

James Deary 1/3/2

Nov. & Dec. 1841

On the 13th of Nov. 1841 I joined
a com- was taken
between our in the West
road of cattle
at about 25 miles west
of Melbourne to the vicinity of
Port Phillip. The company consisted
of two horse drivers, two men
Mr. Noble, & one woman.
The majority was - - - - - and
adepts in the bush - - - it was
undertaken in excellent spirits
& strong hopes of well merited
success. Neither was so long in
want of a field for the display
of abilities for the cattle had
been quiet three days & nights
in the yard without meat or
drink in hot weather and the
consequence was some degree
of irritability & unfit to be
controlled by the indefatigable

James Ritchie's diary
Copy

November _____ & Dec. 1841.

On the 13th of Nov. 1841 I joined
a com ——— was taking
between 200 & 300 head of Cattle
—— Mr. A. about 25 miles west
of Melbourne to the vicinity of
Port Fairy. The company consisted
of two Messrs gamisons, two Messrs
Mr. Nostie, & one menial,
the majority was — estuons and
adepts in the bush — it was
undertaken in excellent spirits
& strong hopes of well merited
success neither was we long in
want of a field for the display
of abilities for the cattle had
been fully three days & nights
in the yard without meat or
drink in hot weather and the
consequence was some became
desperate others unfit to travel
although the indefatigable drivers

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practised every art and every effort spending almost the whole day from sunrise hollowing, galloping & flogging till at last they secured them in Backpours stock yard after it was dark, which made the days journey about 25 miles - They left four or five on the road neither did the dray altogether escape the bad fortune of the day for before it had gone many hundred yards it stuck fast in a creek & then we had to fall to like willing porters ——— & carry out the greatest part of the ——— The lumbering cattle that kept twisting & shuffling about as if to try the temper of ——— new masters. We after proceeded over plains ——— land of rather a light sandy soil perhaps but ill adapted for agriculture but good sheep pasture. When the sun went down the dray was

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far from the cattle & the camping ground but still they kept on groping their way along a very bad part of the road till at last they came to what appeared in the dark a long dangerous descent that arrested them for the night which was spent without meat or drink after a troublesome search for water.

14th They soon succeeded in joining the dray next morning — Backhouses may be where they rested all that day, it is rather an interesting place it may contain more than 1000 acres quite level that is mostly a strong loamy soil producing strong coarse grass well adapted for cattle. There are two considerable rivulets flows through it & fits it admirably for a township. There was some wheat upon it which was abundantly strong but

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did not ripen well. It is almost
entirely surrounded with banks
some hundred feet high which
must materially alter the climate
from the surrounding country.
I would consider it a precarious
place for crops from the humidity
in cold weather & the concentrated
heat in hot weather.

15th We started in a North West
direction over ——— staid
hills to Mr. Grays station on the
———— a distance of about 16
miles, the day was oppressively
hot it being the first heat I had
felt in the country and felt it
as ——— respiration had
but-half exhilaration used to
have it did great injury in
some parts to crops in pasture.
The Pentland hills is mostly
splendid sheep runs especially
the West-side where the soil is
black, but the whole is almost

2^d Sheet

quite clear & fine undulating fields admirably adapted for large flocks. Mr. Lya's place is a beautiful rural situation, a good specimen of a considerable extent around. His house stands on the bank of the rivulet between high banks that is clothed with beautiful verdant grass, and ornamented with n— trees that makes it a fine picturesque landscape. He had a few acres of oats growing but they were a very bad crop, his sheep was parish.

16th We rested all day here & we found it in every respect hospitable just what was wanted to recruit the wearied expedition.

17th This day lay in a westerly direction, about 14 miles to Mr. Nalises, on the Maribla.

it is chiefly a forest run, but the soil is pretty good & the sheep does well. I think there are about 3000, we saw some native women there who lives in perfect intimacy with the people, but oh! what repulsive creatures they were almost entirely naked and stinking with dirt, but they were doubly loathsome from their degraded manners, they seem actuated chiefly by sensual passions that is greatly inflamed by the libertines around them, they are quite harmless save now & again stealing small things. — This morning we came to Inglis's station about 14 miles from where we started. It appears to be a very good run, chiefly light forest, for some miles often passing it, the soil changing into a kind of adhesive clay that bears a coarse herbage.

