always a grand day with us, as we had as much and, in fact, more than we could eat. The boiler was never idle during that period, and the cook had his hands full, as, in fact, had all the rest, with grilled bones and Boup made from the head and other offal. I had cut, dried, and rubbed to powder some of the new native marjoram, which the cook mixed up with the blood and some fat; and with this he made thirty-two black puddings.

Having been so long stinted to a small quantity of dried tainted meat, we requested the doctor to allow us to reserve a piece of the round for salting, the taste of which, we told him, would remind us of old times. He consented, and a piece about thirty pounds was salted and put by. From the time of killing the last bullock up to the present moment, we had a succession of beautifully fine weather. We had no sooner, however, got the meat cut up and hung on the stage, when, about six p.m., it commenced raining heavily. Poor Leichhardt appeared to be almost heart-broken at the circumstance, remarking, that nothing but a continued chain of misfortune appeared to attend the present expedition. We covered the stage where the meat was hanging with our two old tents, and crawled underneath for shelter, enjoying, not only the rank smell, but receiving all the gravy as it exuded from the meat. We were just on the eve of going to sleep, when we were disturbed by hearing that the dogs had broken loose, and were making free with

our beautiful round of salt beef. This fact was no sooner communicated to those who were under the stage, than they immediately arose. But our discovery arrived too late; as, after dragging it in the sand, they had eaten all the fat off it, of which we were all particularly fond. The dogs were again tied up, and the meat put by until morning, when it was washed preparatory to being used. Another specimen, as the doctor remarked, of the spirit of opposition and misfortune accompanying our undertaking. "Misfortunes never come alone", says the proverb. We had no sooner again taken to our cover, than Turnbull, who was watching the cattle, gave the very unpleasant intelligence that they had again bolted. This was a worse misfortune than the loss of the round of beef, and sent us again to our miserable quarters with heavy hearts.

May 20.—It was delightful to contrast the brilliant rising of the sun this morning, with our dark and unhealthy quarters of the previous night; nothing could exceed the balmy fragrance of the air, and the chirping of the little feathered choristers, as they approached to drink at the water hole then fast drying up. We were all very busy in cutting up and turning the meat. We had scarcely congratulated ourselves on the favorable progress made in preserving the meat, when, about four p.m., the sky again became overcast and cloudy, as also did the countenances of my companions at the prospect of another wet night. Fortunately, however, it cleared up in the evening, and a fine clear night followed, thus enabling the whole of the party to obtain a good night's repose around the fire. As the nights were now getting cold, we began to fancy we could put up with an additional half-blanket, as those in use were half worn out. Before going to sleep, we became alarmed at the non-appearance of Womma; but our fears were allayed about midnight, when he made his appearance with the cattle, having found his way to the camp by moonlight. The instinct of some of the aborigines is remarkable, as in this

instance. Here was a black fellow, in a new country, hundreds of miles from civilised life, with no track, and no knowledge of the use of the compass, traversing many miles of country, and, being in search of cattle, rendered his course circuitous; and yet, without a landmark, and with a mob of cattle driving, he managed to travel for hours by night through a country, in many cases, thickly timbered and scrubby. With all these impediments, is it not wonderful that, by an instinct peculiar, I believe; to savages only, he was able to steer directly to our camp, which occupied, comparatively speaking, so small a space?

May 21.—The weather continued fine, and our meat was drying beautifully. Much anxiety was manifested on account of the lost stock. I looked over my botanical specimens, and was rejoiced to find them uninjured, excepting some specimens of the beautiful but fragile blossoms of the *Capparis Mitchellii*. Wommaï brought me, on his return, some green and dry pods of the creeping plant to which we had given the name of the Mackenzie Bean, having found it, in the first instance, growing on the banks of that river. I subsequently found the same plant very plentifully on the banks of the river Burnett, in the district of Wide Bay.

May 22.—Another bright and glorious sunrise—a finer day never broke. A great consolation to those labouring under depression of spirits consequent on their long illness. Yesterday the cattle contrived again to escape, and poor Wommaï, as a matter of course, was sent to bring them back. But for the good tempered and willing disposition of Wommaï on all occasions, I know not what would have been the fate of the expedition. After having eaten the flour and sugar to a certain extent, the remainder was put by, and it was laid down as a general rule, to be only used on festivals and fast days, such as Christmas Day, Good Friday, &c. The following day being Whitsunday, was, after some little discussion, declared as coming under the head of festivals, it was determined we should have our accustomed feed allowed on such

