

THE
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GOVERNOR GREY'S EXPEDITIONS.

JOURNALS OF TWO EXPEDITIONS OF DISCOVERY IN NORTH-WEST AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA, DURING THE YEARS 1837, 1838, and 1839, under the authority of Her Majesty's Government. By GEORGE GREY, Esq., Governor of South Australia, late Captain of the 83rd Regiment; in two volumes. London: T. W. Boone, 29, New Bond-street, 1841.

ALTHOUGH much remains to be done to solve the geographical problem of the central condition of the great Australian continent, many important advances have been made towards it within a comparatively short period. It is not many years since the settlers of New South Wales were enabled to penetrate the Blue Mountains, by which they had previously been confined on the west. It was then for the first time ascertained that the dip of the country beyond the mountains was westward and southward, which accounted for the small number and unimportance of the rivers entering the sea on the eastern coast. Many rivers were found to originate on the western slopes of the mountains, and, exclusive of private enterprise, the colonial government made repeated attempts to follow the course of these rivers, and to ascertain at what part of the coast they entered the sea. These attempts were for some time so far unsuccessful, that it was actually believed the waters were lost in marshes in the interior: at length, Captain Sturt had the extraordinary merit of solving this difficulty, by tracing the whole to the Murray and to Lake Alexandrina and the sea. This splendid discovery was probably the leading cause of the capital of South Australia being placed where it is, and subse-

quent events have shown how fortunately the selection was made. Next in order came Major Mitchell's exploration of Australia Felix. Considering how recently the colony has been settled, much has been done in South Australia to promote discovery in the interior. The tracks overland from New South Wales and Port Phillip, to Adelaide, have become well beaten roads, and Mr. Eyre's journeys to the north and west, although ending in severe disappointment, have excited the most profound interest, by exhibiting in that gentleman all the qualities of a great traveller in a savage country, under trials and privations of the most extraordinary description.

We have heard, from time to time, imperfect accounts of explorations in Western and Northern Australia; but it is only very recently that we have had access to any authentic account of these interesting travels by the perusal of the present work, published in London last year; and as the book is not yet in the hands of many of our readers, we propose to give some account of its contents.

It appears that in June, 1837, Messrs. Grey and Lushington, then lieutenants in the army, were instructed by the Colonial Secretary to embark in H.M. sloop of war *Beagle*, fitting out for a survey of the coasts of Australia; to proceed in that vessel to the Cape or Swan River, there to procure a small vessel to carry the party and stores to a point in Australia between 15 and 16 deg. of south latitude, and to penetrate from thence to the Swan River, proceeding in a direction parallel to the unknown coast, and crossing every large river flowing from the interior towards that side of the continent: the objects of the expedition being declared to be, to gain information as to the real state of North-western Australia, its resources, and the course and direction of its rivers and mountain ranges; to familiarise the natives with the British name and character; to search for and record all information regarding the natural productions of the country, and all details that might bear upon its capabilities for colonisation, or the reverse, and to collect specimens of its natural history, "it being understood that Lieutenant Grey, the senior military officer, is considered as commanding the party, and the person by whose orders and instructions all individuals composing the party will be guided and conform."

The party embarked on the 5th July, and reached the Cape on the 21st September, 1837, where a vessel was hired, and they re-embarked on the 13th October, and arrived and commenced disembarkation on the 9th December, in Hanover bay, in about latitude 15° 18' south, and longitude 124° 45' east. On the 21st, Mr. Lushington proceeded on with the vessel to Timor, for ponies to convey the stores and baggage of the party in their journeys through this new and untried region.