17th This day's route lay in a westerly direction through a beautiful country for the most part, for a number of miles on both sides of the Marible. There are splendid tracts of clean country land excellent vegetable soil, & extensive rich gulleys. There was a small stream in the Marible that kept its astonishing long deep ponds always fresh, its banks is remarkably high & rich, being fine nutritious feed, Macdonald hath a splendid station by the road side with about — sheep & between 40 & 50 horses. We encamped on Mr. Sutherlands by the side of a creek where the cattle was to watch all night with fires around. There was a few acres of excellent wheat growing here. —

18th This was the first day

we had to go without a road
& certainly would have found
it difficult, but our hospitable

Mr. Sutherland frankly
volunteered to take a ride and
direct us by land marks to the
next — about 14 miles

distant. The day was uncommonly
hot & we felt it to the full
extent as the road lay through
clean plains. We passed
several watering places, the
soil for the most part was of
an inferior kind, disposed to
wetness in winter & hard
barrenness in summer — This

night we stopped at the Clyde
Company's Establishment on the
Lee. There are about 10,000
sheep & a herd of cattle.

It is superintended by Rums
They may possess both sides of
the river for 20 or 30 miles,
but though it is an extensive
well connected run the soil is

3^d Sheet

by no means of a good kind,
the feed was much injured
by the heat.

19th This was the first of our
march over the large extent
of arid plains, the first days
stage was fully 20 miles &
only one watering place 4 miles
from the Lee, the weather was
very warm & we wished to
improve our time in the morning
so before the sun had gilded
the tawny banks the expedition
was hastening on — with the
life giving atmosphere. The
country we crossed was far
from being profitable, the greater
part would be excellent sheep
runs, if water could be obtained,
we succeeded easily in reaching
the Roadylocks in good time
to feed the cattle etc. before dark.
The creek did not flow but
there was large pools of excellent

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water, & a public house that rendered it a gladdening resting place for weary travellers. -

20th This days journey was easily accomplished being only 14 miles over a — country of the same kind as the previous day. The camping place was a creek with beautiful large pools but the water was brackish & so stupified with salt the cattle drank it freely & fed heartily on the waving grass that bloomed over the banks so we rested there on the 21st pool.

& a party of us went up the creek to explore the surrounding country, & was greatly entertained by and the exceedingly hospitable reception we met with from Mr. Brown whose station we accidentally discovered. There are about 8000 sheep & a herd of cattle. —

23rd The next stage was about 15 miles to the little river over a country very like the plains behind. The river was flowing & contained a great abundance of fine water.

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We rested here on the 24th & went a duck shooting & excellent sport it was. The ducks were abundant & so stupified with salt that they would sometimes sit 2 or 3 shots or fly round & light again in the same pool.

25th This days journey was to the crossing of the River Hopkins, Cap. Websters Station it was 25 miles without a drink to the cattle. The country was much improved this day especially after passing Mount Elephant which we did leaving it on the left

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There is a great extent of excellent plains to the west of the mountain unoccupied. From the want of rain approaching the Hopkins we was very much gratified by the beautiful nature of the country, these are extensive clean flats of fine black mould and abundance of — blackwood trees, which is as good a proof of quality as any in the country. This river was not running but contained the largest lakes I had seen being three & four (hundred ^{or miles}) in circumference. The ducks gambolled in flocks & stood two or three discharges before flying.

26th She was from the — was almost due west over a level country partly thinly covered with trees & partly clear; all excellent sheep land to a creek with abundance of good water, there Mr-

¹⁴
4th sheet

13

Muston hath a sheep establishment apparently under bad management. The sheep is poor miserable creatures though they are wading among flowers, This days journey was only about 12 miles.

The next was about in a south west direction over excellent forest-lands where the feed was quite green a striking contrast to the parched plains we had so recently crossed. The night of the 27th we passed at Whiteheads. It is situated on the west bank of a creek that contains abundance of large water pools. This is a very superior place in quantity & quality. There are about 8000 sheep & a herd of cattle - perhaps not half the stock it can keep. The sheep I saw appeared ill managed.

