

PHILLIPS William: Journal of one of the party who accompanied Dr. Leichhardt on his first successful expedition to Port Essington, 1844 - 45.
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D S. Mitchell

The Journal of
One of the Party who accompanied Dr. Leichhardt
on his First {successful} Expedition to Port Essington
by William Phillips

Preface

In submitting the following pages to the eye of the Australian Public the Author is actuated solely by the wish to make known to those interested in the subject, the description of country he has passed over, and this even he has long delayed doing, until repeatedly urged by numerous influential Gentlemen, who are of opinion that he ought not to withhold the information he possesses on the subject. For any errors of style he craves the kind indulgence of the Public, of whom he has the honor to subscribe himself the most obedient Servant -
William Phillips.

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Much curiosity having long existed in the Colony to ascertain the nature of the Country between Sydney and Port Essington, D^r. Ludwig Leichhardt with the assistance of a few spirited Individuals who contributed towards this object, came to the resolution of encountering with ~~(a handful of)~~ a few Companions the perils of the Desert - The Party consisted of the D^r. - M^r. Calvert and M^r. Roper, a Lad named John Murphy, Two aboriginal Natives named "Brown" and "Charlie", William Phillips, the Writer of the Journal, {who volunteered his Services to the D^r. from a habitual love of enterprize and adventure} and M^r.

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Hodgson and an American black Man named "Caleb" - We were also accompanied by a M^r. Gilbert, a Naturalist who went for the purpose of collecting new and rare specimens of Birds, but who did not belong to our Party.

The Hunter River Steam Navigation Company having with their usual liberality granted a free passage to Moreton Bay to the Individuals composing the Expedition and their Horses &c. Six of the Party embarked on the 13th. of August 1844 on board "the Sovereign" Steamer, Captain Cape, and after a very rough passage of a week's duration arrived safely at Brisbane Town Moreton Bay at which place we remained a few days to refresh our Horses which were badly out of condition from the

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effects of the Voyage, and after partaking of a farewell Dinner with the kind Inhabitants of the Town we started for the "Darling Downs and arrived at "Jimba" the last Station in that district on the 29th. of September - We were here joined by the remainder of our little Party now amounting to ten Persons and on the 1st. of October we set forward in good health and spirits on our perilous undertaking - Our livestock consisted of sixteen Horses and the same number of Bullocks but of

the latter only eight could be made use of as (~~Pack-Bullocks~~) Beasts of Burden. (~~and thus~~) From our starting on the 1st. to the 7th. of Octr. we invariably kept a N.Westerly Course, and on that day came on the Condamine River

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and continued along its right bank through a fine open Country until the 9th. Instant - We calculated that we did not journey on an average more than seven miles a day, but this slow progress was chiefly to be attributed to the trouble given us by our Pack Bullocks who had not previously been used to such work and were constantly throwing off their loads and breaking their Pack Saddles - On the 10th. soon after starting we came to a large Scrub, which, seeing no other alternative, we endeavored to force our way through - It did not at its commencement appear to be so very thick, but after journeying for some hours it became so dense and intricate that we were compelled to return - this after great difficulty and loss

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of our Stores we succeeded in accomplishing, and returned to the Camp we had left the day before - The next morning being unable to find the whole of our Horses two of the Party went out for the purpose of procuring Game, and were unfortunately lost, which obliged us on the following day to send out a Party in search of them and they did not succeed in this object until the lapse of two days, all which accident detained us on the Flat which our Leader named "Disaster Flat" until the 20th. Instant, when we again set forward and travelled through the most beautiful Country that can be imagined - The only incident of any importance that occurred to us during this period was an Interview we had with some of the Aborigines, of whom we counted to the number of eighteen - Both Men and Women

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were extremely well made and good looking, and did not appear to have any hostile intentions - they assisted us in procuring some wild honey, and were particularly anxious to join us in our Camp; but this of course we could no allow - We ascertained from them that but one of their number {a very old Man} had ever seen a White Man before - This interview took place at a Camp of ours named by our Leader "Dried Beef Creek" from the circumstance of our killing there one of our Bullocks, which we preserved by cutting in very thin slices and drying as quickly as possible in the Sun, an experiment in which we were eminently successful, and which proved of the greatest utility to us in our after journeyings

From this Camp also two of our Party {Hodgson and Caleb} took their departure from

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us on their return back, being heartily tired of the short allowance of Food to which we found it necessary to confine ourselves, and thoroughly frightened at the hardships and dangers they now saw must be our constant Attendants throughout the Expedition: - their early departure was a fortunate occurrence for the remainder of the Party and greatly increased our comfort and unanimity. On removing from this Camp where drying our Beef and other circumstances detained us a week we advanced at a more rapid pace than before, frequently accomplishing twelve or fifteen miles a day and always averaging ten miles - The Country for the most part was fine open Forest Land, with abundance of fine Water; occasionally a small scrub would intervene, but not of that dense nature to impede our progress, tho' we were sometimes compelled to deviate a little from our direct course.

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The herbage was most luxuriant and finer Runs for Cattle or Sheep could not be selected in the Colony.

