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THE ATLAS OF THIS DAY CONTAINS:—

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NORTH AUSTRALIA, IN PROSE AND RHYME.

EQUAL to Cortez or Pizarro in enterprise and discovery—a Solon in Legislative capacity—a Draco in Executive vigour, grasping at once in his comprehensive mind the minutest details and the most remote results—quick sighted, clear and resolute, patient of fatigue, hunger, and danger, with a head to conceive and a hand to execute the most daring resolutions, under the most desperate circumstances:—are we wrong in considering, that these are the indispensable requisites for a successful superintendent of the colony, or labor-depôt, of North Australia. A little more ingenuity is required than sufficed to build the embankment on the Parramatta Road, which was only rendered necessary by turning that road out of its course—a little more foresight than is evinced by running down ten degrees of latitude in a steamer, and then being obliged to return without accomplishing the object of the voyage for want of fuel and water—water, which we have the authority of the expedition itself for saying, appeared not to be far distant; fuel, which covered the shore down to the waters edge. Till it shall be established to our satisfaction, that the man who squanders the resources of an old colony is fittest to husband those of a new one—that the man who could not lay out Cockatoo Island, is a fit architect for an intended great commercial city—that the man who did nothing with an unlimited quantity of convict labor at his disposal, will do anything with a limited supply of labor which he has no power to coerce; we must think that happy as North Australia may be in her tropical climate—happy in her virtuous population of exiles, and in the strong military force, twelve privates in all we believe, which a benevolent and liberal government has provided for the protection of life and property, there is still something wanting to her complete felicity. If the intention of the home government be, that the exiles should toss the Governor and all his officers in a blanket, fraternize or massacre the soldiers, pillage the stores, appropriate the marquees, ducks, pigs, cows, turkeys, geese, mules, and ladies, and when these supplies are exhausted, retire into the interior and form themselves into bands of organized banditti, then has the selection of the government been a most judicious one. But if it is intended that the deficiency of physical force should be compensated by moral and intellectual ascendancy—if it is wished that life and property should be safe, and that the settlement should not come to a conclusion as abrupt as its commencement, these good intentions seem to us to be reserved to pave the street of a certain place, which most resembles Downing street.

It is said, that Mr. Merewether was made Colonial Secretary because his business habits were not sufficiently good to enable him to discharge the duties of Aide-de-Camp. This is as it should be; the man who is unable to superintend the roads of one colony, is trusted to superintend the government of another; and he who was unfit to write invitations to dinners and balls, is, therefore, promoted to the office of a legislator and Prime Minister. Something we could say of the legal, something of the medical, department, as enriched by contributions from this colony, which will rob the law of one of its brightest ornaments, and the medical department of one of its most respectable officers. But we forbear. We

apprehend that in this favored spot the reign of law will be very short, and the practice of physic extremely elementary. The following lines embody the more favorable part of our anticipations, with reference to the future destiny of the new colony:—

How blessed the land where Barney's gentle way
Spontaneous felons joyfully obey—
Where twelve bright bayonets only can suffice
To check the wild exuberance of vice—
Where thieves shall work at trades with none to buy,
And stores unguarded pass unrifled by;
Strong in their new-found rectitude of soul,
Tame without law, and good without control!

Bless'd land, what mighty works thy future hides!
What zig-zag roads shall climb thy mountain sides,
Where travellers shall view, with proud disdain,
The shorter path across the neighbouring plain!
What harbours bristling with unsounded reefs
Shall shield the navies of thy future chiefs!
What aqueducts shall bear thy river's bed,
Free from the modern heresy of lead,
To slake some parched city's thirst profound,
Built ere a single water-hole was found!

In that blest region, sure 'twill natural seem
To bridge the dry and ford the turbid stream,
And each invention there will meet success
Which makes the labor more and produce less.
Windmills in swamps, and water-wheels on high,
This shall the stream eschew, and that the sky;
The sail shall steam, the oar the sail disgrace,
Oars change to paddles, paddles poles replace,
Till one by one each art and science fall,
And Barney's intellect is all in all.

THE CONTRADICTION.

SPEECH OF CHARLES COWPER, ESQ., M. L. C., AT GOULBURN. TO CHARLES COWPER, ESQ., M. C.