occasions—a boiled suet pudding weighing five pounds. This, when divided among nine individuals, was a very great indulgence towards us on the part of the doctor, our usual allowance of flour diet, whilst that article was in general use, being only three ounces to each individual daily. The anticipation of the forthcoming feed of pudding gave a cheerful appearance to the countenances of each individual. The party still continued very weak. I cannot help thinking that much of our sickness was attributable to an over indulgence on killing days, when each man had the privilege of eating as much as he wanted. No small temptation certainly to men who were, during the intervals, limited to a small allowance. These days were a kind of jubilee in our reckoning,—cooking and eating, rolling and smoking to any extent, and gnawing grilled bones as large as one's arm,—this feeding on the spare bones and other parts of the bullock, which would otherwise have been lost, continued for four or five days, the time usually necessary in drying the meat. This over eating and luxuriating, like other debauches, had, in my opinion, a great influence in prolonging the sickness.

Wommaï returned with the cattle. During Mr. Perry's watch they again made off, and Mr. P. very foolishly followed them, and lost himself. In about four hours he returned. He had the good sense to give the horse his head, or he would never have found the camp at all. A sort of fatality appeared to accompany Mr. Perry, this being the third time he had lost himself while on watch, and on every occasion it was on the eve of a festival. It was hinted by some of the party that Dr. Leichhardt should be applied to for a little sugar in addition to the flour, as in that case Mr. Turnbull volunteered his services as cook in making a bolster pudding. Latitude of our camp, 22.54; elevation, 1,038 feet.

May 23.—All along the banks of the rivers and creeks, as well as other low situations where the water occasionally settled, forming a rich diluvian, we seldom failed to observe an abundant growth of



a species of *grewia*. The *grewia* in general appearance and foliage is not unlike the filbert nut tree: instead, however, of growing to the size of the latter, its height seldom exceeded five feet, except in very sheltered and favorable situations, where it occasionally attained a foot or eighteen inches higher. The product of this plant was a small fruit forming a three-celled capsule, about the size of the common hazel nut of Britain. Its appearance to the hungry traveller, at the first glance, was rather of a tempting character, being a rich soft red, like that common to peaches, apparently fleshy. On testing its qualities, however, it was found to be of little use except to those who could boast of a good set of teeth, which enabled them to crack the internal stone of which it principally consisted, when a very pleasant and refreshing taste was obtained, not unlike that of the raisin of commerce. During our long sojourn at certain camps, which were frequently in the neighbourhood of the *grewia* plantations, we were in the habit of collecting the fruit, and afterwards pounding them between stones or otherwise. This, when boiled in a good quantity of water, afforded us a very wholesome and agreeable beverage, very highly prized by us at our solitary and weary tropical encampments. This being Whitsunday, and consequently a festival, we had our promised pudding; the doctor, on being asked, gave us some sugar, and Turnbull made a bolster instead of a suet one. To counteract the effect of the heavy feed, I took a walk with the gun in the expectation of shooting some partridge-pigeons, which were often seen between the patches of scrubs, but saw nothing worth powder and shot.

May 24.—This, the morn of the Queen's birth-day, was ushered in with the death of poor Norval, our sheep and cattle dog. This dog was always considered as one of the party, having, prior to the loss of the sheep and goats, had his allotted duties to perform, the same as the rest of us. And well and faithfully he performed his part, when assisting myself and Wommaï in driving the sheep through

the long grass and tangled scrubs; many times, poor fellow, when the sun was shining and the thermometer standing 120 and 124, in the confined patches of plains surrounded by *brigalowe* scrubs, which prevented the ingress of a breath of wind to assist respiration, have we, although reluctantly, been compelled to leave him to recover himself,—and he has frequently not overtaken us at the camp until late at night. His services were now no longer needed, and as there was a chance of our running short of provisions, he was doomed to 'die the death', by the hands of Dr. Leichhardt, and Boecking, the cook. An application had been made to the blacks the previous evening, but they refused to have any hand in killing Norval, who was a favorite with the party generally.

Soup was to have been made of the green hide of the last bullock killed, but it was required to make tether ropes, in the manufacture of which two or three of us were busy the whole of the forenoon. The Queen's Birth-day was of course observed by so loyal a subject as Dr. Leichhardt, as another festival, and we had a repetition of yesterday's pudding. After despatching the dinner, the doctor arose and proposed the Queen's health, which we were requested to drink standing. The toast was drunk with as much loyalty and ardour as could have been expected in cold tea, without milk or sugar.

May 25.—We to-day tried the first dish of our new batch of meat, which proved excellent, considering the rain during the operation of drying.

The glass this morning at sunrise, was only one degree above freezing point. This was a dull season for me in the way of plants, the only ones now in blossom being a handsome species of *acacia* and an *alstromeria*. Wommaï was again sent for the cattle this morning.