28th Our course was due south through the — W — without a road for about 9 miles to see a — that had been lately deserted on the same creek as Whitehead, as we passed southwards about 4 miles below Whiteheads, we made regarding the place in view & was told it was a dense scrub unfit for anything, but we had soon the very agreeable satisfaction of discovering the falsehood it turned out one of the choicest runs in the country, it is abundantly watered. The soil for the most part is a strong vegetable mould producing fine nutritious feed, & very rarely if ever injured by drought that it abounds with game & splendid timber, such is the end of the expedition, a termination that fully satisfies the wishes of every one concerned. It was a

short & easy journey — few cattle lost & none dropped till a day or two after arriving when they began & would soon be general. I stopped a short time with them till I saw they had to all appearance got quite possession. I bade them adieu on the 9th of December to prosecute my journey. It was not very inviting as far as regarded my personal convenience. I was now to be all alone and on foot — carrying my gun, powder, & shot, with other things altogether amounting to about 20 lbs weight. My way to Whiteheads was to — a — of muck where I — a — of muck very reasonable as he a herculian denizen of the bush joined me here, who was on his way to Port — a brother of the earth to give him a leave to — if we were true

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companions. The meeting was
fortunate, for it was a dreary
road and only one house all the
40 miles. We set out about 5
o'clock on a track according to
direction, but after we had
travelled a mile or two we was
told it was not the road at all,
we must go back & commence
again, & a second time we had to
come back 4 or 5 miles having
taken a track that disappeared
amongst some ~~cut~~^{cut} timber, with
these mistakes had disappeared
the greater part of the afternoon
but we in a considerable measure
made the night alone for it
walking some hours in the dark
in hopes of finding water but
at last wearied & disappointed
we lay down amongst the long
grass by the road side where
we equally shared a small piece
of bread & mutton I had. Then
we tried to sleep the night away

5th Sheet:

but I could not get cold; we had seen a splendid country for many miles after leaving Whiteheads, it was light forest. The trees Blackwood, Wattle etc. The herbage nourishing buttercups etc. and growing long & fresh as spring. There were several marshes we saw bearing strong aquatic grasses if it was nourished with plenty of moisture. I would expect water could be found in abundance a few feet deep, if so, there might be more splendid runs obtained in this neighbourhood. The first beams of the morning roused us new tools & prospects, the country became heavier timbered, and some places rather thick with underwood, yet it was well adapted for cattle there being plenty of good feed. We at length found some water in the cart tracks that lasted very

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agreeably to our parched palates is excellently watered and
Fortune was once more beginning abundance of good feed, but
to smile. Two or three miles there are parts very heavily
further we arrived at Dr. timbered & thick with un-
Kilgours & was happy to see it. It was said he lost about 150
though the character of the place head before they got reconciled to
was the very opposite to hospit- the run. He keeps a dairy. The
-ality. The importance of my cows is rather good, he hath
ingenious companion now came about 800 head.
towards forward on such a
favourable opportunity. The Dr.
was from home, so he went
straight to his men & with the
wonderfullest power of insinuation
presently received a welcome and
me too as being the companion
of their friend, although it was
against the Dr's instructions &
entirely at their own cost, we
rested here all day, & improved
the time in looking what success
was likely to bless this potent
ruler, and I must say it
was not a judicious selection
at the time it was made. It

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Our road lay South West to
Port about 15 miles, the soil
all the way till within about a
mile of the coast—strong loamy
land bearing a great luxuriance
of grass. The country abounds
with tumuluses of volcanic
stones. The trees are generally low
& partly brushwood. It is excellent
land for cattle. Port is
the estuary of the Hopkins.
Mr. Cample & a few servants is
all that lives there. He hath
a farm 12 miles up the river. I
left in the afternoon for Portland

bay, and passed the night at
 Mr. Ritchies the only station on
 the road. The country the way was
 of the same nature as to the North
 of Port. Strong grass land
 lightly wooded chiefly with shrubs
 here the country abounds with
 marshes of various dimensions from
 10 acres to 300. They have been
 all lakes. The banks is high
 & dry, the bottom a vegetable
 deposit, some is yet marshy &
 producing rank aquatic grass.
 Ritchies station is supplied
 with water from one by digging
 about 4 feet, they have one of
 water. Ritchie appeared to be
 a very liberal man from the
 management of his place. I received
 what I understood was the common
 welcome to strangers, my share of
 what the place afforded for the
 night & the offer of a bed but I
 preferred to be undressed in the
 wool shed as I had to undertake