It had been stated that whoever might be opposed to the renewal of transportation, he, at least ought not, for he had imported hordes of felons from Van Diemen's Land for his establishment in their neighbourhood, and had, in fact (he believed he quoted the words correctly) deluged Argyle with them. He paid no regard to the slander, for such he must call it, when he first heard the matter talked over; but he found that it had been so often reported, and so industriously circulated, that he was glad of a convenient opportunity to state exactly what he had done, and the public might then judge accordingly. He desired that his conduct as a private individual, and equally so his acts in his public capacity, should be such as to bear even severe scrutiny; and he had no desire to avoid any censure which he might fairly deserve: but he did not think he had been treated well by the author of the rumour to which he had alluded. During the session of last year, when the Immigration Committee was sitting, the scarcity of labour formed a frequent topic of discussion amongst the members, and Mr. Robinson, the member for Melbourne, urged several to obtain supplies from Van Diemen's Land, where he stated he had good authority for saying hundreds of good men were in actual want of the necessaries of life from having no employment or means of subsistence, and I was induced to accept an offer, which he, as I then thought, kindly made me, to

take a few and try them. I accordingly got seven, and though their appearance was not certainly in their favor, and I had no desire to repeat the experiment, I have no right to complain of the men; for not one of them had ever been in a probation gang, and, excepting two who absconded, they are still in my service. They were in fact very much the kind of men which could be hired in the town by any superintendent coming in from the country for the purpose. I admit that at the time I fully relied upon the renewal of immigration, and that had I anticipated that such a proposition as is now under discussion would have been made, I would never have been a party to Mr. Robinson's importations. He was the importer, and not me; but though I felt obliged to him at the time, I do not think he has acted fairly in employing an editor, not long since himself a special at Port Macquarie, and whose newspaper is only kept alive for the purpose of advocating the views of Mr. Robinson, and those for whose interests he labours so assiduously in the Council and out of it, to propagate a statement, which, though to a certain extent founded in truth, was, as published in their newspaper, a slander—published, too, he declared, for the express purpose of injuring, so far as it could, the force of his opposition, as a member of Council, to the renewal of transportation. Was this, he would ask, not rather ungenerous conduct? The same gentleman had also resorted to the same means to retail his jokes upon him as Chairman of the Lunatic Asylum Committee, simply because he was an opponent to the mercenary schemes of him and his friends—though he felt that in performing that duty, he was entitled to consideration from every benevolent mind.

I have met with much ingratitude in this world, but certainly nothing equal to this. You found that the price of labour had advanced to such a point that some immediate steps must be taken for a supply. In this dilemma you applied to me, and I relieved your wants. I enabled you to make an experiment, of which you yourself confess you "have no right to complain;" but little did I think that after you had obtained your object, you would, like the serpent in the fable, turn upon your benefactor, or like the monkey, use my paw to take the chestnuts from the fire.

But I feel perfectly convinced that if all the members of the "Vandemonian - Cheap - Labour and Questionable-Moral-Importation-Company" were tried for

their acts, Charles Cowper, Esq., Member of the Legislative Council, would be found guilty by any jury in the colony, not only as an accessory before the fact, but as a receiver. I cannot, however, but admire your tact in this affair. You have procured the labour you can now well afford to affect a Brutus-like virtue—until your "necessity, and not your will, consents" to a fresh importation, when you will probably employ another agent and pay him his commission in abuse, as you have your last one.

With regard to your charge of my employing an editor "for the express purpose of injuring, so far as I could, the force of your opposition in the Council," I can give you my solemn assurance that the "force" of your opposition never occurred to me, and even had it done so, and my object been to neutralize it, I could not, for this purpose have left it in better hands than your own.

As for the joke of the Lunatic Asylum, I should be sorry to allude to it in your present state of excitement. I regret not having had an opportunity of perusing Mr. Rusden's speech, which appears to have been judiciously burked by the friends of free discussion; but judging from your own meek response, his unfeeling allusion to your system of morals, "one for your own estate, and another for the public," must have created a sensation as painful to yourself, dear Cowper, as to your sympathising friend.

