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My dear Bro

I rec'd your letter full of  
and I am much indebted to you  
for the kind information about  
Lobby Column Soap Stone and  
the block I was anxious to know  
the intrinsic value about. I prepared  
myself when of returning home to  
England I have altered my mind  
my future with continued per-  
secution is entirely changed -  
I have been walking about the  
plowies for nearly 12 months not  
winning one shilling I thought  
alter my position of life by  
the information <sup>I wanted</sup> sought for you  
but does it amount to nothing



George Fiddes  
L. M. Smith

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MDCCLXV.

LEWIS & CLARK

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JOURNAL

OF

J. G. MACDONALD,

ON AN

EXPEDITION FROM PORT DENISON

TO THE

GULF OF CARPENTARIA

AND BACK.

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Brisbane :  
PUBLISHED BY GEORGE SLATER, QUEEN STREET ;  
MELBOURNE : G. ROBERTSON.

PRINTED BY T. P. PUGH, BRISBANE.  
MDCCCLXV.

TO

HIS EXCELLENCY

Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G. C. M. G.,

GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND,

WHOSE ENLIGHTENED AND LIBERAL SUPPORT

HAS ALWAYS BEEN BESTOWED UPON ALL PROJECTS

LIKELY TO FURTHER THE INTERESTS,

OR ADVANCE THE SETTLEMENT,

OF THAT NOBLE COLONY,

THIS WORK

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

J. G. MACDONALD.





## PREFACE.

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THIS journal is published not from any desire that I have to be considered the maker of that great bore, a "big book," nor with the idea that I can base upon my *brochure* any claim to authorship; but simply in the hope that the "plain unvarnished tale" of my doings in the bush will afford a hint to those who may hereafter follow my tracks in the search for new country. I wish it to be distinctly understood that a small party properly organised can do the work of exploring with greater certainty and ease than a large one. Expensive equipment is unnecessary and injudicious; the great object of an explorer being,—not ostentatious parade of men and horses, requiring heavy supplies to be carried with them, and abundant grass and water at every camping-place,—but celerity of movement, for which a light party—whose needs are small, who can pass rapidly over difficulties of drought or flood, and mark the topographical features of the country, without any necessity for delay to enjoy the "fat of the land," or to mourn over the absence of it—are especially adapted.

Everything herein contained was jotted down at the time and place stated, and, though appearing somewhat in the rough, I give it for what it is worth. The best recommendation of the journal is, that it illustrates the chart of my route, upon which the greatest reliance may be placed; for I have had it carefully checked off and verified, and the mapping has been tested by acknowledged scientific authority.

As subsequent travellers may desire some information upon the geological features of the country, I have taken the liberty to add Mr. A. C. GREGORY'S summary of its characteristics in this respect.

The Meteorological Observations at Port Denison are appended to indicate the nature of the climate in the north. They were regularly taken at my own residence, and may be of some slight value in the absence of any other accurate record. The average of the year was compiled from the daily tables by my friend, Mr. SMALLEY, the Government Astronomer of New South Wales.

JOHN GRAHAM MACDONALD.

*Adelaide Point, Port Denison,  
February, 1865.*

# JOURNAL.

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AUGUST 11, 1864.—Left Adelaide Point at 6.30 a.m., and at 8.30 got to Salisbury Plains, distance twenty-eight miles, at which place I overtook the pack-horses. Started again at 9.45, and at 7.45 p.m. reached Inkermann; distance from Salisbury Plains, forty-five miles; total distance this day, seventy-three miles.

August 12 to 16.—At Inkermann, preparing cattle and drays to start for the Gulf.

August 17.—Left Inkermann at 10.30 a.m., and at 6 p.m. got to the Haughton. Distance this day, forty-two miles.

August 18.—Left camp at 7 a.m., and halted one and a-half hour at a lagoon near the Fanning Range to rest the horses. Reached Messrs. Cunningham's, Burdekin Downs, at 6.10 p.m. Distance this day, forty-six miles.

August 19.—In consequence of some of the horses having strayed, I did not start till 8 a.m., and at 5.10 p.m. I arrived at Allingham's Creek, at cross roads. Distance this day, thirty-four miles. At this place I overtook No. 3 mob of cattle.

August 20.—Proceeded at 6.5 a.m. At 12.5 p.m. encamped at Stockyard Creek. Distance this day, twenty-four miles.

August 21.—On the move at 5.45 a.m. At 9.30 crossed Perry's Range. At 11.45 got to Clark's Creek, at which place I overtook Messrs. Jardine's party, and halted to rest. At 1.10 p.m. started again, and at 6.5 p.m. encamped at a lagoon near Stenhouse's cattle station. Distance this day, forty-three miles.

August 22.—Started at 6.15 a.m. At 10 halted at Christmas Creek to rest. At 12.5 p.m. again proceeded, and at 4.5 encamped at a lagoon near Messrs. Firth and Atkinson's. Distance this day, thirty miles.

August 23.—Proceeded at 7 a.m., having been delayed by shoeing horses. At 12.30 p.m. got to Old Camp on Quartz Creek, at which place I intended resting, but in this I was disappointed, in consequence of there being no water. At 4.35 encamped at a lagoon seven miles from M'Kinnon's station. Distance this day, thirty-eight miles.

August 24.—Proceeded at 5.50 a.m. At 11 o'clock halted to rest. Started again at 1.5 p.m., and at 5.45 got to Carpentaria Downs Station. Distance this day, thirty-seven miles

August 25 to 30.—Engaged in station matters.

#### Starting Point of Expedition.

August 31.—Carpentaria Downs, situate on eastern bank of supposed River Lynd, but which situation at present appears doubtful, as by observations taken and kindly handed to me by Mr. Surveyor Richardson, the position of the station appears thus: Latitude,  $18^{\circ} 37' 10''$  S.; Longitude,  $144^{\circ} 3' 30''$  E., showing it to be different from what we had previously supposed. From the position thus fixed I take my starting point.

Proceeded at 2 o'clock p.m., my party consisting of Mr. G. Robertson, second in command; Robert Bowman, horsekeeper; Charley, an aboriginal black boy of the Brisbane tribe; with seventeen horses, and two months' rations. Crossed the Lynd at 2.30; in five miles crossed the Copperfield, and at 5.20

encamped on a western branch of it. Distance from station, eight miles; direction W.

Sept. 1.—Camp 1, situate on a branch of the Copperfield. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m. At 8.15 made W. by S. three miles. At 9.5 W. by N. two miles, over slightly broken country; then W. one and a-half mile to a spring creek; and at 1 p.m. W. seven miles, to a sandy creek, and encamped. Distance this day, thirteen and a-half miles.

Sept. 2.—Camp 2, situate on right bank of Sandy Creek. Proceeded at 7.30 a.m. At 9.15 made W. by S., four and a-half miles, to broken country and scrub, which necessitated our halting to ascertain the best track, as our horses, being very heavily laden, would not stand forcing through the scrub; then SW. one mile, where I got a view, showing that I had a dark, broken, scrubby ravine in my course. Returned to party, and proceeded again at 11.30, and followed down the ravine with some difficulty for two miles, at which place it opened out for half-a-mile further, when I found myself at the edge of an immense ravine, the practicability of which, even for wallabies, I doubted. I have named this ravine Torsach's Glen, and as I do not like retracing my steps, I inteed camping here, as we can obtain sufficient water from holes in the rocks for the horses by using the canvas bucket. Distance this day, seven miles. Accompanied by Charley, I proceeded to ascertain the best course. Steered SW. one mile through scrub; followed the spur of a range in a WNW. direction for two miles, until I was stopped by its terminating abruptly. From this place I got a view, and saw clear country to the westward, but rather broken, probably quartz ridges, for which I intend steering to-morrow by following down a glen into which I noticed a passage. At six o'clock returned to camp.

Sept 3.—Camp 3, situate near Torsach's Glen. In consequence of the horses having strayed we did not leave till 8.15 a.m. Made W. by S. one mile, and followed down the glen. At 10 o'clock SW. four

miles, to a large deep sandy watercourse, in which there were numerous oak and tea trees. At 10.30 came to quartz ridges, then changed my course to WNW. one and a-half mile; then over quartz ranges, averaging WSW., till 3 p.m., when we came upon a small spring, in which, by digging, we obtained sufficient water for all purposes, and encamped. Distance from last camp, about nineteen miles. After resting an hour I, accompanied by Charley, ascended a high range. At 5 o'clock, after some difficulty, obtained a view. I saw a complete barrier of ranges and broken country to the westward. Charley climbed a tree in order if possible to get a further view, but said the country was so bad it frightened him altogether. "Suppose we get in there," said he, "we never come back again." At 6.15 returned to camp.

Sept. 4.—Camp 4, situate at a spring. I, accompanied by Charley, started, steering NW. At 7.20 a.m. made four miles to a large watercourse, running SW. through a gap in the range, and in which there is plenty of water, with sandy channel about 150 yards wide. I have called this the Robertson, in honor of my partner, the Hon. John Robertson, late Minister for Lands, New South Wales. We then ascended a range, from which I traced the course of the Robertson for one mile, running westerly till met by ranges, where it turns WNW. for one and a-half mile, at which place ranges and broken country interrupt a further view, but I could see an apparent opening in the ranges to the SW., through which I shall endeavour to obtain a passage. Returned to camp, and led the party on to the Robertson, at which place I encamped, as there are plenty of green reeds on the banks of the river for the horses, and I wish to have the day before me in facing the ranges. To-morrow I shall probably make the River Gilbert, which, in a straight line, I suppose to be not more than ten miles from this. Distance from last camp, four miles.

Sept. 5.—Camp 5, situate on right bank of the Robertson. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m. Followed down

the river one and a-half mile and crossed ; then over ironbark ridges one mile, to a large creek, which I had previously noticed joined the Robertson below where we crossed ; then passed over miserable broken country, of a sandstone formation. At 10.45 came to a spring creek, with running stream ; watered the horses and proceeded over almost impracticable glens, both rocky and precipitous ; in one of these the horses had to jump from a shelf of rocks over six feet high. At 1.15 p.m. made ten and a-half miles and struck the Gilbert, at which place we had to follow the bed of the river down, there being no practicable road on either side. At 2 o'clock saw a strap lying partly buried in the sand, and upon examining it found the tree of a pack-saddle attached ; maker's name, "Scarborough, Adelaide," stamped on leather. I suppose the saddle to be one of the articles left by Mr. M'Kinlay during his inward route from Carpentaria. On the left bank of the river I noticed a gum tree with a square patch taken out. I am rather surprised that the natives have not interfered with the iron of the saddle tree, as, judging from their tracks in the vicinity, they must be rather numerous. Marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ , and proceeded down the river. At 3.15 made three miles and encamped. Distance this day, fifteen miles.

Sept. 6.—Camp 6, situate on left bank of the Gilbert. Proceeded at 7.15 a.m., following the bed of the river, and at 8.15 saw a creek coming in on right bank, probably the spring creek which we crossed in the ranges. At 8.30 banks becoming more open, which enabled us in places to leave the bed of the river. At 12.15 p.m. river turned NE. by N. ; at 1.30 WNW. At 2 o'clock encamped on the left bank. Distance this day by course of river, twenty miles. Of the country over which I have travelled to-day there is none available.