On the 6th. of November we came on a considerable Stream of Water which Dr. Leichhardt in compliment to a Friend of his named "The Dawson" - we occasionally fell in with it for the next five days, and found several large tributary Creeks running into it, and many large Lagunes formed by its superabundant Waters - On Sunday the 10th. of Nov^r. we camped on this River ^ (in Latitude 25.40) and entertained sanguine hopes of it running in a N.W. direction which would have enabled us to follow its course for some time, In this however we were disappointed as we quitted the valley of the Dawson on the 15th. and camped on the margin of a splendid sheet of water which was christened "Lake Murphy" from the circumstance of its having been first observed by one of our Party bearing that auponous cognomen - The Lake

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was environed on all sides by lofty Ranges as far as the eye could reach and the D^r. gave them the name of "Murphy's Range". On the 17th. of Nov^r. we fell in with another River, the channel of which was in many places dry, but must be at time of flood a magnificent stream, the banks in many places being forty feet high - We have occasionally met with it each day for the last Seven days and are this day {Sunday 24th. Nov^r.} camped on its banks - Our Leader has named this Stream after a Sydney Friend of his "The Robinson" -

The Country about this part, and indeed for the last seven days Journey is fine open Forest Land and the Scenery is beautiful in the extreme - The Latitude by Observation taken this day is 25.25°. - On the 25th. Instant

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we proceeded thro' a mountainous Country and fell in with another River {at this time dry} which the D^r. named "The Boyd" - this however was completely out of our course and we did not therefore follow it - For some days after this we continued our course through a rocky Country continually ascending and descending steep Ranges, but were fortunate enough to meet with water each day - On the 7th. of December we camped at the side of a Creek and shortly after turning out the Horses "Charley", {one of our Aborigines,} brought in word that the Natives were spearing them - Some of our Party immediately proceeded to the Spot and found that one of the Horses had received a severe wound in the Shoulder, the appearance of the wound however is much against its having been

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made by a Spear, as it bears all the marks of having been inflicted by a small Tomahawk, and corresponds entirely in size with the one carried by "Charley" himself - We were unable to see any of the Natives and experienced no interruption from them: On the 9th. December we camped in a beautiful Valley by the side of a large Creek, abounding with excellent feed for the Cattle, and the banks covered with the Palm or Native Cabbage Tree

We also observed the "Erythrina" in great luxuriance, a beautiful tree with large scarlet Blossoms, peculiar to the Sea Coast - The next Morning early the D^r. and Charley proceeded to reconnoitre, in hopes of finding a pass through the mountains by which we are surrounded, and did not return until late in the Evening of the next day when they reported that

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we have to travel through a very mountainous Country, about eighteen miles, before meeting with any Water - We intended to have made a very early start in the Morning, but not being able to find our Horses were detained at this Camp until the 13th., when we proceeded over some very steep rocky Ranges, from which we had most extensive views in all directions, and were obliged to camp for the first time without water, which however a copious thunder shower shortly provided us. We called this "Lackwater Camp" - The next day we travelled about eleven miles through a flat sandy Country pretty open, but studded with patches of Scrub, and camped at a fine water hole - We here met with a great Quantity of the Native Lemons, the fruit of which tho' very small, and slightly

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bitter as well as acid, proved very refreshing to us after a very hot day - this was called "Myall Camp". On the 15th. we resumed our Journey (~~and~~) travelling thro' a very scrubby Country nearly the whole day, and camped in the midst of a Scrub without a drop of water; the consequence of which was, that neither our Bullocks or our Horses could be found until Tuesday the 17th., when we left this cheerless Spot and camped late in the evening amidst a severe thunder storm, at a Water hole, which appeared to be much frequented by the Natives, tho' we did not see any, but the Bark Gunyers and recent fires showed it was not long since they had been there in considerable numbers - We here killed a fat Bullock, and as we had to dry the Meat were unable

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to start again until Sunday the 22^d. when we made but a short journey of six miles, and camped in the midst of a Scrub, from whence it was judged advisable to return the next day to our last Camp, and wait the return of a Party who went out reconnoitring - We accordingly returned on the 23^d. and were detained there 'till the 25th. {Xmas day} when the Doctor came back with the cheering intelligence that there was at some distance a fine open Country, with plenty of feed and water for the Cattle, before us - On the 26th. we journeyed about twelve miles entirely through a close Scrub, in which we were obliged to camp, and a heavy thunder storm coming on immediately after we halted {which continued for many hours} we passed a very miserable night.

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27th. Dec^r. - We travelled again this day about twelve miles through the same dense Scrub, but camped at Sundown on the bank of a fine Creek with plenty of Water and good feed for the Cattle in fine open forest ground - The next day our Route again became impeded by Scrub, which obliged us to send out a Reconnoitring Party, and we camped in the Scrub and remained there during Sunday the 29th, when the Doctor returned, having come upon the channel of a very deep River running to the North West, with a fine Sandy Bottom, but quite dry, which he called "Comet River" from the circumstance of having that day first observed a very luminous Comet in the West.

30th. Dec^r. We proceeded through a beautiful open Country for about ten miles and camped by the side

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of a small Waterhole in a large Creek formed by the back water of the River - Our Latitude this day by Observation was 24.25° -

31st. Dec^r. Our Route lay along the bank of the River for about nine miles, but we were obliged to quit it for want of water, of which we at last found a small quantity of very bad, in a Scrub, where we determined on camping whilst the Doctor proceeded to reconnoitre.