J. P. ROBINSON.
Sydney, December 5th, 1846.

THE more we see of Mr. Charles Cowper, the more cause does he give us to admire his "small ingenuity." The papers and the public, express their astonishment at the inconsistency displayed by him, in importing expirées from Van Diemen's Land one month, and condemning such conduct with virtuous indignation the next—they characterise such a line of proceeding as either dishonest, capricious, or contemptible, and naturally ask what is the value of such a man's opinions. Mr. Cowper, wearied with the prodigious political exertion undergone by him during the session—and panting for a little repose needful to every statesman—neither comes to Sydney, nor writes to the newspapers any explanation of his conduct, but being accidentally in the vicinity of Goulburn, where an anti-transportation meeting is about to be convened, he, after a slight pause caused by the disinclination of so distinguished a luminary as himself to take a part in local politics, attends this meeting, and finding the audience sufficiently partial and select, he thunders forth in safety his denunciations at those who have had the audacity to attack him. To use his own words, "he was glad of a convenient opportunity to state exactly what he had done, and the public might then judge accordingly." And a more convenient opportunity, we admit, could not have presented itself, for it appears that the only person who spoke against Mr. Cowper was instantly silenced. In this proceeding, therefore, we trace a signal instance of the exercise of Mr. Cowper's "small ingenuity."

But let us see how he gets out of the difficulty in which the importation of expirées involved him. "During the session," he says, "of last year, when the Immigration Committee was sitting, the scarcity of labor formed a frequent

topic of discussion amongst the members, and Mr. Robinson, the member for Melbourne, urged several to obtain supplies from Van Diemen's Land, where, he stated he had good authority for saying, hundreds of good men were in actual want of the necessaries of life, from having no employment or means of subsistence, and I was induced to accept an offer which he, as I then thought, kindly made me, to take a few and try them." And a little further on he says.—"He was the importer, and not me." Such is the statement of this righteous man, who desires "that his conduct as a private individual, and equally so his acts in his public capacity, should be such as to bear even severe scrutiny." And what is Mr. Robinson's reply:—"Was it kind," enquires this gentleman, "was it friendly, so to upbraid, after having given me the order to import the men for you. You found that the price of labor had advanced to such a point that some immediate steps must be taken for a supply. In this dilemma you applied to me, and I relieved your wants." And finally, Mr. Robinson deliberately asserts, that in this matter Mr. Cowper "would be found guilty by any jury in the colony, not only as accessory before the fact, but as a receiver." Mr. Cowper leaves us to infer, by necessary implication, if indeed he does not directly assert it, that Mr. Robinson first imported the expiress, and then asked him "to take a few and try them." Mr. Robinson says that Mr. Cowper gave him an order to import the men, and that he was an accessory before the fact, as well as a receiver afterwards. And we have good reason for believing Mr. Robinson to be correct in this matter, and Mr. Cowper to be therefore the reverse. And what must we—what must any honest man in the community think of this statesman of "small ingenuity" after this? How much more manly would it have been in one who wishes to be considered a leading public character, and who, to carry out that wish, intermeddles in every matter that comes on for public discussion—how much more manly, we say, would it have been in him, to candidly and boldly admit the truth, and express his regret for being led by inattention into a mistake, rather than avail himself of the convenient opportunity of making false statements to a dozen or two individuals, whose partial conduct shows them to be as paltry and contemptible as he is himself? How much more statesmanlike—how much more worthy of a champion of the Church, would he have shown himself, if, instead of abusing Mr. Robinson, he had evinced gratitude sufficient to thank him for the service which he had rendered him. That gentleman being applied to by Mr. Cowper "to relieve his wants," imports some expiress from Van Diemen's Land for him, charges him no commission for doing so—and, instead of being thanked, he is violently slandered for his spontaneous generosity. However much we may deplore so flagrant an act of ingratitude as this, we ought to be thankful that it has occurred, inasmuch as it shows us, and will show the world, what stamp of a man he is, who is endeavouring to take the lead in opposing the renewal of transportation to these shores. Mr. Cowper now stands forth to this community as convicted, first, of having imported expiress, and, secondly, of having falsely denied it. After this, let the Puseyite Association receive him with open arms—as he has now given them a new claim upon their attachment and esteem. Like Mr. Robinson, we never considered that it was at all possible for Mr. Cowper to offer a forcible opposition to anything—particularly to a measure supported by the most talented and influential men in the community. We therefore think it to be a matter of little consequence what way he votes, when the matter of transportation comes on for discussion. He, no doubt, thinks that there is some considerable force in his opposition—that the noise which is now made in two or three parts of the colony is wholly attributable to him. He has, we are aware, long been laboring under the delusion that he is an influential man—and he thinks that because he has contrived to spoil several good measures by means of paltry miserable amendments originating in no intelligible principle—he has power to direct and to control. The time is coming when he will be undeceived. He has been tolerated long enough. Able men can no longer permit him to ape the leader, as he has hitherto done in some few instances. He must be reduced to his proper level, and be taught in a way such as cannot be mistaken, that he has neither the independence nor the spirit to command respect, nor talent to render himself conspicuous. In a few months it will be shown, beyond dispute, how great a libel it is upon the common sense of this community, that a person so intrinsically insignificant should be elected to represent one of our largest and most important constituencies. Mr. Robinson has gone far towards effecting this object. We doubt not that his example will be ably and promptly followed up. The days of small manœuvring and petty meddling must be put an end to. The country must hereafter rely upon its talent and independence, rather than its quackery and pretension.