May 27.—The wind this day was very cold, and drove us to our blankets.

May 28.—It was fortunate for us we had bagged and put by the dry meat, as this morning it commenced raining heavily, and continued the whole day and following night, a regular tropical soaker, as different from a Scotch mist as is a south-west rain in Melbourne to a water-spout.

About noon Hely and Brown returned to the camp like drowned rats, after an absence of nine days, and what was very remarkable, and by no means satisfactory, they returned on foot, having lost their horses. They said that after travelling a day and a half, they were again attacked by fever and ague, which prevented their looking for the cattle, and was the cause of their losing the horses they were riding. After in a measure recovering from their sickness, they returned towards the camp, and fell in with and drove to within two or three miles of the camp our horses and mules; at this point they lost them, as well as the horses they were riding. They had evidently suffered from the effects of the fever and ague, as well as the fatigue of walking to the camp. At 6 p.m. the rain was accompanied by heavy thunder, and continued pouring down all night. Poor Wommaï had now been absent in search of the cattle for three days, and we began to feel anxious for his safety, not having taken with him a supply of provisions.

May 28.—This morning we were a very miserable looking party indeed, moving with much difficulty. The rains of yesterday and last night had extinguished our fire, and the wood and chips being saturated, it was a difficult task to re-kindle it. The party squatting on their heels, taking their miserable breakfast around the fire, was a picture to behold. Wommaï returned to the camp, but without the cattle, they having bolted from him during the heavy rains and thunder of the previous night. The poor fellow was nearly exhausted by exposure to the heavy rains and want of food, having started, as I before observed, without taking a supply. We were now in a truly unenviable position, without horses, mules, cattle,

sheep, or goats; so that our only dependence now was the dried carcase of the last bullock killed.

May 29.—Dr. Leichhardt now, with the assistance of Wommaï, undertook to search for the whole, or a portion of the lost stock; as this was likely to be a work of time, they took with them a sufficient supply of food to last for four or five days. Mr. Hely also accompanied them to the place where he and Brown had deposited the saddles, and from whence he returned safely with those articles. About eight o'clock, the doctor and Wommaï returned to the camp without any of the cattle or other stock they went in search of. They had, however, been fortunate in catching an emu, with the assistance of the dogs. They had eaten nearly the whole of their game before reaching the camp, and we had consequently the poor satisfaction of sleeping upon the expectation of having the remains for our breakfast the next morning in perspective.

May 30, Sunday.—This morning, we made an early, and I am sorry to say, retrograde movement with our remaining mules and horses in the direction of our former encampment at "Cow-killing Creek". Independent of the lowness of spirits, consequent on our travelling in a home direction, the day's stage was tedious over the plains of Peak Ranges; we passed a few small water holes with sandstone beds, and camped about five p.m. on what appeared to be a small creek containing a moderate supply of water, the bed of the creek, like that of the water holes we had previously passed, was of sandstone formation. Saw two trees of the very elegant and beautiful *Hakea Lowria*, in full blossom, of which I obtained specimens.

May 31.—We succeeded in reaching Cow-killing Creek, at four p.m., where we camped after a very fatiguing journey to the invalids, some of whom were getting worse. In the course of our day's stage, we passed one or two clumps of shrubs, where I

obtained seed of an odoriferous species of mangrove (*myaporum*, and a specimen of an interesting species of *Tecoma*. It was also in one of these patches of scrubs that Wommaï shot a native turkey or bustard, which was very fat and yielded us an excellent supper. It was cut into steaks and fried in the pan.

June 1.—Last evening a cabinet council was held as to the best means of obtaining our missing stock, and the result of our deliberations was, that it would be desirable for the doctor himself, accompanied by Wommaï, to again undertake the search. As this was likely to be a work of time, and as there were again symptoms amongst us of a return of our former sickness, we succeeded in rigging up a kind of bower as a protection from the mid-day sun.

June 2.—It was evident, from the sinking state of the sick, that exercise, as recommended by Dr. Leichhardt, proved but an indifferent substitute for medicine. Dr. Leichhardt and Wommaï yesterday started in search of the cattle, and consequently seven only were left in the camp. Out of these, six were again laid up, or, perhaps, laid down would be the most correct manner of expressing it, with fever and ague. The continued and long suffering of Mr. Boecking had affected his mind. He was the strongest and most muscular man in the party, and, in a state of delirium, he arose from his blanket, reeling like a drunken man, asking if the pudding was in the pot, and other extraordinary questions. Mr. Perry, in addition to the fever and ague, suffered from a violent attack of diarrhœa at the same time. Our continued sickness, combined with an absence of medicine, and the loss of stock, with all the other untoward circumstances, had driven them to the conclusion that the most prudent course to be taken, under the circumstances, would be to return while we had the dried meat and few remaining stores; and although I was, up to this time, anxious to reach the Swan, I did not consider myself justified, any longer, in differing from the others in their decision, as an opposite

course now was likely to lead to an eventual loss of life to many, if not the whole of the party.