The next day therefore we remained stationary at our Camp, the Doctor not returning 'till late in the Evening, when he informed us he had seen a Camp of Natives, one of whom on seeing him cried out "White fellow" and the whole then immediately fled and abandoned their Camp and all their Implements. He also observed the remains of a Gunyer which appeared to him to have been evidently constructed by

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a White Man -

1845 Jan^y. 2^d. We camped this day at a Waterhole only six miles from our last place, and near the deserted Camp of the Natives, who had returned and taken away most of their Utensils and apparently forsaken the Camp altogether - The Latitude was here 24.15° - The two next days we were compelled to remain (~~stationary~~) at this Camp whilst the Doctor reconnoitred, and on the 5th. Jan^y. we proceeded through a very scrubby Country, badly watered, and again came on the banks of the "Comet", which Route we continued for the next five days, occasionally deviating from it towards the close of the day in search of water, and were heartily tired of the monotony of the scene presented by this area and sterile tract of Country.

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Jan^y. 11th. We passed to-day over some very fine clear Land and camped on the Banks of the "Comet" in which we have for the last two days found some fine Water-holes - The Doctor has just returned from reconnoitring and has discovered a fine large River full of water which he named the "Mackenzie" and it seems that the "Comet" is only a large tributary running into it -

12th. After a journey of twelve miles through fine open Country we came upon the banks of the "Mackenzie" and it certainly is the finest ^ (River) we have yet seen - We camped on its right bank in a beautiful Country which we trust will continue for some time - We have met with abundance of excellent Coal, which on trying

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we found to burn in a similar manner to the "Cannel Coal" of England - We moved forward again the next morning and made about ten miles, a considerable portion of which was very rough broken Country, still following the River, which continued to increase in beauty, and an additional advantage to us is that it abounds in excellent fish of the *Silurus* genus, and fine large eels - We this day entered the Tropic of Capricorn -

14th. Jan^y. - Still keeping the River Bank we proceeded for about nine miles; the Country around us still continuing scrubby at intervals, and the following day we completed about the same distance through similar Country in Latitude by observation taken 23.29° when it was thought expedient

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that the Doctor should proceed with a Party to reconnoitre - On his return finding that all our dried Meat being exhausted we must kill a Bullock, we moved on the following morning to a more convenient spot about two miles further up the River, which it is now advisable to leave

immediately, as it is taking too much out of our proper course - Our Latitude at this Camp was 23.21°. - For the next three days we were fully occupied at our Camp in cutting up and drying the Bullock whilst the Doctor ^ (again) proceeded reconnoitring. Whilst thus engaged a small Party of Natives {about eight} paid us a Visit but we could not understand any thing they said nor obtain any information from them - they appeared however

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to be very friendly and made presents of their Spears, Waddies, Beads, &c to the two Natives who accompanied our Party. - We found here a very beautiful Aquatic Plant growing in a Lagune near us, bearing a large tulip-shaped Crimson and White blossom of peculiar fragrance - many of the plants were nine or ten feet high - Our Leader, who is tolerable authority on such subjects, styles it a "Nelumbo", of the Egyptian Order of Plants.

Monday 20th. Jan^y. /45. Our Horses and Cattle being now well refreshed by the good feed and rest they have had, we started early this morning and in about twelve miles came to the spot appointed by the Doctor as a Rendezvous

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but he did not make his appearance until Wednesday Evening, which delayed our further progress until Thursday the 23^d. when we made about six miles, and camped in a fine open Country - The next day also we proceeded thro' a beautiful open Country with very little Scrub for about twelve miles and camped at some Water holes in open forest Land -

25th. We made this day about nine miles entirely thro' open Country covered with the most luxuriant herbage, interspersed with small clumps of Shrubs, giving the whole a complete Park-like appearance, and camped on the bank of a sandy Creek of beautiful water. -

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26th. Jan^y. We travelled this day about seven miles mostly through fine open Country and camped on the bank of another large Creek - the Doctor proceeding to reconnoitre and leaving instructions ^ (for) the route the rest of the Party were to take on the following day to rejoin him - The next morning early we accordingly moved forward to meet him on his return and having travelled about twelve miles camped on a large plain in sight of some very remarkable peaked rocky Mountains of great height rising out of the plain - The name of Peak Range was given to this Cluster - Some of our Party with extreme difficulty succeeded in ascending the

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highest Peak from which they had a splendid view of open level plains of immense extent all around them.

28th. We remained stationary at this Camp and the Doctor and Calvert returned from their reconnoitre in almost an exhausted state having been unable to find water - they met with the most beautiful Country and plains of immense extent but apparently without water, though from the luxuriant freshness of the herbage this could not have been long the case.

Our water failing us at this Camp, on the 29th. we returned back about three miles to a Creek with a better supply and waited there whilst two other Parties reconnoitred in other directions in the hope of meeting with water.

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3^d. Feb^y. We were unable to start again until this day when we made about twelve miles and camped on a rocky Creek near the remarkable peaked mountains before mentioned.

5th. We journeyed about eight miles through a fine Country but badly watered, to which circumstance most likely may be attributed the absence of any traces of the Natives in this part of the Country.

6th. Our stage to-day was about eight miles over a very hilly Country - Some of the mountains were very high - one of them the Doctor named "Mount Phillips" - it is situated in Latitude 22.43 ° and Longitude 148 - a long flat topped Mountain composed of Dummite, moderately timbered, and surrounded by most luxuriant plains of great extent - The next day our Cattle

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and Horses being much fatigued and footsore with the rough travelling thro' the mountains we made only about six miles through a very fine Country and camped at a small Creek.