Sept. 7.—Camp 7, situate on left bank of Gilbert. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m. At 7 o'clock passed a bluff on right bank, the course of the river being NNW.

At 8.30 I left the party going down the river and ascended a ridge, from which I can see a gorge, bearing SE., through which I suppose the waters of the Robertson flow. At 9 o'clock made seven miles to junction of a large watercourse, coming in on the right bank of the river, which I suppose to be the Robertson. Marked a gum tree  $\widehat{M}$  on the left bank, opposite the junction, and proceeded with the party. I now noticed the character of the river to change, the banks being more thickly clad with trees, amongst which the Leichhardt and fig were numerous, the course of the river being NW. by N., but averaging N. by W., till 1 o'clock, when we encamped. Distance this day, seventeen miles. There is a mountain on the right bank of the river, bearing SE. by S., which I have called Mount Ross, after Andrew Ross, Esq., late of Brisbane. In the afternoon I sent Mr. Robertson and Charley to Mount Ross, to get a view to the westward, and they report as follows:—"Ascended the mountain, from which can be traced a large watercourse, distant about fifteen miles, the direction of which appears to be about NW., and coming first out of very broken country, which gradually gets more open until it becomes quite level; to the NE. there is a range upon the right bank."

Sept. 8.—Camp 8, situate on left bank of the Gilbert. Proceeded at 6.40 a.m. In one and three-quarter mile ridges close on the right bank, the river running N. At 7.30 descried a number of natives, who upon seeing us disappeared. We then crossed a creek and followed the bed of the river down for one mile, the banks being clear, without timber at this point, but soon assume their old character. At 8.30 NW. by N., keeping out of the river to cut off a bend; passing swamps, in which there are numbers of ducks and other wild fowl. At 10.30 touched upon an anabranch and followed it down for one mile, to where it joined the main stream. At 11.40 turned W. by S., and at 1 o'clock came to a lagoon near the left bank of river, where we encamped. Distance this



day seventeen miles. The country over which we have travelled consists of open box flats, and in places clear ridges, on which I noticed for the first time triodia and salt bush growing together. The old grass here has evidently been burned some time, as the flats are getting green, and in places afford nice feed for horses. I have also noticed to-day numerous galars and cockatoo parrots. The only one of the party who had previously been on this river has not been able to recognise it, and he asserts positively that the Gilbert is still 20 miles to the westward, but his confidence in that opinion is becoming shaken.

Sept. 9.—Camp 9, situate on lagoon near left bank of the Gilbert. Started at 6.40 a.m., following down course of the river; in two miles crossed a watercourse at its junction with an anabranch of the river. On the left bank is a mountain, which I have called Mount Single, after Mr. Henry Single, of Maitland. At 8 o'clock passed three small lagoons, close to which there were some clear round hills; the course of the river SW. by W. At 9 o'clock changed to NW. At 9.15 came to a large watercourse, at the junction of which there is a splendid sheet of water. I have called this the Langdon, after J. C. Langdon, Esq., J.P., of Ellendale, near Geelong. At 9.25 proceeded down the river, crossing sandstone ridges for three and a-half miles; the country now becoming more open, but rather sandy for one mile, to where it improves. At 11.45 crossed an anabranch. At 12.15 p.m. re-crossed, and halted 15 minutes to water horses. At 12.40 passed a large lagoon under some stony ridges. At 1.30 passed a number of natives, and again crossed the anabranch, following down left bank of river; and at 2.30 camped. Distance this day, 24 miles. The country consists principally of box flats, the first 15 miles over which we passed being the best. The natives here appear rather inquisitive, and are watching us from the opposite bank of the anabranch, anxious apparently to come up.

Sept. 10.—Camp 10, situate on left bank of Gilbert.

In consequence of some of the horses having strayed, we did not leave camp till 7.10 a.m. At this camp I leave one of my favorite hacks, "Defiance," on account of his lameness, he having bruised his foot in crossing the ranges. Followed down the left bank, and passed over clear flats. At 10 o'clock made nine miles to where we crossed the river at junction with the anabranch; stony ridges coming close into the left bank; crossed to the right bank, the river becoming apparently much wider. At 12.40 crossed an anabranch, and at 1.40 made nine miles to a swamp, at which place we encamped. Distance this day, 18 miles. The country over which we have passed on this bank is open and fairly grassed, similar to that which I have seen on right bank of the supposed Lynd River.

Sept. 11.—Camp 11, situate on right bank of Gilbert. I buried some spare horse shoes. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m., following down right bank. At 9.45 made nine miles, where we crossed the river. At 12.30 p.m. the country became very low, and subject to inundations, the river here having several channels and numerous anabranches. At 2.30 made sixteen miles to a dry plain, where I encamped on the left bank of an anabranch, a large watercourse coming in on right bank of the Gilbert, the direction of which was traced by Mr. Robertson and Charley, and which I named the Byrnes, in honor of James Byrnes, Esq., J.P., Parramatta, N.S.W. Distance this day, twenty-five miles. The river below the camp is running, and considerably over half a mile in width.

Sept. 12.—Encamped, resting ourselves and horses, Mr. Robertson acting as cook in the pastry line.

Sept. 13.—Camp 13, situate on left bank of an anabranch of Gilbert. Proceeded at 6.40 a.m., passing over plains two and a-half miles, to a large lagoon, near which I saw a large native camp, with a round thatched house, very neatly done. At 8.15 made two miles WNW., having to vary our course in consequence of the scrub being very thick. At 9.10 made three miles WSW. At 10.30 W. by N., three and a-half miles, and

halted to adjust one of the packs. At 10.55 made one mile to a watercourse, on the banks of which are pandanus trees. As I considered it doubtful whether we should obtain water after leaving this within a reasonable distance, we unpacked and rested the horses. Proceeded at 12.15 p.m. WSW., and in one mile came to thick scrub, in getting through which we had to vary our course WNW. for two miles. At 1 o'clock made W. by S. one and a-half mile. At 2 o'clock three miles. At 3.10 WSW. three and a-half miles. At 3.40 made two miles down a watercourse, passing a swamp, in which there was grass ten feet high, and near which we came upon a pond with a little water, where we encamped. Distance to-day by these courses, about twenty-five miles. I have called this Pigeon Pond, from the great number of those birds which have come here to water to-night. Charley killed ten birds in two shots. There is not more than three inches of water in the pond, and it has rather a disagreeable taste, and a greenish color, from the numerous wild fowl that frequent it. I find the horses will not drink; but we are glad to put up with the water with all its impurities, as I intend retaining that which we have in the water bags as long as possible, it being probable that we may require it more than we do at present before we get a further supply. The country over which we have travelled to-day consists, with the exception of the first four miles, of poor sandy soil, with scrub, quite unavailable; that near the Gilbert consists of flat plains, fairly grassed.

Sept. 14.—Camp 14, situate on Pigeon Pond. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m. At 7.10 made WSW. two miles; at 8.15 four miles, skirting the scrub; at 9 o'clock two miles, to where we had to turn WNW. for one mile. At 11 o'clock made W. seven miles, the country becoming more open; at 11.30 three miles to a small creek; followed it down W. by N. half a mile, to where we found water and encamped. Distance this day, nineteen and a-half miles. Country similar to that described in yesterday's journal.

Sept. 15.—Camp 15, situate on right bank of a creek, which I have called Astronomy Creek, on account of one of the party volunteering a lecture on astronomy. Proceeded at 7 a.m. SW., through open scrub. At 8.30 made six miles, and crossed a watercourse, running WNW. At 11 o'clock made seven miles to a fine chain of lagoons, and halted to rest. Upon the bank of one of the lagoons I noticed a number of fish lying, which had just been taken out of the water by the natives. I have called these Gray's Lagoons, after Robert Gray, Esq., of Ipswich. Started again at 12.45 p.m. At 1.30 made two and a-half miles to a watercourse, in which there were some large dry holes. At 1.40 crossed a dry creek, running W. At 2.30 made two and a-half miles to a swamp, where we encamped. Distance this day, eighteen miles. The country passed over consists of open scrub, wooded principally with tea and severn trees, the only clear parts being near the watercourses.

Sept. 16.—Camp 16, situate at a swamp. Proceeded at 6.40 a.m. At 8 o'clock made S.W. by W. five miles to thick scrub, then turned W. by S. At 9.45 made five miles to a lagoon, near which there are ridges, grassed with triodia. At 10.15 came to a river, which I suppose to be the Norman or Bynoe, in which there are large deep reaches of water. Ran it up for one mile, to where we came upon a fine looking native in the act of spearing a fish, and who did not see us until we were within a few yards of him. He appeared rather surprised for a few seconds, but immediately seemed to gain confidence, for he coolly advanced towards us a few feet, picked up his spears, and walked away, looking back over his shoulder at us. Charley, who at the time, I think, did not believe in my letting him pass, afterwards expressed admiration of the native's bearing, saying he liked that fellow. Marked a tree  $\overline{m}$ , and crossed the river at a rocky ford, then up left bank. At 11.45 made three miles, averaging about SSW.; then, leaving the river, turned WSW., passing over scrubby

ridges. At 3.10 made ten miles, at which place we came to undulating rich country, some of the finest I have seen. At 4.15 made four miles to the Flinders, ran it up for one mile, and there encamped. Distance this day, thirty miles. The water here is quite salt, being within the tidal influence, but we obtained water (although rather brackish) for use in a creek near the camp.

Sept. 17.—Camp 17, situate on right bank of Flinders River. Marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ , and crossed the river at a sandy ford. The river here is 300 paces wide. Proceeded WSW., and at 10 a.m. made seven miles over fine rich plains. At 10.10 crossed a watercourse, which I called Armstrong's Creek, after Mr. P. Armstrong, late of Geelong, and now of Queensland. At 10.15 made half a mile, passing through a strip of thinly timbered country. At 10.30 one mile to a watercourse. At 10.40 plains extending N. and S. as far as the eye can reach. At 12.45 p.m. made seven miles to a watercourse, at which I halted, and sent Charley to look for water. He returned at 1.15, having succeeded in finding some higher up the course, in a rocky hole, one mile S. Upon moving up we found a native camp, but the water being scarce in this locality, we took possession and pitched our tent. Distance this day, sixteen and a-half miles. The country over which we have travelled consists of fine plains, which, however, in the wet season, must be rather flat for sheep. Of the grasses I cannot give a fair description, as there was scarcely a blade to be seen, owing to the long drought and to their having been recently burnt; but I imagine the country is naturally heavily grassed, and that it would improve much by stocking. Near our camp I observed a box tree marked L, which I suppose to be one of poor Leichhardt's. It has evidently been cut a number of years, and the mark is nearly grown out.