In the meantime, excursions were made to ascertain the character of the country, which appears to have been, near the coast, of the most difficult description, as the stores could not be conveyed from the shore to the camp until a path had been cleared through the rocks. The following extract gives a lively and interesting description of the very extraordinary neighbourhood in which the landing was made—

"We moved up the ravine in which we were encamped, in a nearly due south

direction, and after following this course about a mile, turned up a branch ravine to the left. The romantic scenery of this narrow glen could not be surpassed; its width at bottom was not more than forty or fifty feet. On each side rose cliffs of sandstone between three and four hundred feet high, and nearly perpendicular; lofty paper-bark trees grow here and there, and down the middle ran a beautiful stream of clear cool water, which now gushed along a murmuring mountain torrent, and anon formed a series of small cascades. As we ascended higher, the width contracted; the paper-bark trees disappeared, and the bottom of the valley became thickly wooded with wild nutmeg and other fragrant trees. The spot I chose to halt at for the night, was at the foot of a lofty precipice of rocks from which a spring gushed forth. At break of day we were again upon our route, which lay up the valley we had slept in; but as each of us carried ten days provisions and water, besides our arms, the progress we made in a tropical climate, thus laden, was necessarily slow and laborious. Having at length reached the table land which this valley drained, we found ourselves in the midst of a forest differing widely from anything we had before seen. The soil beneath our feet was sandy and thickly clothed with spinifex (a prickly grass), which, in spite of our thick trowsers, slightly but continually wounded our legs. Every here and there in the wood rose lofty and isolated pinnacles of sandstone rock, fantastic in form, and frequently overgrown with graceful creeping and climbing plants, &c. But when we arrived at the extremity of the table land, I felt somewhat disappointed at beholding a deep narrow ravine at my feet, precisely resembling in character the one we had left, and beyond this a second sandstone range, wooded as that on which we stood. In about half an hour we gained the bottom of the ravine, and found that a rapid stream ran through it, &c. On reaching this range, several acres of land on this elevated position were nearly covered with lofty isolated sandstone pillars of the most grotesque and fantastic shapes. Some of these time-worn columns were covered with sweet smelling creepers, while their bases were concealed by a dense vegetation, which added much to their very singular appearance. The height of two or three which I measured was upwards of forty feet; and, as the tops of all of them were upon the same level, that of the surrounding country must at one period have been as high as their present summits, probably much higher. From the top of one of these pillars I surveyed the surrounding country, and saw on every side proofs of the same extensive degradation, so extensive, indeed, that I found it very difficult to account for; but the gurgling of water which I heard beneath me, soon put an end to the state of perplexity in which I was involved, for I ascertained that streams were running in the earth beneath my feet; and on descending and creeping into a fissure in the rocks, I found, beneath the surface, a cavern precisely resembling the remains that existed above ground, only that this was roofed, whilst through it ran a small stream, which in the rainy season must become a perfect torrent. I subsequently, during the season of the heavy rains, remarked the usual character of the mountain streams to be, that they rose at the foot of some little elevation which stood upon a lofty table land, composed of sandstone, then flowed in a sandy bed for a short distance, and afterwards mysteriously sank in the cracks and crevices made in the rocks from atmospheric influences, and did not again re-appear until they had reached the foot of the precipice which terminated the table land whereon they sprang; here they came foaming out in a rapid stream, which had undoubtedly worked strange havoc in the porous sandstone rocks, among which it held its subterraneous course."

On the 17th January, the vessel returned with twenty-six ponies, but the utmost difficulty was found in crossing the country. On the 31st January, the rainy season appears to have commenced with violent storms, and the ponies and sheep began to die. On the 11th Feb., in an encounter with the natives, the author was unfortunately severely wounded by a spear in the hip, which rendered him unfit to travel till the 27th February, and occasioned him much misery during the rest of the journey. By this time the ponies were reduced to fourteen, and the survivors were in a very weak condition. It now became ne-

cessary to restrict the original design of the journey. The travellers had reached the extremity of the sandstone ridges, and the following extracts will give some idea of the country they had entered upon—

“ March 1.—We had traversed a most beautiful country this morning, composed of basaltic rocks and fine alluvial soil, whilst from the size and number of the streams, it must be as well watered as any region in the world. March 2.—We passed numerous streams, and the country generally continued of a very rich and fertile character: at last, from the top of one of these ridges, there burst upon the sight a noble river, running through a beautiful country, and, where we saw it, at least three or four miles across, and studded with numerous verdant islands. I have since seen many Australian rivers, but none to equal this, either in magnitude or beauty. I at once named it the Glenelg.”