8th. We made to-day about eight miles through similar Country and camped at a fine waterhole, a Party again proceeding to reconnoitre.

10th. The Doctor not returning until this morning we were detained at our Camp until twelve o'clock when we started and made about ten miles - we stopped at a fine Creek with plenty of Water and were fortunate enough to kill two fat Emus - Our Latitude here by Observation taken was 22.23°

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11th. Feb^y. We travelled to-day about eight miles over very rocky broken ground and camped on the banks of a very large Creek which the Doctor named "Hughes's Creek"

12th. We followed the Creek for about eight miles and camped on the edge of a thick Scrub and our reconnoitring Parties being unable to find Water in any direction we were detained at this until

15th. when we followed the same Creek for about sixteen miles, and camped on the side of a Lagune, near the bank of a very large dry River {nearly the size of the "Hunter"} which a Party immediately went up in search of water, but not being successful it was determined to remain at our present Encampment, until we had killed another Bullock, which detained us until Friday the

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21st. when we started up the River which the Doctor named "the Isaacs" and made about eighteen miles, camping on the right bank late in the evening

22^d. We made about twelve miles and camped at a waterhole in a Scrub near the River

23^d. We started early this morning still keeping the course of the River and continued to do so until Wednesday

26th. when we camped at a Creek near the River and fell in with a Party of Natives to the number of about 40 - We had a long interview with them and they appeared to leave us with good regret after making us presents of Bomerangs, nullah nullahs & Spears - In return the Writer of this gave one of them a Medal of Queen Victoria which he suspended round his neck and seemed not a little pleased with: we parted on most friendly terms.

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27th. We made about twelve miles through fine open Country, which has indeed been the Case for some days past, and camped on a Creek close to the River, where we remained until our Party returned from reconnoitring on Saturday the

1st. March, when we again returned our route and did fourteen miles, still keeping the course of the River, and camped at a Water hole near some high mountains, where the illness of our Leader detained us until Tuesday the

4th. when we proceeded about eight miles through the mountains and camped on a fine Creek surrounded by the most luxuriant herbage - the Party went out immediately on our arrival here reconnoitring and did not return until Thursday the 6th. but in consequence of the Doctor's increased illness we did not resume

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our Journey until Saturday the

8th. March when we travelled about eight miles through fine open Country and camped on the bank of another River, which appeared to take a Southerly course, and so much out of our Route that we shall be compelled to leave it.

9th. We continued however along its banks for about 7 miles and a Party went reconnoitring and did not return until Tuesday the 11th. in the evening.

12th. We made about eighteen miles through a fine open Country but badly watered and in the evening came on another large River which the Doctor named "the Suttor" and we entertain great hopes it will run some distance in our direct course. We here met with fine Granite in great abundance.

13th. We only made about seven miles this day in order that a Party might proceed early to reconnoitre for to-morrow's Journey.

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We were fortunate enough this day to ride down three Emus and succeeded in drying the flesh of them, which is excellent food -

14th. We continued along the bank of the River through an indifferent Country for about nine miles, and camped on the bank of it.

15th. We journeyed eighteen miles, still keeping the River, through similar Country, and on halting a Party proceeded to reconnoitre and they not returning until late in the evening of the next day we could not resume our our Journey 'till

17th. {Monday} when we made eleven miles, the Country gradually becoming worse. The Doctor proceeded from here to reconnoitre, having first ascertained out Latitude to be 21.39

19th. We travelled to-day twelve miles through a very scrubby

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Country and camped on the bank of the River

20th. We made this day also about twelve miles, over similar Country and the Doctor took a lunar observation and found our Latitude to be 21. 32. -

21st. We travelled about eleven miles still keeping the Bank of the River, which has indeed dwindled into a mere Creek, but with plenty of water in it. We went almost entirely thro' Scrub the two last days, and came repeatedly upon the recent tracks of Natives, but did not see any - We camped on the River bank.

22^d. We made to-day about eight miles, the Country on each side of the River becomes a little more open but we had great difficulty in passing over many parts of the banks which were very rocky and broken -

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23^d. We came to-day ten miles, the Country getting more rocky and broken at every step.

24th. We made eleven miles, the country very rough and stony - abundance of water -

25th. About ten miles of similar Country, not at all improved in appearance, and affording nothing interesting to diversify our tiresome and monotonous way.

26th. Still keeping the banks of the River we made to-day eleven miles - On emerging from a small Scrub we suddenly came full on a small tribe of Natives, who on seeing us set up most fearful cries and immediately ran into the Scrub, but shortly after two old Men returned and spoke with us - they appeared very friendly and the Writer of this bartered a blue Jacket for an Opossum Cloak with one of them, who seemed highly pleased with his bargain and gave himself

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all the airs of a modern Exquisite as he paraded himself before the Ladies of (~~the Party~~) his Tribe -

27th. We made to-day ten miles and the Country is rapidly improving in appearance - We still keep the River but it is now sadly out of our proper course, and unless it shortly takes another direction we shall be obliged to quit it - The Journalist on ascending a hill to-day had a very extensive view of a magnificent open Country all around him and observed some very high Mountains in a N.W. direction at a considerable distance - this was in Latitude 20.53.