June 3, 4, and 5.—There was no improvement at the camp. On the fifth I added myself to the list of invalids.

June 6.—This morning Mr. Turnbull took a short ride, and, on his return, with the assistance of the dog Swift, succeeded in catching a kangaroo. He was only able to bring the tail with him; but Brown, the black fellow, jumped on the horse, and, following Turnbull's tracks returned with the body, which was at once cut into strips, and dried in the same manner as the beef, as any addition to our stock of provisions was of great importance, and not to be overlooked.

June 7.—This morning the doctor and his black companion, Wommaï, returned with only four head of cattle. He appeared to be much distressed at the apparently helpless state of the party. He came to me, as I was lying in my blanket, and inquired my opinion respecting the party and its present prospects. After much painful conversation, he said he also thought the best step to be adopted was to go back; and that he would do so as soon as he could find the missing mules and horses. Only four head of cattle having been returned to the camp, they were anxious to make off again to their companions, a double degree of vigilance was requisite in watching; and for this purpose, the doctor offered, as an inducement, a two-pound fat cake to those who were willing to undertake the duty; considering the small quantity now on hand, this was no common bribe, and it consequently elicited offers from more than one candidate.

June 8.—In despite of all our caution in watching, the cattle contrived to escape again: during the night. Wommaï went in search, and brought them back in the early part of the day.

June 9.—The doctor and Wommaï went again in quest of the mules and horses. Having determined upon returning, he did not intend troubling himself to look for more of the cattle, as he considered that the four which were at the camp, with the dried meat in store, would be sufficient to take us back to the Condamine River, where we should find stations. To secure the four we already possessed, it was unanimously agreed that the party at the camp should take watches of two hours each during the day and night. By some means, however, they again escaped in the forenoon, during Mr. Turnbull's watch. In the course of his search, the doctor fell in with some black fellows, who appeared very shy. They would not allow him to approach. He cut from his red woollen shirt two buttons, which he put in a piece of paper, and placed on the ground. On going to some little distance from this spot, the black fellows: were observed to approach the paper, which they picked up, and appeared to be much pleased with the buttons.

June 10.—The party were earnestly employed to-day in rubbing and scraping off the flakes of dirty flour adhering to the bags. This very questionable-looking material was made into a kind of dough, which from the quantity of woolly fibres mixed with it from the bags, had, when cooked, pretty much the appearance of balls of worsted, far from tempting to a gourmand.

June 11.—For the last few nights the weather was excessively cold, and accompanied by sharp frosts, which froze the water or cold tea in our pannikins, at no great distance from the Are, to the thickness of a penny piece.

June 12.—The doctor not returning, and having again lost the four head of cattle, we became alarmed at the hole which our daily consumption was making in our stock of dried beef, which was intended as our principal supply to take us again to the haunts of civilized life, a distance of 700 or 800 miles.

June 13.—The weather fortunately continued fine. By a very singular and fortunate coincidence, as our horses at the camp became knocked up, three mules and two horses made their appearance of their own accord.

June 14.—A continuation of good luck appeared to be our present destiny, for as yesterday we were blessed with the return of some horses and mules, just as they were needed, to-day as Mr. Mann was strolling on a rising ground at a little distance from our encampment, he caught sight of our four missing bullocks. These cattle were now far more wild and unmanageable than before, and some little care was necessary in heading them round to the camp, at a part where an angle was formed by the creek taking a turn. After some consideration, it was deemed the safest plan to shoot and secure one at least, as there was every probability of their again bolting. To accomplish this object. Brown, who was an excellent shot, placed himself behind the butt of a large gum tree that was growing on the bank of the creek. Turnbull jumped on a horse and headed the cattle round in the direction of the tree behind which Brown was ensconced, and from whence he after some trouble succeeded in shooting one: it was a beautiful shot, considering that, he was aware in his own mind that our future subsistence almost depended on his taking a correct aim. He lodged a rifle bullet just in the centre of the forehead, in the very spot which stockmen call the star. This beast was in excellent condition, and we watched his falling with much anxiety. We were now, comparatively speaking, a happy party. A supply of meat secured for our return homewards, as well as an immediate feast of marrow-bones, devilled-bones, and other choice dainties, such as soup from the head, the tail, the liver and lights—to say nothing of the black puddings. The party were too weak to carry the meat, and it was consequently opened and skinned, and in that manner left until the following day. We had all a heavy feed off the fry for



supper, and if none of those who partook of it were visited with an attack of night mare it was a mercy.