On the 13th March, the author ascended a lofty hill, and thus describes the prospect from it—

“To the north lay Prince Regent's River, and the good country we were now upon extended as far as the inlets which communicated with this great navigable stream; to the south and south-westward ran the Glenelg, meandering through as verdant and fertile a district as the eye of man ever rested on. The luxuriance of tropical vegetation was now seen to the greatest advantage in the height of the rainy season. The smoke of native fires rose in various directions from the country, which lay like a map at our feet: and when I recollected that all these natural riches of soil and climate lay between two navigable rivers, and that its sea-coast frontage, not much exceeding fifty miles in latitude, contained three of the finest harbours in the world, in each of which the tide rose and fell thirty-seven and a-half feet, I could not but feel we were in a land singularly favored by nature.”

Subsequently the party reached the river Glenelg, and found it

“Quite fresh, and running at the rate of more than five knots an hour. The bed was composed of white sand, and even close to the margin it was two and a-half fathoms in depth. The trees which bordered it were of a gigantic size; I think the largest I have seen in Australia. On going to the Glenelg the next morning, I found it so swollen by the heavy rain of the preceding night, as to render it impossible to get near the river bed. The river was now far beyond its banks, and in the forks of the trees above our heads we saw drift wood, reeds, dead grass, &c., lodged at least fifteen feet higher than the present level, and which could only have been left there during some great flood. I need scarcely add, that, in a tropical country, no ground could be conceived better adapted to the growth of rice than the extensive levels which border the Glenelg.”

The descriptions of rare plants deserve particular notice. A tree, described as a species of capparid, has universally a gouty stem.

“I measured one of the largest, and found that at eighteen inches above the ground, its circumference was about 21ft. 6in. The foliage of this tree was slight, but graceful, and it was loaded with a fruit of an elliptical form, as large as a cocoa-nut. This fruit was enclosed in a rind, closely resembling that of the almond, and inside the rind was a shell, containing a soft pulp, in which were placed a species of almond, very palatable to the taste, and arranged in this pulp, much in the manner in which the seeds are placed in the pomegranate. Upon the bark of these trees being cut, they yielded in small quantities a nutritious white gum, which, both in taste and appearance, resembles macaroni; and upon this bark being soaked in hot water, an agreeable mucilaginous drink was produced. This tree is, from this combination of useful qualities, a vegetable production of no slight value, and probably comes near the cocoa-nut in value: its worth is well known to the natives, for its vicinity is one of their favorite haunts.”

The travellers also discovered wild grapes and wild oats. The former are thus described—

"On passing the ridge of hills which bounded this valley to the south, we entered on a sandstone district, although the hills to the southward were still basaltic. I here halted the party for breakfast by the side of a stream, and, on casting my eyes upwards, I found that I was in a sort of natural graperly, for the tree under which I lay was covered with a plant which bears a sort of grape, and I believe is a species of *cissus*. We met altogether with three varieties of this plant, all of which were creepers, but differing from each other in their habits, and in the size of their fruit. Two of them generally ran along the ground, or amongst low shrubs, and the third climbed high trees: this latter kind bore the finest fruit, and it was a plant of this description which I to-day found. Its fruit, in size, appearance, and flavour, resembled a small black grape, but the stones were different, being larger, and shaped like a coffee berry. All three produced their fruit in bunches like the vine, and the day being very sultry, I do not know that we could have fallen upon anything more acceptable than this fruit was to us."