6th Sheet

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The journey early there not being another to Portland Bay and is called 40 miles. I had breakfast and a piece of bread and mutton with some — They said it was a good companion for a long journey. The road lay parallel with the coast, and about two miles from the sea, for 10 miles to the river. ^{Shaw} For the first 10 miles the soil was uncommonly rich & admirable pasture. I saw a short distance from the road from there I expected to have the natives but was agreeably disappointed. Some of the dry lakes here was covered with an extraordinary luxuriance of fine grass such as is sometimes seen on fine irrigated meadows. I had lost all traces of the track some time before coming to the river & had made my way through a low forest to the top of a

bank where all at once burst upon the sight a clear flowery country, the broad river & the ocean with a breeze giving perpetual wind. I stood wondering at the soul satisfying prospect. That now & then rewards the panting traveller. Yet I could not altogether suppress a feeling of fear for I knew the natives must esteem this one of the choicest hunting fields in the country. Here is their cradle & their grave, from the water & the land they could live a life of endless luxury & now perhaps they were waiting whetting their spears to drink the blood of a daring foe who had recklessly offered himself a sacrifice for past injuries. I looked around for my sable terrors but only saw clusters of spiral smoke ascending at a short distance from where I thought their encampment - was on the side of the river. As the Buck emerges from the dark forest & stalks across the unknown glade thrilled with emotion he starts at every sound & every sight expecting the coming man. Thus I left my distant prospect & strode down the flowery inclination to the banks of the smooth. That was peopled with flocks of water fowls, swans, duck etc. They would have tamely received the fowlers forked fire, but for the wild sound that would have rung through the peaceful solitude like the cry vengeance, vengeance. The invader is plundering our home. I now bade this charming spot adieu that was fit for man's greatest & happiest estate. The river is lost in the sand about 100 yards from the sea. I then went to the strand & found it an excellent road all the way

to the Bay. Along this part of the coast there are several ridges of sand hillocks. I ascended several of the highest to obtain views of the country which was low forest ground. From the first river to the Port & up the country to Mount Napier which may be 30 miles. I imagined a considerable part of that was marshy from the low situation & the number of rivers I passed. About 10 miles from the first I came to another large body of fresh water. It might be 15 yards broad & winding away back into the forest, but its banks were very unlike the first being low swamps partly covered with a kind of heath. It had no egress to the sea being lost in the sand only about 15 yards from the sea yet its water was excellent. There were large flocks of fowls upon it. The sea fowls were likewise

7th Sheet

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very numerous & tame. Some miles before I saw apparently the natives fires etc. close to the coast. I thought this must be a colusion so I sat down & made some rounds up. I then in imagination marched on to a curious kind of encounter, but it turned out more fortunate. As I approached I discovered the fires was not on the coast but a little distance into the bush. About 8 miles further I came to another river less considerable than the others called Fitz Bay. The water was brackish & the land indifferent. My feet were now getting sore which made me look anxiously forward to a whaling station about 5 miles nearer than the port, for a place to spend the night, but I looked in vain for I found it deserted. Yes! worse than deserted for I was induced to follow a footpath

That led into the (south) from
 being recently made. In hopes
 that it would lead to some
 adjacent house, or a near way
 to the Port, but I was soon
 convinced of my error & thought
 of making recuperation by
 striking through the bush for the
 coast but I got into a thick
 mat of underwood, some of it
 burnt, some unburnt, which
 detained me sometime, & blackened
 me all over with charcoal. When
 I made the coast it was getting
 dark & I was getting very wearied & at last with skeletons &
 for my feet was covered with masses of rock I still continued
 blisters & so sore I could scarcely scrambling & slipping from stone to
 stand. I believe I could not walk stone easier to make the Port for
 a quarter of a mile without sitting now I had got near the light &
 down & taking off my shoes to anxious for something to appease my
 cool my feet on the wet sand hunger but my progress was
 & what made it worse it was stopped by the barking of my dog
 now high tide, so I had to walk far behind who could no longer
 sometimes amongst wet kelp & for follow my daring track. I then
 the most part on the sinking had to clamber up the precipitate

sand that gave to the tread. I came
 to fresh water in an inlet in
 the coast where a kind of whaling
 station had been, & though there
 was a whale lying stinking in
 it & a scum of oil. I took a
 great draught & sank sound
 asleep. How long I lay I do not
 know but I set out again as soon
 as I awoke groping my way the
 best way possible but it became
 more & more difficult for the small
 piece of sand I had left was
 lumbered with whale skeletons
 & for my feet was covered with masses of rock I still continued
 blisters & so sore I could scarcely scrambling & slipping from stone to
 stand. I believe I could not walk stone easier to make the Port for
 a quarter of a mile without sitting now I had got near the light &
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 cool my feet on the wet sand hunger but my progress was
 & what made it worse it was stopped by the barking of my dog
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 sometimes amongst wet kelp & for follow my daring track. I then
 the most part on the sinking had to clamber up the precipitate

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coast among rocks & bushes to
a distance from the angry surf
that drowned my small voice
then the faithful creature soon
joined me & I lay down beneath
a tree & slept till morning.