Sept. 18.—Camp 18, situate at a rocky pond. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m.; made one mile through open scrub. At 7.35 made two and a-half miles over fine

plains and a narrow belt of timber. At 7.45 crossed a watercourse, running NE. At 8.30 made two and a-half miles. At 9 o'clock one and a-half mile, passing over country thinly timbered with broad-leaved box; then over fine undulating plains. At 9.40 crossed a watercourse, with large dry holes. At 10 o'clock made three and a-half miles. At 10.30 crossed another large watercourse, with numerous reeds. In one mile ascended table-topped ridges, apparently of volcanic origin, being composed of scoria, on it a frothy surface, rising abruptly from the plain about forty feet. From the top of one of the hills I got an extensive view. In this locality the scenery is truly beautiful. I have called this Iuverleigh, after a place of that name in Victoria, which it closely resembles. Proceeded again at 11, passing over stony ridges, grassed with triodia. At 12 noon made three and a-half miles, passing numerous conical-shaped ant-hills, to a large creek, on which we halted to rest. Proceeded again at 2.15 p.m., and at 3.30 made five miles over similar country to last described. At this stage I called a halt, to remove one of the packs. Proceeded again at 3.40, crossing a rocky creek, with a wide gravelly bed; and at 4.15 made two miles to a watercourse, in which there are some fine holes, and encamped. Distance this day, twenty-two and a-half miles. Direction, W. by S.

Sept. 19. — Camp 19, situate on watercourse. In consequence of our not having a good camp, proceeded at 6.45 a.m. Ascended a stony ridge, from which I got a view of scrubby country to the westward, which caused me to change my course to SW. At 8 made three miles over triodia ridges; at 9.30 four miles over similar country; at 10.20 three miles to a watercourse, then passing over fine plains. At 11 made two miles to a large watercourse, bearing extensive flood marks, and upon the right bank of which we encamped. Distance this day, twelve miles. Direction, SW. In making up my bearing and distances, I bring myself to a point about two miles

south of Landsborough's track, and four miles east of the Leichhardt River; but as I have no means of taking observations, my calculations are made by dead reckoning, consequently I may be a little out.

Sept. 20.—Camp 20, situate on right bank of large watercourse, a tributary of the Leichhardt. Proceeded at 6.40 a.m., and crossed watercourse; at this point its character is similar to that of the Nogoa River; then SW., over fine, rich plains, with salt bush. At 8.50 made six and a-half miles, to where we struck the Leichhardt, which is here a fine-looking river, beautifully shaded by drooping tea, Leichhardt, and other trees; then up the stream about SSW. for nine miles, to a stony ford, where there was some fine green grass, and encamped. Distance this day, fifteen and a-half miles. Accompanied by Charley, I crossed the river, and proceeded in a westerly direction, passing over fine rich plains, of chocolate soil, and returned to camp at 5.40 p.m. The country over which we have travelled to-day consists of fine rich plains, the varieties of the grasses on which are numerous.

Sept. 21.—Camp 21, situate on right bank of Leichhardt River. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m. Leaving Mr. Robertson in charge of party, with instructions to go up the western bank of the river, I, accompanied by Charley, took a southerly direction, over fine rich plains. At 8.20 made six miles, and touched upon a watercourse, in which there was a fine rocky lagoon. At 9.15 made three and a-half miles over country similar to that last described; then passing through a belt of timber, at 9.30 made one mile to a watercourse, on the right bank of which I marked a gum tree  $\widehat{M}$ . Proceeded at 9.40, and at 10 made one mile SSE. up watercourse, passing a belt of boree scrub. At 11 o'clock made three and a-half miles over the finest plains, with a great variety of grasses, quite equal in richness to the far famed Cullinlaringo and Fernlees stations on the Nogoa River. Next through belts of boree scrub, one and a-half

mile, to the top of a thinly timbered low ridge, from which I got a view of the surrounding country, which consisted of plains, extending from NE. to N., and westerly and southerly to SE.; marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ , and proceeded at 11.50, in a westerly direction, over stony country, for one mile; then over level plains for two and a-half miles, to a belt of timber; and at 1.15 made one and a-half mile over plains to the river, on the right bank of which I marked a gum tree  $\widehat{M}$ . The river here has not the same character as it bears lower down, the trees not having the same foliage, nor is the channel so well watered. We crossed, and proceeded upwards for half a mile, to where I found Mr. Robertson and the rest of the party encamped. He reports as follows:—"Course of river averaging SW. by S. from camp 21 for six miles, to where we touched upon a splendid sheet of water. Were it not for the banks being so steep, this would be a capital site for a station. Next proceeded on for four miles, the river still holding large reaches of water; for five miles further to the camp, where there are only occasional ponds." Distance by river, fifteen miles. The country over which I have travelled to-day consists of fine, rich, undulating plains, being some of the finest sheep country I have seen in Queensland.

Sept. 22.—Camp 22, situate on left bank of Leichhardt River. Proceeded at 6.15 a.m., W., over fine, rich, slightly undulating plains. At 8 made four miles to a watercourse. At 10 seven miles over similar country to that last described; then passing through a belt of box timber for one mile, again came to well grassed plains. In one mile crossed a large, deep, dry, sandy watercourse, shaded by Leichhardt and other trees, from the character of which I should not think that it is well watered; on the left bank marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ . Its direction here appears to be NNE. Proceeded again at 11.20. At 12.10 made three miles over fine rich plains to a watercourse, in which there was a pond, and encamped. Distance this day, 16 miles.



I have called this Consolation Creek, in consequence of one of the party being of opinion that nine of the horses will shortly knock up. At this camp Mr. Robertson shot a pigeon of a kind I had never previously seen—a bronze-wing, with mauve colored breast, light green back, slate colored body, a long tail tinged with green, and a crest of black feathers four inches long. It measured from beak to tip of tail 12 inches, and across the wings 18 inches.

Sept. 23.—Camp 23, situate on the right bank of Consolation Creek. Started at 6.20 a.m. At 8.40 made seven miles to a shallow watercourse. At 10.50 seven miles further to a fine river, which I suppose to be the Gregory, and which at this point is divided into two channels, one of which has a rapid stream of clear water. The country near the river is thinly timbered with bauhenia, stunted box, broad-leaved Moreton Bay ash, bloodwood, and acacia. The banks of the river are lined with pandanus and cabbage tree palms. I noticed, also, a line of large dead tea trees. Crossed river, and halted on left bank to rest. I, accompanied by Charley, went out in a westerly direction. After passing through a belt of timber extending one mile back from the river, came upon fine plains, thinly wooded with stunted box, excorecaria, and terminalis; then turned in a northerly direction for one mile, and returned to resting place; marked a tree  $\mu$  on the left bank of the river, and proceeded with the party down the river. In one mile the two streams join, forming a fine reach of water in a wide channel, the banks of which are thickly lined with pandanus. Then made by river NNW. one mile, E. by N. half a mile, then N. one mile, at which point we formed our twenty-fourth camp. Distance this day, seventeen and a-half miles. The country over which I have passed may be thus described:—Fourteen miles to the river fine rich plains, on which are the most fattening grasses; amongst them I noticed salt bush, roley poley, and barley grass. The country on this side of the river is of a similar description,

with the exception of that near the bank, which is rather sandy, and not so richly grassed as it is further away.

Sept. 24.—Camp 24, situate on left bank of Gregory River. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m., following down the course of the River; made N. one mile, NE. by E. half a mile, N. two miles; then, leaving party, turned NW., over fine plains. At 8.20 came to a large watercourse, running NE., with a wide, dry, sandy bed, having numerous gum trees on its banks. I suppose this to be Mr. Landsborough's Macadam Creek. I followed it down for a quarter of a mile, and came to a large waterhole, at which I noticed numerous flock pigeons; then turned W. by N. for one mile, over fine plains, and from thence NE. to the river, and joined my party. Mr. Robertson reports the river as "running in a northerly direction to this point. At 8.30 made two and a-half miles, to where the river divides. At 9.40 four miles. At 10.5 crossed a large watercourse, having been delayed by one of the horses falling into a hole. At 10.30 made one mile." We then proceeded down the river. At 11 made one and a-half mile, to where the banks become clear about 40 feet above the level of the water, with plains on each side. At 11.30 we made NW. one and a-half mile, to a beautiful site for a station, where the banks of the river are high, with clear thinly timbered plains on both sides. There is a splendid reach of water (the northern end of which is accessible), shaded by drooping tea, Leichhardt, and other beautiful trees; a clump of prettily grown broad-leaved Moreton Bay ash stands on each side of the river. As the day was rather sultry, I halted to rest in the bed of the river, and marked a tree on the left bank  $\hat{m}$ . Proceeded downwards at 2.30 p.m. by the course of the river, and sent Mr. Robertson and Charley down the right bank. At 3 made NNW. one and a-half mile. At 3.50 NW. by W. three and a-half miles, to a shallow anabranch. At 5 made two and a-half miles, crossing several anabranches, the country

becoming low, and in places subject to inundations. At this place we formed our twenty-fifth camp. Distance this day, twenty-one and a-half miles. The watering-place being boggy, one of the horses got fast, and we had some difficulty in hauling him out. The country over which I have travelled consists of fine, rich, thinly timbered plains, the timber in places only showing a few feet above the banks of the river; though here the vegetation is more abundant than higher up. The channel contains long reaches of water, thickly bordered with pandanus. I also noticed quantities of the sweet smelling jasmine. The soil near the bank of the river is not so rich as that further back. Mr. Robertson reports that, "in following down the right bank of the river, he made three and a-half miles to a tree marked by Mr. Landsborough Lt<sup>t</sup> under broad arrow; in two miles crossed the river, and in two miles further came to camp." The country on the right bank is similar to that on the left.

Sept. 25.—Camp 25, situate on the left bank of the Gregory River. As the parched state of the country is beginning to tell on the horses, I intend giving them a rest on the first good grass I come to. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m. At 7.10 made NW. one mile over a thinly timbered plain, subject to inundation, with numerous holes—very bad travelling; then NW. by W. two miles, over similar country, to where there is abundance of green grass. Here I shall form a depôt, and spell the horses for some time. Distance this day, three miles. On examining the river I could find no watering place for the horses, without the risk of their falling into deep holes; but eventually we succeeded in our search for a place which I thought, with a little trouble, and the aid of our tools (tomahawk and shovel) we could make answer. Mr. Robertson and I started our job as navigators at 9.45, and at 10.45 we had the water running into a pond near the bank; at 12.30 it was full, at which a hundred horses could easily drink. In the afternoon I, accompanied by Charley, proceeded WSW. one and

a-half mile, over low plains, crossing several watercourses; then over thinly timbered country, light soil, not well grassed. Returned to camp at 6.15, and ascertained that one of the horses, through the carelessness of the horsekeeper in allowing them to water at a place which I had previously pronounced as dangerous, had got bogged, and crossed the river. After the trouble taken by Mr. Robertson and myself, I certainly felt rather annoyed, and reproved the horsekeeper sharply.