The wild oats are thus described—

"This is a remarkable vegetable production, growing at the height of from five to six feet; in the stalk, the shape and mode of insertion of the leaves, it is similar to the oat of Europe; the manner in which the seeds grow in the two plants is also the same, and the seeds are nearly of the same size, but the Australian oat is furnished with a beard like the barley. When hungry, I have repeatedly eaten these oats, which, in some parts, grow in such abundance, that several acres of them might be mown at once; and I have little doubt that this plant would, with cultivation, turn out to be a very great addition to our tropical grains."

It appears, from a foot note, that the author introduced this grain at the Mauritius, where it is found to succeed.

We cannot doubt that the following account of the author's exertions to introduce new plants and animals into the country he was sent to explore, will be deemed highly honorable to his zeal and philanthropy, as he does not seem to have received any such instructions from the Government. In leaving the Cape, he states—

"Part of my plan was not only to introduce all useful animals that I possibly could into this part of Australia, but also the most valuable plants of every description. For this purpose a collection had been made at Teneriffe by Mr. Walker, under my direction, and another in South America, including the seeds of the cotton plant. From the Cape, and from England, I procured other useful plants, and had planned that the vessel, on quitting Timor with the horses, should be filled in every vacant space with young cocoa nut trees and other fruits, together with useful animals, such as goats and sheep, in addition to the stock we conveyed from the Cape."

Accordingly, shortly after landing, we find the following passage—

"On this latter day (New-years-day), I had resolved to do homage to the country by a seasonable gift; therefore, rising with the earliest dawn, spent the whole day in planting, in various positions, seeds of the most useful fruits and vegetables. Those we had already planted were doing well, and I hoped that this benefaction might prove one of no small value, perhaps, to civilised man, or at least to the natives of the vicinity."

And again, when about to take their departure—

"We had but eleven ponies left, the greater number of which were so marked and scarred, from falls among the rocks, that they would have been valueless, if brought to sale; and, on the other hand, if left free in the bush, two good mares, which were amongst them, might possibly have been the means of giving a very valuable race of horses to this country. These considerations determined me; and the companions of our weary wanderings were turned loose, a new race upon the land, and, as we trusted, to become the progenitors of a numerous herd. Our whole residence in this country had been marked by toils and suf-

ferings. Heat, wounds, hunger and thirst, and many other things, had combined to harass us. Under these circumstances, it might have been imagined that we left those shores without a single regret, but such was far from being the case: when the ponies had wandered off, when all the remaining stores had been removed, and the only marks of our residence in these valleys were a few shattered bark huts, young cocoa nut plants, a bread fruit, and some other useful trees and plants, I felt very loath to leave the spot. One large pumpkin, in particular, claimed my notice. The tropical warmth and rains, and the virgin soil in which it grew, had imparted to it a rich luxuriance: it did not creep along the ground, but its long shoots were spreading upwards among the trees. The young cocoa nuts grew humbly amidst the wild plants and reeds, their worth unknown. Most of those plants I had placed in the ground myself, and had watched their early progress; now they must be left to their fate. Amidst such thoughts, we resumed our course down the valley, and embarked in the boats."

We do not know how the sons and daughters of Mammon may view these acts and feelings, but for our own part, we do not envy the man who, under the circumstances, could have acted or thought differently.

It is very remarkable, that while the ponies, sheep, and goats did not thrive, the author bears the most ample testimony to the salubrity of the climate—