28th. The River has again become wider and in many places presents a noble sheet of water - the flats on each side of it are extensive, in some places

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further than the eye can reach, covered with most luxuriant herbage and very slightly timbered. We have to stop at this Camp to kill and dry another Bullock which detained us until Wednesday the

2^d. April We move forward again this day doing seven miles through a fine Country and just at camping time came on another River of great Size, being in many places not less than a mile across. The "Suttor" here forms a Junction with this River which our Leader named the "Burdekin" in compliment to a Sydney Friend of his who was one of the principal Contributors towards the Expedition -

3^d. We made this day about ten miles up the "Burdekin" which runs very rapidly and in many

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parts is deep - We had to cross several times and on one occasion our Horses and Bullocks swam across admirably, but this experiment we must avoid as much as possible as all our stores get wetted and spoiled -

4th. We travelled this day nine miles the Country now becomes very mountainous broken and stony

5th. We did nine miles again to-day over similar Country

6th. Also about nine miles the Country rapidly improving in appearance - We now camp every night in the sandy bed of the River and are dreadfully annoyed by the Musquitoes and Sandflies -

7th. We made this day ten miles the Country on both sides of the River is now beautiful in the extreme -

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8th. April We progressed to-day about ten miles, the Country consisting of extensive flats rather undulating and running back to a great distance {in many places not less than thirty miles} on each side of the River - the herbage most luxuriant, and well watered by the numerous Creeks running into the main Stream - Above all the Country we have yet passed over this is the most admirably calculated for Sheep Cattle, or Horse Breeding Stations, as well as Agricultural Purposes in general. It may be reasonably inferred from the great width (and) depth ^ (and rapidity) of the Stream where we struck upon it that the River must have a magnificent outlet to the Sea. We regretted much that we could not pursue its course to either its rise or termination - From the 9th to the

13th. April we made ten miles each day over the same description of beautiful Country, abounding with

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large Creeks and abundance of Game. We here met with plenty of fine (Granite) Granite fully equal to the "Aberdeen", and in many place indications of Limestone, and Coal - We passed two large Rivers one on each side disemboguing themselves into the "Burdekin" -

From the 14th. to the 19th. April, we travelled eleven miles each day without any variation in the face of the Country and observed nothing particular during this time - There were numerous fine Creeks running into the River and very high Ranges in the distance on both sides of it - Our Latitude was at this Camp 19.40. The same observations apply to our Route until the 25th. when killing and drying another Bullock detained us three days.

29th. We resumed our Route along the "Burdekin" until 2^d. May doing ten miles each day, the Country near the River has now become rocky and difficult to travel, but interspersed with magnificent flats

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of the finest land.

3^d. May. We made to-day also ten miles and camped on a fine running Creek, evidently one of the heads of the "Burdekin", which we are now compelled to leave, the ground having become too rocky to travel over - The Doctor took a lunar Observation at this Camp and found our latitude to be 18. 45. -

4th. We halted about four miles distance from our last Camp, it being necessary to reconnoitre in order to find a Passage to the River again, as we found ourselves hemmed in by immense lakes on one side, and large fields and Ridges of Basalt on the other - On the 5th. Instant whilst staying at this Camp we had a Visit from about twenty Natives, who at first seemed rather hostilely disposed, but at last left us in perfect good humour - they were beyond comparison the finest set of

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Aborigines we have yet seen.

7th. We this day retraced our steps to the neighbourhood of our last Camp, one of our reconnoitring Party having by foolishly urging his Horse up a rocky Bank of the River {for which there was no occasion} had the misfortune so seriously to injure the Animal by falling back among the Rocks that it became necessary to shoot it - The Doctor with his usual attention to economy immediately resolved on cutting it up and drying it for food, altho' at the time we had ten living Oxen and nearly a whole one in store - The fact is merely related without comment as it may serve to give the Reader some insight into our Leader's disposition - It may really be considered most fortunate, as well for the sake of the Individual and the rest of the Party, that the accident did not happen to the Rider instead of the Horse, as there is little doubt but the poor fellow would have been converted into food - The disgusting preparation of this unnatural aliment detained us at this Camp until Friday

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9th. May, when we made only six miles, and again camped on the bank of the River amongst the set of Natives we had previously seen - they appeared equally friendly as when we left them, making us presents of two new sorts of Roots, one of which they called "Touree" and the other "Umbleborrow", but on the following Morning {the 10th.} when we returned our march they threw three spears at two of our Party who returned to the Camp for a horse bell which we had left behind us - We made this day about ten miles along the River which still runs pretty rapidly - The last two days we passed over a most delightful country abounding with permanent lakes covered with the large blue Lotus {a most magnificent flower} the roots and seeds of which seem to be the principal food of the Natives in this part of the Country - It also appears to be well stocked with Game - There is no doubt the Natives here are very numerous, and the Doctor, from the

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circumstance of their bringing us some of the Lotus heads roasted to eat, very aptly gave them the name of the "Lotophagi" or Lotus Eaters. -

11th. May {Whitsunday} We travelled this day about seven miles, but from the circuitous route we took, not more than three or four from our last Camp, and camped on the bank of the River, which has again become very wide. - The Doctor having determined on quitting the River, as it runs so much out of our course, immediately on halting, proceeded with one of our Blacks to reconnoitre - We were indulged this day {being a holiday} with a double allowance of Damper and a small portion of Sugar in our Tea, which to Men living so long on three ounces of Bread and ten ounces of Meat per diem was considered a great treat. In the evening a numerous party of Natives appeared on the opposite bank and made use of very violent gestures, but

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observing we were fully prepared to resist any aggression they at length retired peaceably- On the following morning they returned in still greater numbers, but though very noisy, they did not seem to have any hostile intentions - They brought us a few roots of "Touree" which when roasted are really excellent food - Most of us sincerely regretted we could not meet with sufficient of them to enable us to refuse our disgusting pittance of horseflesh - The whole Country for many miles around us is well-watered and seems admirably adapted for Sheep and Cattle or Horse-breeding Stations. The temperature of the Climate is moderate, and fine breezes prevail throughout the day - Our greatest annoyance was the vast numbers of very small flies from which it was impossible to defend our eyes, ears and noses.