12th I rose about the dawn &
soon found my way to the
Port it being only about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile
but my early arrival availed
little as none of the people was
up in the decent-looking public
houses & would not rise to give
me breakfast. I had at last to
go to a curious out the way
place that I did not half like
I was immediately attended to
& quickly took my leave & had
no doubt much to their disappoint-
ment. I then went &
examined the particulars about
the town. It is built on a bank
close to the sea. The building
materials are brick wood etc.

8th Sheet

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There are some however stone. It is very expensive being brought about miles. It is watered by draw wells about 30 feet deep. The soil is very poor. The crop is bad. The bay could be made an excellent harbour for shipping. It is all together a discovery for the important parts of the district. I left it about noon taking a northerly road to an Inn on the Fitz which was about 20 miles, that was the most part of the country I had ever seen, there being about 15 miles heavily timbered with stringy bark all the other part marsh covered with a kind of heath, save about 2 miles of good forest land next the Inn. I had tea there & started again about 7 o'clock on the pretence of taking advantage of the cool in the evening but the truth was to save

half a crown for bed as my finances was got very low.

I walked till it was dark then lay down & slept sound till morning

13th I had to take the road this without any at all to take me and the next house about 22

miles. The first 8 miles was heavily timbered with stringy bark

after that the country excellent for all kind of stock. I was

quite astonished there was no stations between Furlongs Dairs

station & the coast. The dam was built but a mere sham to

monopolise as splendid a part of the country as I ever saw.

This day was uncommonly hot so I stopped at a spring till the

afternoon. I shot some cockiloes and rosted them for breakfast.

This would be a splendid station for a station. There

was two watering places

almost close to the road and abundant indications of more &

the only station I knew of within 30 was Furlongs dairy with

a few cows. It was dark before I made that place on account of

me leaving my shot belt & had to go back several miles I felt

rather ravenous at that late hour after a cockiloe but

yet I was not so desperate as to live by commiseration. I

only asked for a drink & got my hearts content at the water

casks. The people very kindly invited me in but I excused

myself as being wearied & requested a place to lie in. I was shown

the mens hut & left alone as it was the supper hour. I did not

lose the opportunity. I likewise sapped on two or three hard

crusts of bread that was lying about. The

When I saw my host again it was in the

liberal character of bestowing
upon me a draught of sour milk.
My night couch was a form
I think with two. I was elevated
on pivots for once. I had to lie
balanced to a nicety on my back
or down I went to the one side or
the other.

14th This morning I was invigorated
to take the road with a good
draught of milk but it was a
satisfaction. The next house was
only 18 miles that was a part-
of thought sweet to know.
I had seen the tree is chiefly
large Blackwood & no closer
than is ornamental or advantageous
for sheep or shelter. The soil
mostly black — the herbage green.
I arrived at Furlongs head station
about noon and received a
substantial welcome from the
house of droll fellows. I spent
the afternoon in seeing the place

9th Sheet

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& visiting businesses. The place was most gratifying but it appeared to be under an indolent management. Some flocks was very poor & scabby. There was an excellent crop of various kinds of grain - well ripened & some of it cut & afforded me a bed for the night.