"I conceive the climate of North-Western Australia to be one of the finest in the world, and my reasons for thus thinking are grounded upon the following circumstances:—I was resident there from the beginning of the month of December, 1837, to the middle of the month of April, 1838, a period of four months and a-half, and during the whole of that time, the men under my command were exposed to great hardships and privations. On one occasion, three of us slept in the open air, without any covering or warm clothes for five successive nights, during three of which we had constant showers of heavy rain, and yet did not in any way suffer from this exposure. Other detached parties were on various occasions subjected for a shorter period to exposure of a similar nature, and no instance occurred of any individual suffering in the least from it. One or two cases of slight diarrhœa occurred, but they could be always traced to some food that had been eaten the day before, and none were sufficiently violent to delay us for a single hour. While this perfect freedom from disease existed among the party, they had not only to bear exposure of the nature above stated, but the provisions with which I was enabled to supply them were sometimes very insufficient for their wants. During the whole month of March, and part of April, their daily allowance of food was about one and three-quarters pounds of flour, first made into dough, and then baked in the form of a flat cake upon a large stone. This low diet, at the same time that they were compelled to work very hard, naturally rendered them extremely weak, and several were, on our return to the coast, in a very reduced state."

So strong a testimony to the salubrity of a tropical climate, abounding so much in moisture, is exceedingly valuable.

The natives are described as—

"In general very tall and robust, and exhibit in their legs and arms a fine development of muscle, which is unknown to the southern races. Their language is soft and melodious: their gesticulation is expressive, and their bearing manly and noble."

"A remarkable circumstance is the presence amongst them of a race, to appearance totally different, and almost white, who seem to exercise no small influence over the rest."

One individual is thus described—

"His skin was of a copper color, whilst the others were black; his head was not so large, while the hanging brow was lost; the shoulders were of a European

turn, and the body and legs much better proportioned: in fact, he might be considered a well-made man at our standard of figure."

The author imputes this mixture to the Malays, but shipwrecks may also throw Europeans on their coast; and we are strongly inclined to believe that the mixed breed referred to may be partly owing to this cause, from a circumstance dwelt upon at some length by the author. In several caves visited by him, he found a number of grotesque figures drawn in colors on the walls and roofs, which may have been the work of the natives; but one remarkable head was found, which is thus described—

"I was moving on, when we observed the profile of a human face and head cut out in a sandstone rock which fronted the cave: this rock was so hard, that to have removed such a large portion of it with no better tool than a knife and hatchet made of stone, such as the Australian natives usually possess, would have been a very great labour. The ear was rather badly placed, but otherwise the whole of the work was good, and far superior to what a savage race could be supposed capable of executing."

A spirited sketch of the head is given in an engraving, and it is impossible, we think, to doubt that it is the portrait of a European; perhaps of some unfortunate man shipwrecked on the coast, and who had resorted to this expedient of, by a possibility, intimating his fate to his countrymen who might visit that remote shore.

Some causes have already been given for cutting short this interesting journey, and the others may be stated. These appear to have been chiefly a total ignorance of the nature of the particular country and climate, and the journey having been undertaken at the commencement of the rainy season. The author judiciously remarks—

"I do not know whether this was a very extraordinary season, but it is certain that if all rainy periods in North-West Australia resemble it, to attempt to explore the country at this time of the year would be fruitless."

And subsequently—

"No parallel whatever can be instituted between travels in tropical and extra-tropical Australia; for in the former the more exhausting nature of the climate unfits both men and horses for making long journeys, and, indeed, renders it almost impossible to travel during the heat of day; whilst the difficult nature of the ground, caused by the dense vegetation, the jungles, the ravines and marshes, render it altogether impracticable to move at night through an unknown country."

We think few of our readers will hesitate to admit the importance of the discoveries detailed in the foregoing extracts. A splendid river communicating with the sea, and with several capacious harbours, flowing through a territory of extraordinary fertility and beauty, and capable of producing all fruits and plants common to the latitude in which it is placed, and though in a tropical climate, remarkably salubrious. It is much to be regretted that, owing to a number of unforeseen circumstances, the investigation could not have been further prosecuted at the time; but so far as it went, we think it has been extremely satisfactory in its results. How could it possibly have been foreseen, that a country so abundantly watered, even in the dry season, should be discovered in Australia, particularly in so low a latitude? We trust what has already been done will induce her Majesty's government to take advantage of the lights that have been thrown out by this expedition. Those who may follow up the enquiry, will know where

and when they can at once commence an exploration, unembarrassed by the barren and difficult country in which this party was at first so much involved and impeded, or by the wet season, in a country abounding so much in springs, marshes, and rivers.