Sept. 26.—I, accompanied by Charley, followed down the course of the river; in one mile came to where it divides into several branches, the banks becoming quite low, and the stream being almost lost in swamps; tall trees, however, still showing along the main channel. At 9.40 we made one mile and tried to cross, but could not do so, the place being too boggy; then half-a-mile, to where the left branch turns SW. by S., but it shortly takes its old course. After crossing several watercourses, some of which I crossed yesterday afternoon, in half-a-mile further we came to a beautiful reach of water, about 80 yards in width; the country on left bank becomes here high and clear. At 10.20 we came to a fine plain, on which I noticed a quantity of long grass like young sorghum, which I suppose to be similar to that spoken of by Mr. Landsborough, and of which I believe, when green, the horses are fond; but as all in the vicinity of Carpentaria is as dry and parched as most of the other grasses, I cannot from my own knowledge form a correct opinion of it. The river again runs in a broad channel. I believe there is still another branch to the eastward. At 11 made two and a-half miles over rich plains, extending to the NW.; then returned to camp.

Sept. 27.—I, accompanied by Charley, ran up the course of the river five miles before we could cross, the banks are so boggy; then travelled over fine plains, made one mile, and crossed a shallow watercourse; in one and a-half mile crossed a narrow deep creek, in

the bed of which were reeds ten feet high; then two miles to a deep creek, shaded by tea and Leichhardt trees, in which there is at this point very little water, though it has the character of a creek in which there should be permanent water. We ran the creek up for a quarter of a mile, where I noticed natives under the shade of some trees; we then crossed and made one mile to a creek of a character similar to that last described, but in which there is a running stream. I suppose this to be Beame's Brook, probably the branch seen by Mr. Robertson (whilst Charley and I were out on an excursion to the westward), leaving the Gregory about eighteen and a-half miles above our present camp. Marked a tree  $\widehat{m}$  on the left bank, and proceeded upwards for two miles in a southerly direction; then, leaving Beame's Brook, steered W., and in one mile struck the creek which I had previously crossed lower down, but which I was surprised to find at this point running strong. I have no doubt it is a branch of Beame's Brook; crossed, and continued in a westerly direction to the Gregory, where I saw a number of natives. The place where we crossed the river was equally as boggy as our crossing lower down. At 6.15 p.m. returned to camp. I am afraid that when leaving this I shall have to take the horses seven miles up the river before I can cross them without the risk of their getting bogged.

Sept. 28.—I intended leaving here to-day, and proceeding on my journey; but as this can only be accomplished by going upwards for seven miles before crossing, and thus working the horses an extra round of fourteen miles, I have resolved upon giving them another day's rest on the green grass, from which they are improving, and, with the assistance of our tomahawk and shovel, intend to make a bridge across the river. I have selected a point near our camp with good approaches, where the channel is deep, and only twenty-eight feet wide. At 6.15 a.m. Mr. Robertson, Charley, and I started to work on the

bridge. At 9.30 I noticed broken reeds and discolored water coming down the stream, and, knowing the horses were up the river feeding, we at once proceeded to ascertain the cause. After going a short distance we found two of the horses in the water swimming about. I supposed that they had fallen in while feeding too near the bank. With the assistance of a rope which I had brought for such contingencies, we got one of them out quickly, but the other, being in low condition, we had a great deal of difficulty with, and it was not till 12.30 p.m. that we got him extricated, and this was only done by main strength, the poor animal being completely powerless from having been in the water so long. This, of course, stopped our bridge-making for a time. We rested for an hour and a-half, and then resumed work at the bridge, which was not very pleasant, for we had to be most of the time in the water, while the sandflies were severely punishing us. At 5.45 we completed the bridge, and crossed one of the horses which we had previously pulled out of the river. I shall not be sorry when we leave this camp, the mosquitos allowing us but little sleep; and what with watching and rising at 4 in the morning, we require all the rest we can get, without being troubled by them.

Sept. 29.—Depôt camp 29, situate on the left bank of the Gregory River. At 7 a.m. crossed our bridge, which answered well; marked a tree  $\hat{m}$ , then proceeded north over fine plains, cutting the bend of the river with a watercourse some distance on our right, which I suppose, from the nature of the country, to be an anabranch. At 9.15 made four and a-half miles over rich plains, the grasses of which were rather long; also quantities of polygonum bush, and crossed another anabranch. At 10 made two and a-half miles over rich undulating plains, with a good description of grasses and salt bush, and touched upon a fine chain of lagoons, at which we watered the horses. Resumed our journey at 10.10 and at 11 made three miles over country similar to that last described;

then NNE. one mile by course of river; then NE. seven miles to an anabranch, on the right bank of which we formed our 30th camp. Distance this day, eighteen miles. The country over which we have passed is of the richest description, but only carrying sufficient timber for a pastoral population; indeed, such is the general character of all the finest country in the neighbourhood of the Gulf. Near our camp there are a few gum trees, which may do for slabs, being the best I have seen for a long distance. In the afternoon I left the party and proceeded in an easterly direction, passing the end of a large lagoon about one mile in length, in which the water was very low, and in one mile further I came to a swamp, with a number of green rushes in the middle, and along the sides Leichhardt trees; it is apparently an old watercourse, which I have no doubt is a branch of Beame's Brook. I tried to cross, but did not succeed, the ground at the sides being very boggy; as I saw a number of natives in the long reeds, and being alone, I thought it better not to run the risk of losing my horse. I then proceeded in a southerly direction for two miles, passing over some thinly timbered country, and from thence in a north-westerly direction. At 6.15 p.m. got back to camp.

Sept. 30.—Camp 30, situate on right bank of anabranch of the Gregory River. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m., by the course of river, NE. for four miles to where the river turns for a short distance NW., and afterwards assumes a different character, caused, I imagine, by its joining the Nicholson; then down the plains five miles, where I turned in a westerly direction and struck the Nicholson, which at this point consists of four large sandy channels, and in the eastern one of which is a running stream, containing, I suppose, the waters of the Gregory; the banks are shaded by oak and drooping tea-tree. Marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$  on the right bank, then leaving my party I crossed the river, but after going a short distance returned. We proceeded at 10.30 in an

easterly direction, and in one and a-half mile touched upon Beame's Brook, at a point where the tide reaches. Here I saw a tree marked V under broad arrow. Followed up the brook for a mile above the tidal influence, at which place I formed my 31st camp; time, 12 noon; distance travelled eleven miles. In the afternoon, accompanied by Charley, I proceeded down the plain in a northerly direction, and struck the Nicholson at a point about four miles below my marked tree, at which place the river assumes a different character, having only one broad channel, containing a splendid sheet of water shaded by oak and tea trees. On the banks I noticed numerous tracks of alligators. Followed down the course of the river NE. by N. for two miles to where it turns N. I then proceeded eastward over fine plains, and afterwards in a southerly direction for three and a-half miles, and touched upon Beame's Brook; then up the brook to camp; time, 6.15 p.m. The country over which we have travelled to-day consists principally of rich thinly timbered plains, on which I noticed stunted box, excorecaria, and white wood. The country between the brook and the Nicholson at a point where they nearly meet is low and in places subject to inundations. I have no doubt that during heavy floods the Nicholson overflows, and that its superabundant waters find their way into the Albert hereabouts. On the eastern bank of the Nicholson I noticed large quantities of roley poley, also a few fine gums for building purposes. Whilst Charley and I were away two of the horses got bogged in the brook, having gone to a bad watering place. Mr. Robertson had great difficulty in getting one of them out, it being as usual a weak animal. The day has been rather warm—to-night the mosquitoes very troublesome.

Oct. 1.—Camp 31, situate on left bank of Beame's Brook. Proceeded at 6.50 a.m. in an ESE. direction over thinly timbered plains, and at 8.10 made three miles to a tributary of the Albert; ran it up for one



and a-half mile, and crossed at a point a little above where the tide reaches. Here I formed my 32nd camp. Distance this day, four and a-half miles. Mr. Robertson and I proceeded down the plain in a northerly direction; at 11.50 made three and a-half miles to where we struck the Albert; then down right bank to a tree marked broad arrow before VIC; then made two miles to where the river turns eastward; and in two miles further crossed a narrow tidal creek; in a quarter of a mile the river turns NW., at which place the eastern bank becomes low, apparently an anabranch taking its former course. At this place I saw a number of natives, who upon seeing us made a yelling noise and disappeared. Marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ ; time, 2 p.m. We next proceeded in a south easterly direction over fine well grassed plains; afterwards in a southerly direction over similar country, and then westerly, and struck the river at the junction of Beame's Brook with the Albert, this being the highest navigable point. I noticed many marked trees hereabouts, one of which was Mr. Gregory's, thus,—N.A. EXPEDITION. Marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ , time, 4.50, and proceeded upwards, and at 6.15 made three miles to the camp, near which there is a good site for a station. The country over which we have travelled to-day consists of rich plains clothed with luxuriant grasses, but they are not so fine as those higher up the river. The chief object of my expedition being completed, I shall commence my retreat to-morrow as quickly as the condition of the horses will permit, as I expect the parties whom I started with the cattle will be waiting at Capentaria Downs for further instructions how to proceed.

#### Commencement of Return Journey.

Oct. 2.—Camp 32, situate on right bank of a tributary of the Albert. Struck the camp and started on our return journey at 6.30 a.m.; course SE. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. At 8.15 made five and a-half miles over fine rich plains,

thinly timbered with white wood and other trees, and crossed a shallow watercourse; at 9.15 made three miles and a-half over more heavily timbered country; at 10.30, four miles and a-half over fine plains to a shallow watercourse, along the banks of which there is a belt of ex-corecaria; at 1 p.m. made nine miles over similar country to a watercourse like that last mentioned; then six miles over unwooded plains; then four miles over thinly timbered plains to a watercourse; at 4 o'clock made one mile up the watercourse, where we came to water and encamped, this being the first water we have seen since leaving camp, and having been travelling nine and a-half hours, the horses look rather fatigued. Distance this day, about thirty-four miles. The country over which we have travelled consists principally of fine rich plains with salt bush, but very dry. Nearly all the grass has lately been burnt off; in fact, since we have left the Gilbert I do not recollect passing over five miles of country together the grass on which had not been burnt.

Oct. 3.—Camp 1 (return), situate on watercourse, a tributary of the Leichhardt. Proceeded at 6.15 a.m.; course, SE. by E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. At 6.40 made one mile over a plain and struck the Leichhardt River at a flat rocky ford; crossed and encamped on the right bank. The scenery here is very beautiful: a rocky precipitous fall of forty-two feet on the river, and in the immediate neighborhood there are some pretty trees and one of the finest sites for a station that I have seen. Near the camp is a marked tree of Mr. Landborough's (camp 5).

Oct. 4.—Camp 2, situate on right bank of the Leichhardt River. Proceeded at 6.50 a.m., and passing over a sandy flat, slightly wooded with fig and other trees, made ESE. two miles to a large watercourse in which there is a splendid reach of water, and although of a very different character here, I suppose this to be the creek upon which I formed my outward camp No. 20. I ran it up for two miles to where it changed its character, and in one mile

further crossed at my marked tree, camp No. 20. I have called this the Landsborough Creek, in honor of the Hon. William Landsborough, M.L.C., the explorer, who, I think, crossed it near its confluence with the Leichhardt, at which place it has a wide flat rocky bed, without water. At 9.30 made ENE. three miles over plains thinly grassed. At 11.30 made six miles over barren ridges principally grassed with triodia, and wooded with gum tree and severn. At 12 noon made one and a-half mile over a rich flat. At 12.30 p.m. one and a-half mile over open country, with patches of triodia, to a shallow watercourse; then one mile over country thinly timbered to a watercourse, which we followed down for one mile in a northerly direction to water, and encamped. Distance this day, nineteen miles. One of the horses, called "Rarey," is very sick, and I am afraid I shall shortly have to leave him behind.