SIR THOMAS MITCHELL'S DESPATCHES.

We give below the despatches recently received from Sir Thomas Mitchell. The information afforded by them is so meagre, that we cannot pretend to offer any comments on

them. We must, therefore, leave our readers to make the most of them:—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 7th December, 1846.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct that the following Despatches from Sir T. L. Mitchell, reporting the progress made by the Expedition under his command in exploring the Overland Route to Port Essington, be published for general information.

By his Excellency's Command,
E. DEAS THOMSON.

No. 1.

Camp at the head of the River Salvator, in long. 147° 25' 40" E.;
lat. 24° 50' 17" S.

9th September, 1846.

SIR—Before setting out on the last branch of my exploratory operations, I feel it my duty to report to your Excellency the progress made in that duty to this time, by the expedition sent into the interior under my command.

The heat was excessive, and water so very scarce, in the channel of the River Bogan, that I was obliged to abandon that route, and it was only with great difficulty, and after considerable delay, that the party could be conducted to the River Darling. Throughout the month of January, Fahrenheit's thermometer stood frequently at 117°; in the shade was seldom below 100°; and I found, on a ride down the Bogan, that there was no water in its channel for forty miles below Nyngan. The intense heat killed all our kangaroo dogs, and most of the party were attacked with ophthalmia; our draught oxen were also so much distressed (the loads having been also made heavier at Buree than I had intended) that some of them fell dead on the journey, and I was obliged to halt for two weeks at the ponds of Cannonba, between the River Macquarie and the Bogan. During that interval some refreshing rain fell, after which I examined Duck Creek, but found no water in it; and Mr. Kennedy subsequently ascertained (for I had myself ophthalmia) that we could only hope to reach the Darling by the marshes of the Macquarie.

On the 12th February, we left the ponds of Cannonba, and travelled along the left bank of the Macquarie, opening out a cart road along the western limits of the marshes through a country very favorable for cattle stations. We found the channel of the river continuous, in muddy ponds throughout the marshes, and I have to express my obligations to Mr. Kinghorne, for the information he afforded me, and for sending with us an aboriginal native who guided us beyond the region of reeds.

We made the junction of the Macquarie with the Darling in long. 147° 33' E., lat. 30° 6' 11" S., but I found that a few miles higher (at the station of Mr. Parnell, jun.) there was a good ford across the River Darling (or Barwan, the aboriginal name, there in general use). I accordingly crossed the river at Mr. Parnell's station, and the superintendent sent with us two aboriginal natives, who guided us in a very straight direction, and over a fine open country, to the Narran Swamp, which we reached at twenty-six miles from the Darling. These guides would have gone further, had not the intense heat, the extreme weakness of our cattle, and the passage of the swamp occasioned delay. I there, however, received a despatch from Commissioner Mitchell, enclosing a map, and affording me much useful information respecting the rivers in the country before us. The Narran River terminates in the swamp, and in tracing that river upwards, or northward, we found it full of water, and increasing in size and importance as we ascended, until we came upon the Balonne, in long. 148° 25' E., lat. 28° 35' 38" S. Along the banks of the Narran, the grass is of the very best description. *Panicum laevinode*, and *Anthistrium Australis* (barley grass and kangaroo grass of the colonists) growing on plains or in open forests, very available, in every respect, for cattle stations. But the seeds of the *Panicum laevinode* constitute the chief food of the natives, who bruise these seeds between stones, and bake the dough into cakes. As I advanced, these natives fell back on the main river, where the assembled body received our party very kindly.