It is not alone as regards the country thus developed, that these discoveries are of importance, but as viewed in relation to its situation in the neighbourhood of the Indian Ocean and archipelago, and the Chinese Sea. On Java being abandoned to the Dutch, it was seen by Sir Thomas Raffles, that the trade of this portion of the globe would be lost to the country, and he was permitted to found Singapore. It is needless to speak of the success of that settlement. When the first convict ships arrived at Sydney, the seeds of a future empire were sown in this continent. Colony after colony has been planted, and how have they increased in population and in flocks and herds? But they have been all nearly in the same latitude; their climates and productions have been nearly the same, and, consequently, they have little to exchange with each other. Then, these settlements are all on the east, south, or west coasts. The Pacific Ocean lies before them, thinly spread with small islands, the inhabitants just emerging from barbarism, averse to industry, and ignorant of commerce. The northern side of the continent, on the other hand, is in the proximity of numerous countries, abounding in the most valuable productions, inhabited by people of ancient civilisation and accustomed to commerce. Is it not, therefore, evident that the time has arrived when a British colony should be established on the north-west coast of the continent, not only in connexion with those on the east, south, and west, but for the general advantage of British trade? We believe a settlement has been formed at Port Essington, but there is more than room for both, and each would be invaluable in its respective relations.

It only remains for us to notice the execution of the work we have been examining. It will be observed that it bears the unambitious title of a journal. For our own parts we prefer works of this nature in that shape. We greatly prefer the actual views and feelings of the traveller, pourtrayed day by day, in prosperity and adversity, written at the time, to a cool and deliberate narrative subsequently prepared. We venture to think that the extracts we have given ought to satisfy the most fastidious reader; but if it were otherwise, it would be sufficient to state that the author had it not in his power to arrange his materials. It appears from the preface, that he arrived in London in September, and had commenced preparing his journal for the press, when he was appointed governor of this colony, for which he was hurried off in December following. Of course, from the moment of his appointment, his labors for the press had to cease, and an apology is expressly made by the party on whom the charge devolved, which satisfactorily shows that the author was not responsible for any defects of this description.

We regret that our space will not permit us to enter upon the second part of the work, but we hope to be able to overtake it in our next publication.

ARGALIA

CHAPTER SIXTH.

MANY long days elapsed, during which Azora visibly declined, the fountain of her existence appeared to dry up, and the spirit which had animated her fled; but she endeavoured with pain to conceal from her parent the horrid forebodings which incessantly tortured her. He saw her situation, and suffering almost equally, he essayed in vain to console her: neither had the courage to give vent to the grief which heavily oppressed them.