Oct. 5.—Camp 3, situate on left bank of watercourse, about eighteen miles E. by N. from camp 2. Charley very unwell. Proceeded at 6.40 a.m.; made one mile over an open flat. At 7.40 two miles over ridges lightly timbered with bloodwood, and thinly grassed with occasional patches of triodia, to where we crossed a rocky creek, in which I noticed a spring. At 8.20 one and a-half mile to another creek, bearing high flood marks; in one and a-half mile passed a large lagoon, on which I marked a tree  $\widehat{M}$ ; in a quarter of a mile crossed a deep creek, the banks being precipitous, near the western one of which there is a chain of ponds. At 9.30 made one and a-half mile; then descending the ridges to open country, being the same valley that I named Inverleigh on my outward journey. At 10.20 two miles over thinly timbered country, where the horse that took ill yesterday gave in. Leaving Charley and Bowman to bring him on to the first water, I proceeded with Mr. Robertson half a mile, to where the country becomes more open, and struck a watercourse, which I followed down in a northerly direction in search of water; in doing so

we crossed our outward track. At 10.45 made three and a-half miles, where Mr. Robertson reported water, near which was a patch of fine green grass. Unpacked the horses with the intention of waiting for the remainder of our party, but upon going down to get a drink, to our surprise we found the water quite salt, which was a great disappointment, as I wished to give the horses the benefit of the green feed. Being very thirsty we searched for fresh water, but without success. I suppose this to be the head of Stokes' Morning Inlet. We had no resource but to pack up and resume our journey. At 1 p.m. proceeded in an easterly direction, and at 5.30 made twelve miles over fine country, previously described, to a watercourse upon which I had formed my outward camp No. 18, and within 100 yards of which I struck. Encamped. Distance this day, 24 miles. At 6.10 Charley arrived, having left Bowman distant three and a-half miles from here with his horse knocked up; reports having found a small hole of water, near which he left Rarey.

Oct. 6.—Camp 4, situate at Rocky Pond. At 7 a.m. Bowman arrived. In consequence of his horse having had little to eat last night, I delayed starting till 11.15; course ENE., over fine plains. At 2.30 halted to give horses half an hour's rest on a patch of salt bush. Here I was under the necessity of again giving Bowman a severe reprimanding for his bad temper and ill-using the horses. He certainly is the most eccentric, ill-tempered man I have ever had dealings with, and appears to delight in racing the poor animals about without the slightest occasion; he has already knocked up every horse he has ridden. Should he not improve speedily I shall be compelled to give him a few days on foot, to convince him of his folly. Proceeded again at 3. At 4 had to leave one of the horses knocked up. At 5 struck the Flinders opposite our marked tree. In crossing over saw numerous tracks of alligators. Encamped at our outward camp No. 17. Distance this day, sixteen miles; country previously described.

Oct. 7.—Intend sending back for the horse that knocked up yesterday, and remaining here to-day, as some of the horses are looking very much fatigued; having had little green food is telling upon them. This day has been rather warm, but there is now a cool breeze; in fact, since I have been in the vicinity of Carpentaria we have had cool winds every afternoon, and not unfrequently in the forenoon.

Oct. 8.—Camp 5 and 6, situate on right bank of the Flinders. Proceeded at 6.50 a.m. NE. three miles, passing through occasional patches of scrub, varying from ENE. to E. by N. At 12 o'clock made fourteen miles to the Norman at a point immediately opposite where I struck in my outward track, and crossed the river. We here saw a native, who made a great noise, shaking his weapons, and followed us for some distance. At last I sent Charley to him to endeavour to make him understand that I did not appreciate his company; he took the hint and disappeared. At 12.30 p.m. made three quarters of a mile to a lagoon, where I gave the horses a rest. After unpacking, Charley observed a native watching us at a short distance; upon finding that we were aware of his presence our neighbour went away. At this place I left the horse Champion quite knocked up. I have called this place Champion's Lagoon. Filled our water bags and proceeded at 3.20. At 5.15 made six and a quarter miles E. by N. to a round swamp, on which I saw several emus; I named it Emu Swamp, and encamped. Distance from last camp, twenty-four miles; country previously described.

Oct. 9.—Camp 7, at Emu Swamp. Proceeded ENE, and at 6.15 a.m. made one mile to a water-course. At 8 six miles to a large dry creek; crossed and struck my outward track. At 9 made three miles to Gray's Lagoons; halted to rest, and proceeded again at 11.40, and at 3.45 made thirteen miles to Astronomy Creek; crossed, and encamped near the right bank at a large lagoon. Distance this day, twenty-three miles; country previously described.

Near this Mr. Robertson shot a quantity of ducks. Two natives came within sight of the camp, but upon seeing Charley going towards them they ran off.

Oct. 10.—Camp 8, situate at a lagoon, which I have named Charley's Lagoon, in approbation of his good conduct during the expedition. Whilst Charley was out in search of the horses this morning he suddenly came upon two natives watching our camp from a small watercourse. They were so much afraid on seeing him close to them that, in trying to get away, one ran against the other and both fell. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m. E. by N. for about twelve miles, as I wish to find water; then turned NE., passing through a thick belt of scrub, in which one of the meat bags got torn, causing us to halt. After repairing the bag proceeded again; in two miles came to open country; then four miles to a splendid sheet of water a quarter of a mile long by 60 yards wide, at which we formed our 9th camp. Distance this day, eighteen miles.

Oct. 11.—Camp 9, situate on a large lagoon, which I have called Robertson's, in approbation of my companion's readiness at all times to carry out my instructions. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m. At 8 crossed a watercourse. At 1.20 p.m. made about twenty miles to a watercourse running WNW., in which there is a splendid reach of water. I have called this Maclean's Pond, in honor of Capt. John Maclean, late of Geelong, but now of Melbourne, and master of the Alhambra steamer. Halted to rest the horses, and proceeded again at 2.55. At 3.10 made one and a-half mile to a large lagoon on outward track. At 4 made ENE. two and a-half miles to old camp on Gilbert, and encamped. Distance from last camp, twenty-four miles. The country over which we have travelled to-day is of two classes; the first six miles open and fairly grassed; then thirteen miles over light sandy soil, more thickly timbered, and occasional clumps of pandanus, and patches of scrub; the last three miles small plains fairly grassed.

Oct. 12.—Camp 10, situate on left bank of an ana-

branch of the Gilbert. Proceeded upwards at 6.5 a.m. I regret not having time to explore the river coming in from the eastward, and which I named the Byrnes on my outward track, as I have little doubt that it is the *supposed River Lynd*, and consequently the direct route to Carpentaria Downs Station; but I am in search of a practicable road for drays, and from a view obtained I believe the country some distance up the Byrnes to be very broken and probably unfit for that purpose, however suitable it might be for a bridle track. At 11 made sixteen miles; halted to rest in bed of river, near which place we saw a number of natives. Proceeded at 1.5 p.m., and at 4.10 made nine miles to outward camp No. 11. Distance this day twenty-five miles. Country previously described.

Oct. 13.—Camp 11, situate on the right bank of the Gilbert. Packed up the horse shoes which we buried on the outward journey, and proceeded at 5.40 a.m.; at 8.30 saw a number of natives, who seemed rather anxious to become better acquainted with us, but their anxiety was put an end to by dropping a Terry bullet within a few feet of their leading man, who at once threw down his weapons and fell on his face as if he thought that the safest position; shortly afterwards he got up and ran off. At 8.40 made nine miles, crossed the river, then up left bank; at 12.5 p.m. made ten miles to our 10th outward camp, where I had left my riding horse "Defiance." Distance this day, nineteen miles; country previously described. In the afternoon busy shoeing horses. I had previously sent Charley to look for "Defiance," whose tracks of a recent date we can see near the camp. At 6.15 he returned, having run the tracks to within a short distance of this, and also the tracks of a number of natives.

Oct 14.—Camp 12, situate on the left bank of the Gilbert. At 5.15 sent Charley again on "Defiance's" tracks; at 7.15 he returned, having found the skeleton of the poor animal in the bed of the river, partly

covered by tea-tree bark. We picked some broken spears out of the remains of the horse, which had evidently been killed by the natives. Charley reports having seen the remains of a large native camp of recent date, at which place, he says, there are signs of the occupants having had a great feast—I suppose off the poor horse, for which, should I meet with any of the party, I shall most assuredly chastise them. At this camp we have buried, at a tree marked "Dig five yards S," a packsaddle, spare horse shoes, a water keg, and a few other things, as every lb. is an object now, the horses being very weak. Three of them I intended leaving here to be picked up by the stock party on their way out, but having ascertained the fate of "Defiance," I do not like the idea of leaving other animals to share a similar one; consequently we must take a little more time and endeavour to get them in. Proceeded at 7.30 a.m.; at 1.30 p.m. made seventeen miles to the Langdon, on the right bank of which we formed our 13th camp. In the afternoon shoeing horses. On our way we observed upward tracks of a number of natives, who I suppose were returning from the hippophagous meeting.

Oct. 15.--Camp 13, situate on the right bank of the Langdon, close to its junction with the Gilbert. Proceeded at 5.50 a.m.; at 7.30 passed Mount Single; at 8.30 made seven miles to outward camp No. 9; at 10 made five miles and halted to rest the horses, the day being very warm. Shod one horse and proceeded again at 2.40 p.m.; at 4.35 made five miles and encamped. Distance this day, seventeen miles. We still notice native tracks coming upwards.

Oct. 16.—Camp 14, situate on the left bank of the Gilbert, near which there are some stoney ridges. Proceeded at 6.30 a.m.; and at 8 came upon a number of natives, whose tracks I believe we have been on since leaving "Defiance's" camp, and to whom Charley and I gave a fright. Proceeded again at 8.40., and at 9.15 passed our outward camp No. 8, near Mount Ross; at 12 noon one of the horses knocked up;



leaving one of the party to bring it on, the rest of us crossed on to the right bank of the river and encamped. Distance this day, thirteen miles.

Oct. 17.—Camp 15, situate on the right bank of the Gilbert. Proceeded upwards at 6 15 a.m.; at 7.45 made four miles to the junction of the Robertson and crossed; ran up the left bank in a south-easterly direction for one mile and encamped. Distance this day, five miles. In the afternoon Charley caught a quantity of fish for supper.