The banks of the Balonne minor seem to be thickly peopled. The head of the tribe met us seven miles from it, and afforded me much assistance in finding a way for our carts amongst the numerous lagoons. Others guided us across to the Culgoa, which river we also crossed in long. 148° 21' 25" E., lat. 28° 31' 19" S. From that point I travelled to the Balonne, with the intention of proceeding northward along its right bank. That great river is there at its maximum, and is only inferior to the Murray in breadth and depth. Lower down it separates into various channels,—the first branch being the Culgoa, falling into the Darling about thirty miles above Fort Bourke,—the remainder, or minor Balonne again spreads its waters into the Narran, the Bokhara, the Ballandoola, and the Biree; the latter three, I believe, again unite, and fall into the Darling forty or fifty miles above Fort Bourke. The Narran seems a wonderful provision of nature for the supply and retention of water in a dry and parched country. The division of the main river into others already mentioned is no less so,—irrigating thus from one principal channel, extensive regions of rich earth beyond the Darling, while the surplus, or overflow, instead of passing, as in common cases, to the sea, is received in the deep channel of the Narran, and thereby conducted to that extensive reservoir where, on rock or stiff clay, and under ever-verdant polygonum, it furnishes an inexhaustible supply for the support of animal life. Nor is this beautiful net-work of rivers confined to that side of the Darling. The marsh of the Macquarie receives only ordinary floods to be retained in a somewhat similar manner to those in Narran swamp. The great floods of that river overflow the firm plains to the westward above Mount Harris, fill the ponds of Cannonba and of Banargill, which then uniting carry a current into the Bogan, which river sends a branch called the Barrawary northward into the country between it and the Darling, flowing parallel to the latter River at a distance of about seven miles. Below Mount Harris the Macquarie again overflows into Duck Creek, (the "Marra" of the natives,) which may be considered the channel, or a channel of that river in high floods. Cannonba and Duck Creek on one side seem therefore analogous on a smaller scale, to the various branches of the Balonne on the other.

Tracing the Balonne upwards, I found the country on its banks well covered with good grass; and we encountered only a small proportion of scrub. Some of the reaches were so broad, deep, and extensive, that I could not suppose this river contained only the waters of the Condamine, and I therefore expected to meet with some tributary from the north-west. On arriving at a natural bridge of rock, in long. 148° 46' 45" E., lat. 28° 2' S., I selected a position commanding access to the other bank, with the intention of forming there a depot for the rest and refreshment of the bullocks, then unable to go further; while I, with a smaller party, examined the country to the north-west. I first made a reconnaissance north-west by compass, and found in that direction at the end of thirty miles, a poor, sandy, unpromising country. Return-

ing to the depot camp, I proceeded, on the 23rd of April, up the river, with a party of ten men and the light carts, leaving the remainder in charge of Mr. Kennedy, at St. George's Bridge, with instructions to follow me in one month. I did not ascertain satisfactorily the point of junction of the Condamine with the Balonne, as what I saw in long. 148° 52' N., lat. 27° 47' 57" S., might have been only an ana-branch; neither did I see that of the "Cogoon," a small tributary from the north-west, which we followed up through a beautiful country, until it led me amongst hills where I could by trigonometrical observations, and back angles, survey more extensively, and be sure of the longitude. From a tree on the Balonne, in long. 149° E., lat. 27° 20' S., open down were discovered to the eastward, extending to the horizon, and in all probability watered by the Condamine. From Mount Abundance, in long. 148° 40' E., lat. 26° 39' 30" S., I again perceived that the fine open country in which I then was, extended eastward as far as the eye or telescope could reach, and that it was watered by a river from the northward, distinctly marked by the smoke of natives' fires. That river was still the "Balonne" according to the natives, and from Mount "Bindango" I was able to intersect the summits of the isolated range in the centre of that splendid region, placing it in long. about 149° 2' E., and in lat. 26° 23' 32" S. To mark the epoch of this discovery, I named it on my map the Fitz Roy Downs, and the range in the midst of them I distinguish as the Grafton Range; and should your Excellency's name not be Fitz Roy, I shall be content to be able to pay such a mark of respect to the late Governor of New Zealand.