One morning when they had been thus silently seated, Irad entered the cottage to obtain that repose, for which, however, he could scarcely hope. Azora remained alone. She sat in the light of the full moon, the rays of which were often half hid by the broad waving shadows of the palms, and she felt a melancholy pleasure in that lonely hour, when she could give free vent to her sorrows. Suddenly her lover stood before her in the moonlight. She sprang up with transport: unable to speak she pressed his hand, and tears of joy burst from her eyes. Then did she first earnestly regard him, and trembling violently, drew back.—The peace of heaven had vanished from his brow. That reflected splendour of supernatural blessedness which formerly flowed from every lineament, was gone. Gloomy, and overwhelmed with grief, he fixed a languid look upon her countenance, and remained silent. She dared not herself to speak. "Azora," said he at length, very slowly, "Azora! *my* Azora! before us are mighty events. It must now be seen whether the friendship of an immortal has strengthened thy heart, and given thee courage to feel my cares so far as thy nature can comprehend, and thou canst partake them and not be overwhelmed—apparently I am lost!" Azora grew deadly pale, and with a fixed countenance and open lips, remained standing before him. He grasped both her hands. From the midst of the sorrowful cloud which veiled his brow, beamed forth a ray of the intensest affection. "Azora! hear me, and prove thy fortitude: prove that I have not erred in my choice. Thou knowest my powers, and those of my adversary. On this planet, which you call earth, is no dominion higher than our own; but we ourselves are subjected to that Almighty being who hath created thee, the world of spirits, and the human race; and who rules all things with the eternal laws of supremest wisdom. Sparks of his divine spirit animate us and every reasoning creature, but in different degrees of force and purity. Reason and free-will are our most precious gifts. Mine were pure; so at least I thought. I have labored for good, but the purest spirits are not perfect. Think of this, Azora, and watch strenuously and unremittingly over a mortal heart—passion drew me aside: passion for thee—a wish for power unconsciously hidden behind the dazzling scheme of diffusing the dominion of virtue—I have acted too presumptuously. Enraged by Divaconta's arrogance, I have called into the contest, powers which can only be set in motion by the total ruin of all. Divaconta has opposed me with like weapons.

The foundations of this globe are shaken, and fearful effects must ensue. I feel my error, and that I feel it, is the beginning of my punishment; its continuance must be, that I cannot recal, cannot repair the past. There yet remains a contest; it will determine the destiny of me and of Divaconta for ever. Should it fail Azora, we are parted never to meet again. Should I prove victor, thy happiness and my own must yet rest in the hand of him who is mighty to save and to forgive: judge and father! Now farewell! we meet soon or never!"

Azora had summoned all her faculties to bear with firmness this dreadful sentence, but the last words overcame her strength; her eye grew dim, her pulse ceased to beat; and she leaned against the stem of a palm. Argalia saw her situation, and the efforts which she made to maintain her self-command. He threw his arms round her waist—"My Azora! my sister! my dear one!" Oh! these tones would have called her from the grave. The consciousness of being loved by such a being, infused into her spirit strength and animation. With a sigh he continued—"I hope for the mercy of the eternal, by a deep and sincere repentance. I have erred; but he, as I have said, is a father. Farewell! farewell!" He vanished in a vapoury cloud, while his voice died away, and Azora was alone.

The genius returned to the other hemisphere, to undertake as he had announced to Azora, the last struggle with Divaconta, who in the meantime had not neglected to summon to his aid all the powers of his subjected elements; and Argalia found him prepared, not for a contest with weapons and machines of war, such as mortals can devise in aid of their defective strength, but a collision of primeval powers, which might break asunder the innermost bonds of earth, hurl all created matter into one enormous ruin, and bring back chaos.

The elements were in uproar. From the deepest recesses of the earth volcanic flames broke forth; mountain tops fell in; the bounds of ocean were torn away; floods overwhelmed every land; rocks shivered and split with subterranean fires; and the waters in the laps and hollows of the hills, threw themselves headlong over the precipices, and flowed desolating through the vallies; storms tore up the forests, and overthrew all which attempted to resist their force.

The poles cracked; the axis of the earth tottered; and the atmosphere, like a quivering stream, melted away. The despairing human race shrieked loudly to the revolted elements, and rushed hopeless into flood or flame. Then! then! the Almighty hurled his own lightnings. Divaconta and his angels he struck down to the unfathomable abyss: Argalia sunk stunned into the caverns of the Altai.—The time was accomplished: the form of the earth fashioned itself anew: the direction of its axis changed. The sun's power operated in other and different proportions. The poles froze; snow and perpetual ice took place of fertile plains; races of animals became extinct and new ones rose. The bottom of the ocean appeared in the salt deserts, where lately whales had sported; and on inland hills, which once were islands, the astonished naturalist now sees the petrified remains of inhabitants of primeval seas. Under wide spread waters, lie buried cities and