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May 16th. {Friday} We this day quitted the "Burdekin", unfortunately without being able to trace it to its source, and made about twelve miles - After travelling about three miles in a N.W. direction we ascended a Table Land and came upon a most magnificent level Country - The cause of our long stay at the last Camp was that the Doctor was absent four days reconnoitring {or in other words following his botanical and geological pursuits}

Lat: 18.32.

17th. We continued our Route on the Table land for about twelve miles and camped on the side of an extensive Lagune and the Doctor again proceeded reconnoitring - We passed over a beautiful plain at least ten miles long and about four in breadth and altogether a most delightful open Country - We were saluted on camping both yesterday and to-day by Natives at a distance, but they did not come

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near us, apparently from dread at the sight of our Cattle and Horses. Our Latitude this day was 18.16°. -

20th. {Tuesday} The Doctor having been again absent two days we could not proceed until this day, when we travelled twenty two miles over a beautiful Country, chiefly plains of many miles in extent, the herbage every where most luxuriant and verdant - notwithstanding the dry season. We have now come upon a fine large sandy Creek which we are in great hopes to find running to the N.W. - The Doctor proceeds to-morrow to ascertain if it is in our course - Our remaining Greyhound {out of six with which we started} this day killed a young Emu, one of ten to which he gave chase, which furnished two very scanty meals - He also killed a Native Dog, the hind quarters of which the

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Doctor had roasted for his own special use, as he could not persuade any of the Party to join him in it, he however made a most hearty meal, though the smell of it even was quite intolerable.

23^d. The Creek not keeping the desired Course we were obliged to leave it and look out for other water and we this day camped on the side of another Creek after travelling about eighteen miles.

24th. We remained stationary at Camp this day whilst a Party reconnoitred the Creek, and it being the Birth day of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen we treated ourselves with a double allowance of "Damper" and the remaining morsel of Sugar in our Tea - In this invigorating beverage Her Majesty's health was drank with nine times nine in

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such an enthusiastic manner as to make all the Woods and Rocks resound.

25th. We made about ten miles over a very rocky broken Country, still keeping the Creek which has now assumed the appearance of a good sized River, but with only occasional Water-holes in it and keeps a very good course for us. Lat: 17.59.

26th. We only made this day about eight miles over a tremendously rocky broken Country, but abounding with new Shrubs and Trees -

27th. We continued along the River and made about ten miles, the scenery is truly grand especially in two rocky gorges through which we passed - It is altogether the most broken Country we have yet travelled through - We camped in the bed of the River, near an encampment of Natives, who on seeing our reconnoitring Party

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immediately fled over the Rocks with the utmost precipitation, leaving all their Utensils behind them, and have not since returned. We shall be detained at this Camp a couple of days to kill and dry another Bullock, as, thank God, our disgusting Horseflesh is nearly expended - The River as far as we have yet gone, keeps a good course - Lat: 17.53.

31st. We made this day about twelve miles over very broken rocky Country, and great scarcity of Water

1st June. About eight miles and camped at a small water-hole in the River awaiting the return of our reconnoitring Party who went yesterday to explore the River

2^d. We made about ten miles over very rocky Country - The Water-holes in the River appear more frequently, but the prospect for to-morrows journey is uncheering in the extreme.

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3^d. Our route this day has been over a more difficult Country than we have yet travelled; Nothing but steep rocky Mountains and tremendous gorges present themselves, We nevertheless made about ten miles, though both Bullocks and Horses suffered much from sore feet - Indeed we could have been tracked for miles over the Rocks by the blood which came from the poor Animals. Our Lat: was 17.34.

4th. We made this day only eight miles, the Country not at all improved.

5th. We came to-day about ten miles, The Country is now becoming more level, and the pools of water in the River larger and more frequent - they are usually covered with wild fowl -

6th. About twelve miles of rather better travelling but still mountainous and rocky.

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On the 7th. we accomplished about ten miles, the Country gradually improving in appearance.

8th. We made today twelve miles over excellent Country, fine flats on each side of the River, and large Creeks running into it - the River itself has now commenced running and in parts is not less than a mile in breadth -

9th. We proceeded today about twelve miles of similar fine Country and are not in great hopes the River will carry us to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

10th. About ten miles over very good travelling ground, with abundance of water in the River - Our Leader has at length named the Stream "The Lynd" after a friend of his in Sydney {Barrack Master of the Military Barracks in that City} Near our Camp this day we found the remains of one of the species of Shark called the "Sword fish" - It had not been cast ashore more than two or three days, and it is

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very surprising how it could have come there at such a distance from the Sea, and up a River which has had only unconnected pools of water for a long time past. Lat: 17.9½.