June 15.—We were all busy in cutting up and hanging out our meat. We had scarcely half finished our work when the weather became overcast and cloudy (as was the case generally every change of the moon), and we began to fear we were to be visited with a continuation of our usual bad luck. We were too weakhanded to finish cutting up the beast to-night, and as the weather looked had we were the less anxious about it

June 16.—This morning broke beautifully, and we commenced a renewal of our duties of cutting up with redoubled vigour. After the meat was hung up to dry, Mr. Hely, Mr. Turnbull, and Brown, expressed a wish to go and look for the doctor and Wommaï, who had been absent eight days. About noon they started, and as Brown was an excellent bushman and tracker, we were in hopes they would succeed in their search.

June 17.—We were this evening agreeably surprised by the reappearance of Dr. Leichhardt and the faithful and trusty Wommaï. They brought only a part of the mules and horses, although they had travelled back on our former track a distance of ninety miles, in fact to the Mackenzie river, where they found some fine radishes, turnips, and other edible vegetables of my sowing. This was gratifying news to us, as we expected to find the same at all our old encampments on our return, where I never failed to sow seeds, although at the time I had little thought or expectation of either eating the produce or of seeing the places again. Mr. Ferry, the saddler, was busy converting the straps of the pack saddles, which we are compelled to leave behind, into hobbles for the horses and mules. Indeed, it was at this camp where the things of which I have formerly written were deposited, and Dr. Leichhardt intended to call for them on his future expedition.

June 18.—This was the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, and was observed as a festival. From this time until the 21st, Perry, the saddler, was busy in converting the straps and buckles of the abandoned pack-saddles into hobbles for the horses and mules.

On the 22nd, we reached the banks of the Mackenzie, and, on the following morning, we made a start for the bounds of civilization; and, in order to do so at the earliest possible moment. Dr. Leichhardt intended making forced and hurried stages. As we followed upon our outward track, it will be scarcely necessary for me to give a detail of each day's proceeding. By the second of July, we had reached the Christmas Ranges, instead of the Expedition Ranges, owing to the doctor having kept too westerly a course. On the 3rd, camped at the foot of Expedition Range, on the bank of a pretty creek, lined with the trailing branches of the *Cucumis mollis*, or native melon. There was a plentiful supply of this fruit; and we grilled, boiled, and ate a great quantity. Having made rapid stages since leaving the Mackenzie, the doctor spelled here a day to rest the mules and horses. It was on the banks of this creek that I discovered (among others) the new and interesting plant, since dedicated to Dr. Greeves, *Greevesia cleisocalyx*, Dr. Leichhardt was good enough to name a mountain at the head of this romantic creek after my unworthy self. The doctor gave us some sweet tea, and the day was finished with that and a dish of boiled melons.

July 5.—We resumed our travels, and nothing occurred to interrupt our progress to Charlie's Creek, where we saw; fresh tracks of cattle. We again camped on its bank, and were on the eve of going to sleep, when the barking of dogs was heard on the opposite bank of the Condamine River. This was an intimation of the close proximity of a station; and visions of damper, mutton, and other sweetmeats, attended the slumbers of many of the party. Early the following morning, Dr. Leichhardt crossed the river, and followed the direction from whence the sounds from the dogs

proceeded. He had not been long absent, when he returned with Mr. Chauvell and Mr. Ewer. The two gentlemen had followed on our outward track, and settled upon this part of the Condamine. These gentlemen expressed pleasure at our safe return, after noticing the worn-out and haggard appearance presented by the party. We remained two days at Mr. Chauvell's station, where we were kindly supplied with every necessary, when we finally started for Jimba and Darling Downs. Previous to leaving, I exchanged pipes with Mr. C., receiving a new one for my old black veteran of the wilderness, and to which Mr. C. appeared to attach considerable value. Upon reaching Jimba, we were sorry to learn that, during our absence, its worthy proprietor, Mr. Dennis, had been drowned during a passage to Sydney by the "Tamar" steamer.

Dr. Leichhardt was now put in full possession of the result of Sir Thomas Mitchell's expedition, and expressed a wish, before going to Sydney, to make an excursion in the direction of the Grafton Range and Fitzroy Downs, newly discovered by Sir Thomas, in order to connect Sir Thomas's track with his own. Of this excursion, we shall feel much pleasure in allowing the doctor to speak for himself.