15th This morning as usual I was rather unfortunate for breakfast. There being some gone - some in bed I had the ¹⁵ to myself. I presumed to help myself to something like bread & water then took leave of the hospitable Grange. The next station was Cameron in an Easterly direction only about 12 miles, but did not find that road & followed a track in a Northerly direction to the ¹⁵. This was one of my unfortunatist days for the track disappeared gradually till I could

hardly follow it - nor could a drop of water be found till about four o'clock in the afternoon when a heavy thunder-storm came that made the road flow. The first 20 miles was almost a clear level country, good soil, but almost very much violent in ~~wood~~ need of water. I was rather unfortunate, situated about noon. The tracks had gone one after another till I was following either one or two drag tracks, and these almost due north in place of East. I was hastening on excited with anxiety, when I came to the grass burning, and there I discovered the natives on both sides of the road. They did not see me then apparently for the smoke, & not being within about half a mile of me. I made all the haste possible & got to the windward side. They discovered me when I was about crossing the fire & instantly

raised the howl & cry, and came running as they were able from both sides as if they intended cutting off my advance and surrounding me. I took off my shoes and walked past turning round a time or two, and with gestures forbade them to come, but it was to no purpose. They came yelling & crying, the men first, to within about 100 yards. I saw it was then time to stand on the defensive, so I turned to the first man & threatened to shoot him, he instantly stood, and all the others. I soon walked away keeping my eye on them and saw them no more. There might be 40 or 50. They had no long spears but some sticks about 4 feet long. The first man was big. I thought he was about 6 feet. I think most of them were quite naked. I heard at Furlongs

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one of the shepherds was lying
dangerously ill with the stroke of
an axe from one of the natives
who was a very big daring man.
I kept walking pretty sharp to
get out of their way, or if
possible find a house, and soon
had strong hopes of doing so from
the road becoming more beaten,
but it was not till after the
thunderstorm I think about 5
o'clock that I could get the least
satisfaction. I then met Dr. Morton's
dray going home. The driver told
me it was about the first
house and back to Morton's. I
went back & Mr. . generously
granted me lodgings for the night.
My foot was now quite miserable.
I went & bathed them a long time in
a water pool. I could have slept
very sound this night had it not
been for the myriads of ananalcutes
that annoyed me all night as I
lay among the hay rather than further
trouble the people I was already so

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¹⁴
10th Sheet.

much obliged to. —

16th I felt much inclined to rest here all day & take an easy walk to the top of the ^{mountain} for a view of the country that was generously granted & the view obtained which was highly gratifying. Some parts of the mountains are awfully stupendous with disjointed cliffs & hanging woods but from the mountains away down the Bonine ^{Worm} & the Glenelg the country is rather clear & very light forest as far as the eye can reach round towards Portland Bay, Port etc. For about 40 miles into the country it appears heavily wooded but saving that from the west to the

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Northeast the country may be before daybreak in an easterly
said to be half clear, half open direction through an excellent part
forest for a hundred; yes! for of the country in regard to soil
hundreds of miles. I crossed the ^{Wampan} herbage but miserably deficient
Bonnin (Honnin?) it was not in water there not being a drink
flowing but its bed is a continued all the way to within about $\frac{1}{2}$ a
chain of large waterpools. That mile of the next station which
day two men fled here who were was 25 miles. I arrived there
pursued by the blacks about the about noon without anything
same place I saw them. This is remarkable & found Nistasco a
a cattle station. They are cutting very liberal man. I stopped
& branding the cattle. In point there till the cool of the evening
of condition were not to be compared then left the Hopkins with a
with those in the vicinity of Port present of bread & mutton, a

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The country here was rather precious possession. The road now
injured by the drought. I was lay over clear plains & rather
told here it was dangerous to disagreeable on account of two
proceed alone, but this was not lakes the road went past. There
the place to shake at shadows were commonly frequented by
& off I started next morning hundreds of natives who lived

upon the fish but they were
nearly dry a circumstance it was
said that had not occurred
before in the remembrance of the
oldest natives. There are hundreds
of dry lakes in this & almost
every other part of the country.
These appear to have dried
gradually, & those remaining may
be following the same law. I have
heard of particular instances being
so. I had such a repugnance
at again meeting the natives
that I passed their haunt in the
dark unmolested & was soon couched
on the dewy plain & attended with
the lights of thousands & thousands
of bright stars all concentrated on
me. Blessed genius, guardian of
my life, thou awakes me to see

11th Sheet

The saffron morn, & invigorated
my early steps with the breeze
of the dawn. I arrived at the
sandy river in the forenoon. The
only place I could get a drink for
about 42 miles. The country from
the Hopkins was all clear plains
& a considerable proportion good
sheep land. I being well refreshed
with my lunch & several hours
rest I set out again very willing
to leave such an inhospitable
region & succeeded about 9 o'clock
Glendunans Mount Elephant
without anything particular but
my poor feet. I was very
hospitably entertained & enjoyed
an excellent sleep in the Travellers
fashion on boards undraped.
This is a very excellent situation

well adapted for anything.
The blacks live here in perfect
peace with the white people. I
think there are about 8000 sheep
on the station.
18th