11th. We travelled ten miles over a fine level Country, in which distance we passed two large fresh water Creeks running into the River - the banks have now become very high and steep, and it is considerably more than a mile from bank to bank.

12th. We made ten miles through a beautiful Country interspersed with fine Creeks, and abounding with Game; Our Dog {the only one remaining out of six with which we started} caught two Kangaroos, and we shot nineteen wild Ducks - Indeed we have had abundance of them for the last few days.

13th. We journeyed this day about twelve miles, the Country each side of the River beautiful in the extreme and well watered by extensive Lagunes and fine deep Creeks running to the River. We this day shot fifteen Ducks

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and a Bustard, but notwithstanding this plenty we are limited to ten ounces of food per diem, which has greatly reduced the strength of every one of the Party.

14th. We made twelve miles of the like beautiful Country, but the weather has now become intensely hot and we are dreadfully annoyed by the swarms of Mosquitoes and Flies.

15th. About twelve miles of similar Country - We shall now have to quit the "Lynd", which we find is only a tributary to a much larger Stream, the Doctor supposed it to be the "Nassau"

16th. We travelled to-day 14 miles over an exceeding fine Country abounding with extensive Lagunes and Lakes, and we left the new River considerably at our right - We camped on the bank of one of the Lakes and have to kill and dry a Steer which will detain us here a couple of days - We had the misfortune to lose a fine Pony at this Camp, which was found dead in the morning though in perfect health when turned out at night - We cannot conjecture the cause of its death -

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19th. We made only eight miles this day and camped on the side of a Lagune early in the day in order to put out our Meat to get a little drier.

20th. We made ten miles across some beautiful well-watered flats and plains without coming on the River, 'till camping time, when we halted on its left bank - It has truly every appearance of being a magnificent River. One of our Aborigines yesterday saw the track and heard the bellowing of an Alligator, and no doubt we shall soon see some of them.

21st. We made ten miles over the same description of Country, abounding with Game, and fell in with two small tribes of Natives, who fled with utmost precipitation.

22^d. We did this day about fourteen miles of like Country interspersed with fine lakes and camped on the side of a Lagune -

23^d. We went over ten miles of Country which still keeps improving, and halted by the side of a Lake which

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furnished us a repast of eighteen wild ducks, and we were also fortunate enough to shoot two good-sized Kangaroos.

24th. We went about ten miles and camped on a fine large plain, where we were lucky enough to get two more Kangaroos and five Ducks - The Doctor took an Observation at this Camp and stated our Latitude to be 16.9½.

25th. We made this day about twelve miles across some very extensive plains and camped on the bank of a large Creek - We here obtained three Kangaroos and dried them for future use. Lat: 16°.

26th. We did ten miles over fine level Country and camped at the side of a small Water hole - We here shot three more Kangaroos.

27th. We made twelve miles entirely across open plains and camped by the side of four fine water holes covered with Blue and White Lotus. We shot twenty two Pigeons and our Dog caught a Kangaroo - The Doctor has been for the last four days

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expecting to come upon the Coast but there is yet no indication of it. Soon after we had camped our two Blacks went out with their Guns for the purpose of seeking Game, and returned very late in a state of great trepidation, without having shot any thing and stating that they had been watching a tribe of Natives camped at a short distance from us, and who appeared inclined to spear our Cattle, and that they had fired their Guns over their heads which caused them to retreat - this Story however was not credited by us as we knew the Cattle to be in a contrary direction to that from whence the report of the Guns proceeded -

28th. We progressed about twelve miles to-day over a similar fine Country and camped in a shady sheltered Spot near a large Water hole, and after our frugal evening

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meal retired early to rest. As soon as it was dark however the most appalling Screams arose from one of the tents occupied by Calvert and Roper and jumping out of his tent the Writer perceived them surrounded by Natives throwing Spears and beating them unmercifully with their "Waddies" and "Wameras". They were both much bruised and severely wounded Roper having five spears cut out of him and Calvert three - There was a Party of Natives posted behind each of our small tents,

and had the attack been simultaneous, not one of us in all probability would have escaped - The Writer had a very narrow escape, one of their barbed Spears having entered his tent and grazed his leg just as he was jumping out of it - The most melancholy part of the tale

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however remains to be told - Mr. Gilbert {who accompanied the Party as a Naturalist} on hearing the alarm sprang out of his tent with his Gun in his hand and received a Spear in the breast, which must have entered some vital part, as he fell immediately, saying to one of the black fellows who was near him "Here, Charley, is my Gun", "I am done for", and immediately expired - Four Guns were discharged by us at the Natives, and by the traces of blood found the following morning, and the track of some one having been dragged along through the grass, there is little doubt that one or more of them were either killed or severely wounded, and what confirms this supposition is, that the Natives were heard in the morning very near us wailing

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immoderately. It ~~is~~ ^(was) much ~~(to be)~~ feared that the injuries received by Calvert and Rogers ^(would) ~~(will)~~, by rendering them incapable of riding, detain us at this disastrous Camp for some days, and it was thought by all of us more than probable that we should receive another nocturnal visit from the Natives, but at all events we were determined that though fewer in number they should find us better prepared than on the former occasion - Indeed it must be owned that there was a most culpable negligence in our Camp, and we had for a long time given up our practice of watching which we at first most rigidly adhered to - On the first view of the Case this certainly appears to have been an atrocious Act on the part of the Natives, but

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on cool reflection, there is little doubt that it was only the natural retaliation that might have been expected for some insult or injury, fancied or real, offered to them at the last Camp by our black fellows, for it is certain that it was the same tribe who followed on our tracks, and shrewd suspicions were entertained by one or two of the Party, that like all other mischief, there must have been a Woman at the bottom of it.