The little river, "Cogoon," which I had followed up contained water in ponds almost to its sources, which arise between the three isolated mountains of Abundance, Bindyego, and Bindango—the latter being connected by a low neck of grassy downs, with small knolls of traprock, to one of the masses of coast range in which the Balonne appeared to have its source. Northward from Bindango, other waters fall to the north-west, and I perceived in the remote distance one gap in a tabular sort of rocky country, through which I hoped the watercourse would lead; but I was disappointed in following it down, for this promising little river, (the "Amby" of the natives,) turned to the southward of west, and I found in the gap only a convenient pass for our carts to the interior country; it was, however, a very remarkable opening, in which were several conical hills, on which grew many strange shrubs, and one of the hills consisted of basalt. I named this St. George's Pass—in hopes it may yet become a point on an important line of route.

The country through which this pass led, consisted in general of sand-stone, where the tops of cliffs were distinguishable from the northward by the luxuriant grass upon them—a rather unusual feature in a sand-stone country.—Southward and back from the pass, much good open forest land appeared around, as the prevailing characteristic. There is, however, a tribe of natives bent on mischief in that neighbourhood.

In the country beyond, I found another channel running north-west, and in it one pond where I wished to encamp; but on my ride forward next day I discovered that my party was upon the only water the little river contained, and that even its channel disappeared in a rich and extensive grassy flat. Just then some smoke arose in the woods before us, which revived my hopes of finding water; and on renewing my search I came upon a river fully as large as the Darling, following to the south-west;—subsequent extensive reconnoissances made thirty miles to the westward and eastward, convinced me that the course of this river (the "Maranoa" of the natives) was not more favourable for the chief object of our journey than it had at first appeared. I found indeed to the westward and northward of the Sand-stone Ranges, a well diversified country, with abundance of grass, some water, and finely shaped hills, in groups, and also detached cones. But the river, leaving that lower country, forced its way amongst rocky cliffs, where its course was traceable by the open ground along its banks, to be steadily south-west, and receiving of course, the River "Amby," which had turned also in the same direction.

Mr. Kennedy with the main body of the party joined me on this river, on the 1st of June, and the very sandy nature of the country before us, and the weakness of our draught oxen, determined me again to proceed in advance with a small party relying chiefly on the horses; but this time I endeavoured to carry with me sufficient provisions to preclude the necessity for the party to be left at the depot, following me further; I determined to trace the river upwards, keeping the right bank, that I might fall in with, and follow up any tributary from the north-west; from various elevations within thirty miles of the depot camp, I had intersected many summits of lofty masses to the eastward, and also those of a line of cones, the general direction of which ran nearly westward, and from these I could extend my survey beyond.

I left the depot camp on the 4th June, taking with me Mr. Stephenson, ten men, all the horses, three light carts, a dray and the best team of bullocks, with four months' provisions, leaving with Mr. Kennedy, sixteen men, all the bullocks, and the remainder of the drays and provisions. I found that two tributaries joined the Maranoa from the west, but they arose in subordinate sandstone ridges, and contained little water; then, in seeking again the main channel, I found it dry and full of sand; water being more readily found in the sandstone gullies, which then enclosed the river, than in the main channel. I then set out on an extensive reconnoissance to the northward and ascending Mount Owen, (one of the cones in the range already mentioned.) I perceived that the main channel of the Maranoa came through this range from mountains beyond it. The most lofty part of these mountains was remarkable for its extreme flatness, and, having since intersected its salients from many points in my route, so as to determine its true place, I have named it Buckland's Table Land. Beyond Mount Owen, I fell in with another river falling north-west in the midst of sandstone cliffs and gullies, but I found soon that it turned south-west leading through fine open plains into a lower interior country.

Continuing my ride north-west, while my party were still refreshing the horses in a grassy gully overlooking the Maranoa, I again found a chain of volcanic summits connected with a mass of table land, which I named (finding none of the aborigines there) Hope's Table Land. Between it and the still higher range towards the coast lay a very broken sandstone country, which was difficult to pass through with carts, but when I had at length discovered beyond Hope's Table Land, the head of another promising river falling to the north-west, we soon found a way, through which my indefatigable party led the carts and bullock team without the least damage. Mount P. P. King, a pointed volcanic cone, long. 147° 37' 40" E., lat. 25° 9' 10" S., is near the head of that river, which we followed down until it turned, as all the others had done, to the south-west, and I was again obliged to halt, and take a long ride to the northward, where another chain of summits extended westward nearly under the 25th parallel of latitude. Beyond that range, whose summits are all of trap rock, I found deep sandstone gullies; and in following down one of these, I reached an extensive grassy valley, which terminated on a reedy lake in a more open country. The lake was supplied by