This morning as usual I was rather
unfortunate for breakfast having to
travel at a inconvenient hour
but I snatched something & limped
away through a beautiful forest
along the side of a rich gully that
contained abundance of water large
enough to float a first-rate war
ship. In about 12 miles I came
to Bollee's station where I received
a proof of his far known
character for noble-minded hospitality.
It is a beautiful pastoral
situation but little fit for

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cultivation. The country continued
much the same to the next station
which was I think about 14
miles. The sun was near down
when I arrived & I fondly hoped
I might spend the night there,
but it was a vain thought.
They were the wrong kind. What a
miserable contrast to Bollee, what
heartless beings they are. They sent
out a girl to meet me at the hut
as they were afraid I was come
to steal, who told me if I wanted
anything the master was in the other
hut, such a reception was more
than enough to make me strut away
with the independence air my poor
feet would admit of. There was
some bad wheat growing & I think
miserable everything was perhaps right

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that they possessed only the skin
of the earth. The sun went down
in my anger. I kept shunning it
from me in the dark till I was
tired & had to lie down but could
not sleep for hunger & cold.
A cart passed in the nighttime. I
asked some bread from them. It
was in vain for it was from
the very people that cannot be
remembered but as frozen hearted
miserers. Soon after I walked away
& found myself in a charming
place as soon as the dawn
disclosed the prospect. This was
Andersons station west of the
Bunnayung. It is truly a
beautiful situation. I wish I
had found the people worthy of
it, for it is fit for a philanthropist.

but Mr. Anderson poor man has
little claim on the gratitude of
society, or to be honourably
mentioned by the same branches
he sends hungry away. I arrived
there at sunrise & hoped to have
breakfast with the shepherds.
I asked Andersons brother if I
could have anything to eat as I
was hungry. He looked saucy
& replied he had nothing to do
with it his brother would soon
be up. I was sorry at having
deceived myself so much already
when I found what low characters
I was dealing with. I think this
place was miles from the Post
house. About 3 miles further on
I came to a store I could have
had my hearts content p2 2/6

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or 3/- but unfortunately I could
only find 2/- in my pocket I
had therefore to content myself
with buying at about 1/- a lb.
The Bunns is mostly good
land for cattle, some parts
is heavily timbered with string
bark. There is abundance of water
from there all the way down to
the Marribe. It is good forest
land. I suppose the distance
is somewhere about 20 miles.
I spent the whole day trifling
with one thing & another which
made it about sundown when I
arr^d at Mr Macloed's outstation.
I had a drink of tea & a
little bread but could not
possibly be allowed to stop all
night as there was a woman

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keeping the hut who said I was
such a big strong man & a son
that she would like if I would
go away. I had not used razor
for about 5 weeks & like a
mulatto with the sun. I was not
the least offended but for the
trouble of going further & the
repugnance I had at again seeing
these saucy upstarts at their own
houses & it turned out as I had
anticipated. I asked him for a
night's lodgings. He imperiously
began catechising me as I had
been a culprit at his honour's
bar. I told him I could not
answer these questions, then said
he, no person will be about my
place who that refuses to answer
these questions. I then beg'd pardon

for troubling him & walked away
in the dark & lay down as usual
by the road side among the grass
where I slumbered away regardless
of these little terrors.

20th

I rose early this morning & reported
with a good wash & a draught
out the Marribli. I then considered
it was only about 45 miles to
Mr. Aitkins. I resolved on making
an effort to reach it that
night without making another call.
But I unfortunately got lost in
the bush. Inquiries Station I left
the road with the view of taking
a nearer way through the bush
but was told by a shepherd
I came to that I was going quite
wrong & at last gave in to him.

as he appeared to be a decent
man & I had no
assurance of being so as I had
no compass & not no sun. He
asked me to the hat. I went
& had a little refreshment he
after showed what he called
Backhouses Marsh but I discovered
it Coways & steeds. I had from
there again to bend my steps
another course & at last found
the day & myself spent. as I
made Hoids Daisy Station about
 $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile further concluded the
labours of the day, then lay
down as usual among the grass.

end of manuscript

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A.R.