Oct. 18.—Camp 16, situate on left bank of the Robertson. Proceeded at 5.45 S. by E., cutting off a bend of the river; at 6.20 touched upon it; at 6.45 made three miles and crossed on to right bank, the river running NW.; at 7 made one mile to a mountain, which I have called Mount Selheim in honor of P. Selheim, Esq., J.P., of Strathmore, Kennedy District; then by course of river; at 7.40 made three miles up right bank to where a high bluff range comes in to left bank; then three-quarters of a mile to a gorge; then up bed of river E. by N. quarter of a mile, passing a remarkable pinnacle of white quartz on the right bank; at 9 made four miles up left bank in a south-easterly direction, at which place we halted to rest. High broken ridges close in this side, the river being about 200 yards wide, beautifully shaded by tea, Leichhardt, fig, oak, and white cedar trees. Shod one of the horses, and proceeded at 1.15 p.m.; in half-a-mile passed the junction of a large creek coming in from ranges on left bank; at 2 made one and three quarters of a mile; passed another large creek with sandy bed; at 3 made two and a-quarter miles to where ranges close in, consequently had to cross to right bank, the river now assuming a different character, the beautiful trees which I had previously noticed having disappeared; then up the right bank SE. for one mile; then ENE. half-a-mile to our outward camp No. 5. Distance this day eighteen miles; general course of river NW.

Oct. 19.—Camp 17, situate on right bank of the

Robertson. I am suffering from the effects of a fall which I got yesterday in going through long reeds down the river bank. Proceeded at 6.45 a.m. up the bed of the river NE. through a gorge; at 7.25 made two miles to where the river makes a short turn to the eastward, but again turns quickly to the north; at 7.45 made one mile to where we crossed; then steered NE., which enabled us to cut off a bend of the river, and in one mile further again crossed; then over stoney ridges; at 9 made two and a-half miles and crossed rocky watercourse; at 10.15 made two and a-half miles to a watercourse similar to last; and at 10.45 one and a-half mile to another watercourse, at which we halted to rest, one of the horses shewing symptoms of knocking up. Resumed our journey at 12.30 p.m.; at 1.15 made two miles N. by E. to river; ran it up for one mile in a north-easterly direction and encamped. Distance this day, about fourteen miles.

Oct. 20.—Camp 18, situate on left bank of the Robertson. Still suffering from effects of fall. In consequence of some of our horses having strayed did not leave camp till 7.30 a.m.; then NE. by E., and at 8 made one and a-half mile over stoney ridges; saw a remarkably high bluff rocky mountain bearing E. by S., distant four miles, which I have called Mount Bonsey, in honor of W. H. Bonsey, Esq., P.M., of Geelong; then down the ridges, crossed a branch of the Robertson coming from the SE., and in one mile further touched upon the north-eastern branch; ran it up for half-a-mile to ranges, at which place it divides, one branch coming from the north and the other from the eastward; crossed the northern branch and encamped, as I wish to ascertain if a practicable road for drays exists from the head of this branch over the ranges. Distance this day, three miles. 6.15 p.m., no possibility of getting a road up this branch, as it heads out of very broken country with gorges.

Oct. 21.—Camp 19, situate on right bank north-eastern branch of the Robertson. Proceeded at 6.35

a.m. in a southerly direction ; at 7.10 Mount Bonsey bearing E. ; at 8.30 made five miles over stoney ridges to a rocky creek, and from thence by an easterly course up the creek, and ascended the range by outward track ; at 10 made three miles to the top. I have called this McKinlay's Range, in honor of John McKinlay, Esq., the explorer, of Adelaide. At 10.30, one mile passing outward camp No. 3, at Torsach's Glen ; then up watercourse for half-a-mile, and halted to rest ; proceeded at 12.5 p.m., and at 1 made two miles through scrub to top of ridge ; at 2.40, four miles to Sandy Creek, and encamped. Distance this day, fifteen and a-half miles.

Oct. 22.—Camp 20, situate on Sandy Creek. Proceeded at 5.30 a.m. ; in half-a-mile passed No. 2 outward camp. At 8 made eight miles to Spring Creek, at which place we found some fine grass, and we left two horses, one of which we have had great difficulty in getting so far. At 9 made three miles to a spring, at which we halted to rest, and proceeded again at 12. At 12.50 p.m. made three miles to No. 1 outward camp, and at 4 eight miles to Carpentaria Downs Station, from which we have made the trip out and back in fifty-three days. Distance this day, twenty-two miles.

#### At Carpentaria Downs Station.

Oct. 23 to Nov. 13.—Engaged at Station mustering and inoculating cattle previous to their departure for the Albert River, a large number of those which I had previously started from the Lower Stations having suffered very much on their way hither through the scarcity of feed and water. I am leaving many of them here, and replacing them by others. Mr. P. Armstrong who, accompanied by Charley and Bobby (black boys), had been sent out to improve upon the track for drays over McKinlay's Range, distant from here thirty miles, has returned, and reports as follows : "On going up a tributary of the Robertson, saw a

number of natives camped on the water course, and they, on seeing us, ran up the creek. We saw no more of them until we arrived at a narrow gorge through which we had to pass; the first intimation we had of their presence was a yell and a shower of spears. They had taken up their position behind some large rocks, near which we would have to pass, and finding it impossible to go on, we retreated downwards, and made for the gap in the range, at which place we again found our progress interrupted. The gap being very narrow and rocky, we again found it necessary to retire. We then thought it better to return quickly to the gorge, thinking that the blacks had left it, but we found that there were still some of them waiting, but not in such large numbers as at first; and, after some difficulty and risk, we forced our way through, several of their woomera-spears passing too close to us to be pleasant. One spear stuck in the limb of a tree close to Charley's head as he was passing beneath. Proceeding up the creek, Charley drew my attention to the natives going along the top of the range, and rapidly gaining on us. They were making, as we supposed, for another gorge some distance ahead of us, which caused us to increase our pace, although we could not make much headway in consequence of the numerous stones. Upon arriving at the gorge we found it extremely narrow, there being barely room for us to pass, which we had no sooner accomplished than we heard a frightful yell, and upon looking back, we saw the rocks in the gorge which we had just passed crowded with the natives, who appeared very much disappointed at our having escaped. From this the country became more open, consequently we saw no more of them."

Nov. 14.—Carpentaria Downs Station. Succeeded in getting the stock started. In consequence of the long drought, and the horses being very weak, having done so much work of late, we have had great difficulty in mustering cattle. I am now preparing to start for Port Denison.

## Back to Port Denison.

Nov. 16.—Started the pack horses in charge of Mr. Keele, and at 8.15 overtook the party and encamped near McKinnon's Station. Distance this day, thirty miles.

Nov. 17.—McKinnon's. Proceeded at 5.45 a.m.; at 12 noon, halted to rest at Lucky Creek for one and a-half hour; started again at 1.30 p.m.; and at 5.30 encamped on the Burdekin, near Messrs. Firth and Atkinson's station. Distance this day, forty-five miles. Every appearance of a storm.

Nov. 18.—Rain commenced last night at 7.30, and continued till 1.30 this morning, which will serve to bring on the grass, which at present is much required, the country looking dry and parched. Proceeded at 5.20 a.m.; roads quite heavy, but agreeable; it is quite eight months since we have been visited with sufficient rain to make the grass grow. At 10 halted to rest for two hours at Christmas Creek; proceeded again at 12 noon, and at 4.40 encamped on the Burdekin. Distance this day, thirty-five miles.

Nov. 19.—Last night we were again visited with rain; a heavy thunderstorm with vivid lightning passed over to the north-west, and we had several hours light rain. Proceeded at 5.30 a.m., and at 9.15 halted to rest at Clark Creek; at 11.15 started again, and at 5.15 p.m. encamped on Stockyard Creek. Distance this day, forty-two miles.

Nov. 20.—Proceeded at 5 a.m.; at 9 got to Allingham's Creek, halted to rest for two hours, and at 6.30 encamped at the Reedy Lake. Distance this day, thirty-eight miles.

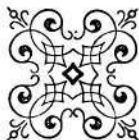
Nov. 21.—In consequence of the horses having strayed, we did not leave camp till 9 a.m.; at 11 halted to rest at the Burdekin for one and a-half hour; at 4 p.m., made eighteen miles to Messrs. Cunningham's station, Burdekin Downs.

Nov. 22.—Proceeded at 4.40 a.m.; at 12 noon, halted to rest; started again at 3 p.m., and at 5

made thirty-four miles and encamped at the Upper Haughton.

Nov. 23.—Proceeded at 5.45 a.m. At 12 noon halted for one and a-half hour to rest; then leaving Mr. Keele in charge of party, I went ahead alone, and at 5.30 p.m. got to Inkermann. Distance this day, fifty-four miles.

Nov. 24.—Proceeded at 8 a.m. At 4.30 p.m. passed Salisbury Plains, and at 8.10 made seventy-three miles to Adelaide Point, having completed the journey to Carpentaria and back, exclusive of stoppages at stations, viz., Inkermann Downs, and Lynd Station, in seventy-one days, thirteen of which were principally occupied in examining country upon the Leichhardt, Gregory, Nicholson, and Albert Rivers.



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# A P P E N D I C E S .

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1.—FROM CARPENTARIA DOWNS (ON SUPPOSED RIVER LYND)  
TO THE ALBERT RIVER.

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FROM CARPENTARIA DOWNS (ON SUPPOSED RIVER LYND) TO  
THE ALBERT RIVER.—*Continued.*

NAME.	On which bank.	Outward Camp.	Inward Camp.	Miles.
Brought over ... ..	...	...	...	192½
From Robertson's Lagoon to Charley's do.	right	...	8	18
Thence to Gray's Lagoon ..	...	...	...	13
" Emu Swamp ... ..	...	...	7	10
" Champion's Lagoon ... ..	...	...	...	6½
" Norman Crossing ... ..	...	...	...	4½
" Flinder's Crossing ... ..	right	17	5 & 6	17
" Armstrong's Creek ... ..	...	...	...	7½
" Tree marked L, at Rocky Pond Ck.	left	18	4	9
" Inverleigh ... ..	...	...	...	11
" Table-topped Ridge ... ..	...	...	...	1
" Chain of ponds—western bank of Deep Dry Creek ... ..	...	...	...	3
" Water course —rocky holes ...	left	...	3	6
" Landsborough's River ... ..	right	20	...	14
" Leichhardt River crossing—rocky falls—Floraville Station ...	"	...	2	5
" Albert River—head of navigation	...	...	...	38
				352

2.—OUTWARD ROUTE FROM HEAD OF NAVIGATION, ALBERT RIVER, TO THE LANDSBOROUGH RIVER.

NAME.	On which bank.	Outward Camp.	Inward Camp.	Miles.
From head of navigation to camp up tributary of Albert ...	right	32	...	3
Thence to camp on Beame's Brook ...	left	31	...	4½
" Nicholson River $\widehat{M}$ ...	right	...	...	1½
" Up Gregory River ...	"	30	...	9
" Dépôt ...	left	26-29	...	18
" Camp ...	...	25	...	3
" Tree marked $Lc\uparrow$ under broad arrow	right	...	...	4
" " $\widehat{M}$ site for station ...	left	...	...	3½
" Camp ...	"	24	...	14
" Tree marked $\widehat{M}$ ...	"	...	...	3½
" Consolation Creek—course east ...	right	23	...	14
" Leichhardt River ...	left	22	...	16
" " " " ...	right	21	...	15
" Landsborough River ...	"	20	...	15½
				124½

.—DISTANCES FROM CARPENTARIA DOWNS TO ADELAIDE  
POINT, PORT DENISON.

LOCALITY.					DISTANCES.
					MILES.
From Carpentaria Downs to McKinnon's	...	...	...	...	30
Thence to Western Range (top)	...	...	...	...	16
" Quartz Creek	...	...	...	...	5
" Lucky Creek	...	...	...	...	10
" Dry River	...	...	...	...	7
" Turn off road to valley	...	...	...	...	5
" Porphyry Creek	...	...	...	...	2
" Head of Christmas Creek	...	...	...	...	8
" Lower Crossing	...	...	...	...	10
" Stony Creek	...	...	...	...	10
" Old Camp	...	...	...	...	2
" Clark River	...	...	...	...	8½
" Clark Creek	...	...	...	...	3
" " Upper Crossing	...	...	...	...	5½
" Stockyard Creek (old camp)...	...	...	...	...	25
" " (last crossing)	...	...	...	...	6
" Allingham's	...	...	...	...	14
" " Cross Roads	...	...	...	...	7
" Upper Burdekin	...	...	...	...	23
" Cunningham's...	...	...	...	...	10
" Burial-ground on Houghton...	...	...	...	...	46
" Inkermann	...	...	...	...	42
" Powell's	...	...	...	...	45
" Adelaide Point	...	...	...	...	28
					368

NOTE.—Total distance from Adelaide Point, Port Denison, to head of navigation, Albert River, about 720 miles.

## APPENDIX II.

## 1.—READING OF THERMOMETER, TAKEN AT ADELAIDE POINT, PORT DENISON, FIFTY FEET ABOVE THE LEVEL OF THE SEA, FROM DECEMBER 1, 1863, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1864.

<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
1863.					
<i>Decem.</i>	1	81	83	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	2	74	79	78	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.
"	3	80	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	4	80	82	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	5	78	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	6	80	84	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	7	80	84	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	8	79	85	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	9	79	85	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	10	80	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	11	80	83	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	12	82	84	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	13	83	85	83	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	14	85	93	80	NW. wind—fine.
"	15	84	87	85	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	83	87	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	17	86	88	84	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	18	86	88	85	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	19	86	88	84	NE. wind—fine.
"	20	86	85	82	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.
"	21	81	84	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	80	82	78	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	23	76	74	72	NE. wind—stormy.
"	24	75	76	74	Cool southerly wind—stormy.
"	25	77	77	72	SE. wind—showery.
"	26	70	75	73	SE. wind—showery.
"	27	73	77	75	SE. wind—showery.
"	28	79	83	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	29	77	79	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	30	78	81	75	NE. wind—showery.
"	31	79	80	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
1864.					
<i>January</i>	1	80	83	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	2	79	83	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	3	80	84	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	4	78	83	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	5	78	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.
"	6	81	79	77	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.

<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>January</i>	7	76	79	76	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.
"	8	79	82	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	9	81	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	10	80	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	11	81	83	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	12	82	85	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	13	83	86	78	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	14	79	83	79	NE. wind—showery.
"	15	80	86	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	79	83	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	17	83	85	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	18	83	86	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	19	83	86	79	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	20	81	86	80	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	21	82	85	78	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	22	82	85	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	23	83	87	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	24	83	87	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	25	83	87	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	26	83	88	82	NW. wind—fine.
"	27	85	87	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	28	80	82	79	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	29	78	80	79	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	30	77	80	76	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	31	78	80	77	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
<i>February</i>	1	76	77	79	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	2	76	81	78	NW. wind—fine.
"	3	77	82	83	NE. wind—fine.
"	4	83	86	84	NE. wind—fine.
"	5	85	86	83	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	6	84	85	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	7	85	86	81	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	8	79	81	74	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	9	76	77	76	NW. wind—showery.
"	10	78	82	80	NW. wind—fine.
"	11	81	85	83	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	12	83	86	81	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	13	83	86	82	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	14	81	85	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	15	81	83	77	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	16	77	77	76	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	17	76	81	78	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	18	81	84	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	19	81	83	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	20	82	85	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	21	81	85	82	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	80	85	81	Cool southerly wind—fine.

<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>Feb.</i>	23	81	85	81	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	24	83	86	82	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	25	79	84	80	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	26	79	80	78	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	27	79	82	79	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	82	83	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	29	81	84	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
<i>March</i>	1	81	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	2	83	82	78	Cool southerly breeze—stormy.
"	3	79	83	77	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	4	80	84	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	5	82	84	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	6	76	79	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	7	81	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	8	82	81	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	9	82	83	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	10	81	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	11	78	81	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	12	79	83	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	13	81	79	77	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	14	81	85	79	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	15	82	86	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	16	80	78	76	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	17	77	80	78	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	18	79	86	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	19	86	88	85	NE. wind—fine.
"	20	81	84	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	21	79	82	78	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	22	80	83	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	23	78	81	76	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	24	76	81	76	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	25	77	79	76	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	26	77	80	76	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	27	78	81	77	Cool southerly wind—showery.
"	28	77	82	78	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	29	77	81	76	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	30	78	81	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	31	80	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
<i>April</i>	1	76	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	2	80	82	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	3	79	81	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	4	77	81	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	5	78	79	76	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	6	76	81	76	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	7	74	76	74	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	8	76	80	74	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	9	77	83	75	Cool southerly breeze—fine.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>9 A.M. 3 P.M. 9 P.M.</i>				<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>April</i>	10	78	82	74	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	11	77	83	76	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	12	77	82	77	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	13	77	81	75	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	14	76	81	74	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	15	72	78	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	73	81	74	NE. wind—fine.
"	17	72	82	75	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	18	77	81	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	19	75	82	75	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	20	74	80	76	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	21	75	80	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	76	81	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	23	75	81	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	24	78	81	75	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	25	71	77	71	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	26	69	76	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	27	67	74	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	66	77	72	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	29	71	75	72	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	30	74	78	73	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
<i>May</i>	1	73	77	72	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	2	69	76	72	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	3	70	76	72	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	4	71	79	71	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	5	71	78	72	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	6	70	76	70	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	7	70	76	73	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	8	75	79	74	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	9	73	77	73	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	10	75	76	73	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	11	75	81	74	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	12	74	81	75	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	13	75	81	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	14	75	77	74	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	15	63	68	65	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	16	61	68	59	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	17	64	74	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	18	64	72	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	19	66	75	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	20	72	76	68	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	21	71	75	69	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	70	75	71	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	23	70	72	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	24	69	74	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	25	69	73	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	26	69	73	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.



<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>May</i>	27	70	74	67	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	28	68	75	70	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	29	70	73	69	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	30	68	73	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	31	68	70	68	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
<i>June</i>	1	64	73	69	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	2	65	70	63	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	3	61	70	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	4	57	67	65	NE. wind—fine.
"	5	56	71	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	6	60	73	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	7	63	73	65	NE. wind—fine.
"	8	66	73	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	9	65	74	66	NE. wind—fine.
"	10	68	69	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	11	65	69	64	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	12	58	65	59	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	13	57	67	64	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	14	60	69	63	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	15	57	69	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	62	72	69	NE. wind—fine.
"	17	64	73	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	18	66	75	65	NE. wind—fine.
"	19	64	73	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	20	65	72	66	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	21	66	68	65	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	22	62	68	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	23	55	64	62	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	24	53	66	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	25	56	69	64	NE. wind—fine.
"	26	66	71	65	NE. wind—fine.
"	27	57	68	63	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	64	72	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	29	65	72	65	Cool southerly wind—cloudy.
"	30	66	72	66	Cool southerly wind—fine.
<i>July</i>	1	69	73	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	2	69	72	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	3	68	72	66	NE. wind—fine.
"	4	68	72	67	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	5	61	72	64	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	6	57	67	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	7	64	71	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	8	63	71	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	9	65	71	64	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	10	70	72	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	11	69	73	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	12	72	70	65	Cool southerly wind—showery.

<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>July</i>	13	61	67	59	NE. wind—fine.
"	14	58	67	60	NE. wind—fine.
"	15	58	60	61	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	60	66	61	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	17	58	64	59	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	18	56	65	59	NE. wind—fine.
"	19	54	66	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	20	60	66	60	NE. wind—fine.
"	21	58	70	59	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	62	69	60	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	23	57	67	58	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	24	62	69	63	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	25	62	68	60	NE. wind—fine.
"	26	59	69	63	NE. wind—fine.
"	27	58	68	62	NE. wind—fine.
"	28	59	67	61	NE. wind—fine.
"	29	60	69	62	NE. wind—fine.
"	30	59	66	61	NE. wind—fine.
"	31	61	72	63	NE. wind—fine.
<i>August</i>	1	62	73	61	NE. wind—fine.
"	2	63	72	67	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	3	69	74	68	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	4	70	73	70	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	5	71	73	70	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	6	69	70	68	Cool southerly breeze—showery.
"	7	67	69	63	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	8	59	66	62	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	9	61	68	65	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	10	67	72	69	NE. wind—fine.
"	11	69	73	70	NE. wind—fine.
"	12	60	68	64	NE. wind—fine.
"	13	63	71	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	14	67	72	69	NE. wind—fine.
"	15	63	70	62	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	16	67	72	69	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	17	64	69	63	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	18	66	70	68	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	19	63	72	67	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	20	65	74	68	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	21	69	79	70	NE. wind—fine.
"	22	69	78	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	23	67	75	73	NE. wind—fine.
"	24	68	76	70	NE. wind—fine.
"	25	65	74	69	NE. wind—fine.
"	26	69	72	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	27	65	75	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	67	73	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.

<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>August</i>	29	64	72	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	30	68	74	64	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	31	69	73	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
<i>Sept.</i>	1	62	72	63	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	2	62	68	61	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	3	65	69	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	4	62	71	65	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	5	67	72	68	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	6	69	74	67	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	7	70	73	65	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	8	68	76	67	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	9	70	75	69	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	10	67	73	65	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	11	69	74	67	NE. wind—fine.
"	12	72	75	69	NE. wind—fine.
"	13	70	76	66	NE. wind—fine.
"	14	73	77	68	NE. wind—fine.
"	15	75	79	70	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	73	78	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	17	72	75	70	NE. wind—fine.
"	18	71	75	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	19	73	76	70	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	20	73	77	69	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	21	75	79	72	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	22	72	78	70	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	23	74	80	72	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	24	76	79	73	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	25	73	78	74	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	26	72	79	71	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	27	74	79	73	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	76	80	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	29	75	79	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	30	77	81	76	NE. wind—fine.
<i>October</i>	1	75	78	74	NE. wind—fine.
"	2	73	78	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	3	76	79	73	NE. wind—fine.
"	4	76	80	72	NE. wind—fine.
"	5	77	81	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	6	79	81	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	7	78	82	76	NE. wind—fine.
"	8	77	80	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	9	75	81	76	NE. wind—fine.
"	10	76	80	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	11	78	82	76	NE. wind—fine.
"	12	79	81	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	13	80	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	14	78	81	77	NE. wind—fine.

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<i>Date.</i>		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.	<i>Remarks.</i>
<i>October</i>	15	79	82	80	NE. wind—fine.
"	16	82	84	79	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	17	83	82	78	NE. wind—cloudy.
"	18	81	83	79	NE. wind—stormy.
"	19	81	83	77	NE. wind—stormy.
"	20	80	83	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	21	80	82	77	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	22	81	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	23	78	81	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	24	80	82	78	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	25	80	83	77	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	26	78	81	80	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	27	81	83	79	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	28	81	83	78	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	29	81	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	30	79	81	76	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	31	77	80	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
<i>Novem.</i>	1	78	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	2	79	81	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	3	78	81	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	4	79	81	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	5	79	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	6	83	83	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	7	80	83	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	8	79	80	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	9	79	82	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	10	80	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	11	81	84	80	Cool southerly wind—fine.
"	12	79	83	80	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	13	78	81	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	14	76	83	79	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	15	75	82	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	16	76	80	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	17	78	82	79	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	18	74	80	78	Cool southerly breeze—cloudy.
"	19	74	81	77	NE. wind—fine.
"	20	80	83	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	21	80	85	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	22	82	83	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	23	82	83	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	24	79	84	78	NE. wind—fine.
"	25	81	84	81	NE. wind—fine.
"	26	82	84	81	NE. wind—fine.
"	27	83	86	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	28	81	83	78	Cool southerly breeze—fine.
"	29	81	82	79	NE. wind—fine.
"	30	80	82	79	Cool southerly wind—fine.

2.—MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURES AT ADELAIDE POINT,  
PORT DENISON, QUEENSLAND.

MONTH.	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.
1863.			
December ... ..	79·9	82·8	78·3
1864.			
January ... ..	80·6	83·8	78·7
February ... ..	80·3	83·2	79·9
March ... ..	79·6	82·1	78·1
April ... ..	74·8	79·9	74·6
May ... ..	69·9	75·2	70·2
June ... ..	61·8	70·2	64·9
July ... ..	61·9	68·7	62·5
August... ..	66·0	72·3	67·2
September ... ..	70·9	75·7	68·1
October ... ..	78·7	81·4	77·4
November ... ..	79·2	82·4	78·6
MEAN ... ..	73·6	78·1	73·2

GEORGE R. SMALLEY,  
*Government Astronomer, N. S. Wales.*

## APPENDIX III.

GEOLOGY OF NORTHERN AUSTRALIA.—A PAPER COMPILED  
BY MR. A. C. GREGORY.

THE following paper has been compiled from my notes and journals, during the period I was in command of the Expedition which was despatched by the Imperial Government to explore the N.W. portions of Australia, in the years 1855-6; and although already in substance printed in England, by order of the Parliament, has not been available to the Queensland public. As the settlement of the northern portions of the continent is a subject of great importance to this colony, it appears desirable to facilitate the access to every source of information which may exist with reference to its general character and facilities for occupation.

The portion of the continent to which I purpose to confine my remarks is that which lies to the northward of latitude  $23\frac{1}{2}$  deg., or in other words, tropical Australia, and this I shall sub-divide into two portions, the eastern and western, divided by the 143 deg. of longitude. The former consisting of a series of elevated ranges of hills, in which the older rocks are largely developed, and the latter an almost unbroken table-land of sandstone, belonging to the upper series of the carboniferous system.

The most remarkable feature of the western division of tropical Australia is, that it consists of an elevated table-land without a single known hill or range rising above the general level of its surface, and though when traversing the wider valleys they appear to be bounded by ranges of hills, yet on ascending any of the higher ground it at once becomes evident that the valleys are simply excavated, and that the whole has originally been one vast plain, portions of which have been removed, and the hills are only portions which have not yet yielded to the action of the elements.

From Roebuck Bay on the N.W. coast to nearly the southern part of the Gulf of Carpentaria, the country rises abruptly within a few miles of the coast to an elevation of from 500 to 800 feet; beyond this the rise is so gradual as only to be detected by barometrical observation, the greatest elevation being in latitude 18 deg., where it is about 1200 to 1600 feet above the sea level; to the south of this it gradually declines, so that in latitude 20 deg. the general elevation does not exceed 1000 feet.

Thus the 18th parallel of latitude becomes the line of division between the waters flowing to the coast, and those which descend into the desert interior. It also appears to be the limit of the regular tropical rains, which do not seem to extend their

influence further south; and this, combined with the level sandy nature of the surface, sufficiently explains why the water-courses descending into the interior never attain any considerable magnitude or importance.

The upper stratum of rock forming this level tract is a ferruginous sandstone, the superficial beds of which are formed by the aggregation of small concretionary masses, which are easily separated, and form an ironstone gravel, which is remarkably frequent on the western coast, gradually diminishing to the eastward. This rests on a coarse sandstone, varying from 50 to 300 feet in thickness.

The decomposition of this rock has covered its surface with sand of a red color, and the whole country would have been one vast tract of desert had not the continued action of currents of water excavated immense valleys, and thereby exposed the lower rocks.

Immediately below the sandstone, thick beds of soft shale exist, and these so readily decompose into soft clay, that when once exposed to the action of the weather, by the removal of the superincumbent sandstone, the whole bed is quickly washed away by the heavy tropical rains, leaving many isolated portions, which, being still protected by portions of the superincumbent sandstone, form hills with steep sides and flat summits, surrounded by low cliffs, giving a remarkably regular and monotonous outline to the features of the country throughout the whole tract where these rocks prevail.

Beneath the shales, beds of chert, passing into silicious limestone, were observed wherever the upper beds were removed. But though limestones are usually rich in fossil remains, I was unable to detect any which would afford a clue to the relative age of this rock. Near the Gulf of Carpentaria it approaches so closely in character to the celebrated lithographic limestone used for printing, that there can be little doubt that it is equal to that procured from the German quarries.

The strata of this limestone are nearly horizontal, but not always quite conformable with the upper sandstones, and in the valley of the Victoria River it rests on, or passes into, a hard jasper rock, veined with red and white, capable of receiving a high polish.

The next rock in the descending series is a hard white sandstone, of so compact and even texture as to almost resemble quartz. The stratification is so indistinct that it is scarcely possible to ascertain the dip of the beds, but it seems to rise unconformably through the upper rocks, and forms low ridges

of a very rugged character. No fossils were observed, but veins of sulphate of pyrites were very frequent.

Basalt is largely developed in the valleys of the upper part of the Victoria River; it also appears at the head of Sturt's Creek, which flows into the desert interior, and on the Raper River, on the shores of the Gulf of Carpentaria. There are also small tracks of basalt along the edge of the tableland towards the Gulf, but not forming very important features of the country.

The relative age of this rock is distinctly referable to the period immediately preceding the deposition of the highest beds of the upper sandstones, as it is often exposed as interstratified. The lower beds, much altered by the contact of the melted rock and those above, shew traces of being partly derived from the decomposition of the basalt.

The beds of Basaltic Rock are nearly horizontal, and the general form of the surface of the country does not indicate any great change since the fluid rock filled the valleys.

No trace of slates or schistose rock of any kind was observed, and in three isolated cases where granite was exposed it was in immediate contact with sandstone.

After travelling over nearly 1000 miles of the table-land just described, the extreme monotony of feature is suddenly intercepted at the 143rd meridian, and the eastern division of tropical Australia being entered, the boundless plains and sandy deserts are exchanged for bold ranges of hills of granite, slate, porphyry, and trap rocks, in the relative positions of which the effect of great disturbance is everywhere evident, but the limits of this paper will not admit of more than a general view of their geological arrangement.

The ranges of hills are nearly north and south, the western acclivity is usually easy, and the eastern slope abrupt, while each succeeding range as we proceed eastward rises to a greater elevation; thus the range between the head of the Lynd River and the Gulf of Carpentaria is 2500 feet above the sea level, that between the Lynd and Burdekin Rivers, or the watershed line, is nearly 3000, while some of the ranges on the east coast are 5000 feet in elevation, forming the boldest features of the Australian coast.

Granite, though frequent, especially on the eastern slopes, is not so largely developed as the superincumbent slates, which are so much disturbed that it is scarcely possible to generalize the dip of their strata.

These slates are very variable in character, some parts a fine blue roofing slate, with even and fine cleavage, while in other



parts it assumes more the appearance of a sandstone rock intersected in all directions by thin veins of quartz.

Interstratified with the slate there are thick *beds* of quartz, which sometimes form small hills, but it is not a rock favorable to the development of metallic minerals, such as gold, silver, or copper, for though to the general observer there is no difference in the appearance of *bed* and *vein* quartz, they are geologically totally distinct, the latter being the description which accompanies the gold of Victoria and New South Wales.

Vast masses of porphyry have been erupted through the slate, and this rock frequently contains fragments of granite and slate embedded in it, clearly indicating a more recent date than either of the rocks of which it contains the fragments. Like most erupted rocks, it forms hills or groups of hills, without any definite arrangement, on the slope of the ranges of older rocks.

At a still later period there have been extensive outbursts of basalt, which exhibits such a scoriaceous character that it might be mistaken for lava. There is, however, strong evidence of its flowing from fissures, and not being erupted from cones.

Overlaying these rocks is a bed of sandstone, full of water-worn quartz pebbles, which appear to indicate that the whole of the country was submerged at the time, or at least subsequently to the last outburst of the basalt.

The sandstone is usually most largely developed on the summits of the ranges, or at least is most conspicuous in this position, and as its character is very similar to the upper sandstone of the western table-land, it may be referred to the same period, though, there there being no fossils observed in either, it is not certain.

It was only after passing to the south of latitude 20 deg. that there was any decided indication of the existence of coal, and in latitude 23 deg, coal-bearing strata are largely developed, forming the Peak Downs, from which this valuable mineral seems to extend with little interruption southward to latitude 28 deg., a distance of 350 miles.

As the most recent rocks which have yet been observed belonged to the highest member of the carboniferous series, or new red sandstone period, and as this overlays all the higher summits, yet examined it would appear that the whole of Intertropical Australia was submerged at a period immediately subsequent to the carboniferous period. That before the deposition of any of the newer series of rocks the whole of this portion of the continent was raised above the ocean, that portion westward of the 143 deg. meridian by an equal or nearly equal

force, which scarcely disturbed the strata, and thus formed a vast table-land, the edges of which have since been segregated by waters flowing over its edges, thereby forming the valleys of the present rivers and creeks.

Eastward of the 143 deg. meridian the elevating forces seem to have been much more active, the greatest intensity being along the eastern coast, which would appear to have been raised at first to a much greater height than it now retains, as the entrances of some of the rivers indicate a gradual subsidence of the land—a view which accords with the theory which has been deduced from the coralline structure of the Great Barrier Reef which fronts this coast.

Assuming the foregoing data to be correct, it would appear that Australia is the oldest persistent continent in the world, as every other country exhibits unmistakable evidence of one or more submergences since the new red sandstone period, and it is a remarkable coincidence that the existing animal and vegetable kingdoms in Australia, approximate more closely to the extinct fauna and flora of past ages than those which now exist in any other country.