29th. After doing all in our power to alleviate the sufferings of our Companions we proceeded to dig a Grave for the unfortunate Gilbert - owing however to the hardness of the ground, and our want of proper tools, we could only get to the depth of three feet six inches, and

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even that proved an arduous task. About four o'clock in the day we committed his remains to the Earth, Dr. Leichhardt reading the beautiful service for the burial of the dead in a very feeling manner. We then cut his Name and Age on a large tree overhanging his grave, and made an immense fire over the newly-disturbed Ground to conceal it from the Natives, a precaution it is to be hoped that would prevent them from raising the body.

30th. The last night passed without any alarm, but our Invalids not being yet able to travel, the Doctor has determined to stop for them one night longer, when they must be ready to proceed on our journey, this resolution is certainly necessary to preserve the lives of the remainder of the Party who are all knocked up with watching and fatigue.

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1st. July. Contrary to our expectations we heard no more of the Natives and started with our wounded Companions about eleven o'clock in the day, intending only to make a short stage, but in this we were deceived, as we could not meet with water until five o'clock in the evening, when we came upon a fine Creek and camped there having travelled fifteen miles, which sorely distressed our sick Comrades.

2^d. We had no disturbance during the past night and started at nine in the morning making about eight miles over a very dry Country thickly cover'd with small Maleluka Scrub. We at last found a small Water hole and our Invalids being much fatigued and exhausted we camped at it, and the whole Party immediately fell fast asleep and did not wake until morning.

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3^d. We again only made eight miles this day, over similar Country without meeting with any Water, and at last came on a small water hole where we halted -

4th. The state of our Patients would only admit of our going six miles today as we feared if we went further we should not meet with water in time for camping, though that where we stopped was very bad and brackish.

5th. We made an early start this morning and crossed several very extensive plains, some of them covered with Marine Plants and Incrustations of Salt which convinced us we were approaching the Coast, and in about ten miles we came to a large Saltwater Creek, the banks covered with mangroves to some distance.

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It was not until nearly Sun down that we could find any fresh water when we came to a fine Water hole near a dry Creek, were we camped, having travelled nine successive hours, and made about twenty miles, which sadly fatigued our Invalids; It was therefore determined that to-morrow, being Sunday, should be kept as a day of Rest - At this Camp we threw into the Water hole all our Horse-Shoes and useless lumber, in order to lighten the Bullock Loads and enable us to proceed more rapidly. - Indeed at the next Camp we stop at to kill a Beast we must endeavour to effect a further reduction, and part with every thing not absolutely necessary, as our means of subsistence are now reduce to eight Bullocks

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in poor condition, and every prospect of at least six months hard travelling before us. The Doctor reported the Lat: to be 16.27½

7th. After about an hour and a half's travelling we came to a fine River which the doctor seems positive is the one laid down in the Chart as the "Staten" and which we have been expecting for some days past to arrive at - It appears to be a fine wide noble River, and we were very fortunate in arriving at a convenient spot for crossing it while the tide was out, or we might have had to follow it up for many miles before we could have found a crossing place - We continued our

course in a direct line over a fine well water'd Country for about ten miles and camped on the side of a Creek where there

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are Natives at no great distance who commenced reconnoitring us immediately on our arrival. We have been very fortunate in procuring Game - Our Dog caught a fine large Emu this morning and we have had one nearly every day for the last ten or 12 days. -

An amusing incident took place just at dusk as we were setting our Watch and the remainder were retiring to rest - A Native, apparently absorbed in thought, came strait up to our Camp under the impression that it was his own, until he nearly ran against one of our Horses tethered to a Tree - He immediately ran up the nearest Tree with the agility of a Squirrel and no persuasions we could use would induce him to descend - He soon commenced uttering the most

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frightful screams and yells to attract the notice of his tribe, and we much feared we should have another attack from them - We however all drew to a little distance from him to give him an opportunity of coming down unperceived, and in about five minutes one of us going to see if he was still there found he had vanished. The poor fellow appeared to be in a dreadful state of alarm -

8th. At starting this morning we observed a great number of Natives looking at us a considerable distance off, but they did not venture to approach - We made today twelve miles over a fine level Country and camped late by the side of a Creek. The Doctor took an Observation at this Camp and reported our Latitude to be 16.47° -

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9th. We made to-day twelve miles, over a perfectly level Country without once meeting with Water until we halted at three o'clock at a fine long Water-hole where we camped

10th. Previous to starting this morning a number of Natives came up near us but finding they were observed immediately made off - We started rather early and found that we had camped last night within half a mile of the River "Van Dieman" - The River was not running and we came upon it at a very favorable place for crossing, but in doing so our Leaders' Horse got into a Bog from which we had much difficulty in extricating him - This caused us nearly an hour's delay, when we proceeded and made about twelve miles, camping by the side of a fine Lagune on an open plain - We stopped at this Camp to kill and

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dry a Bullock before proceeding further - Our Dog to-day caught a fine young Wallaby which with a couple of Ducks gave us a fine Meal -

11th. We were all busily employed cutting up and drying our Meat when we were surprised by seeing at some distance a great number of Natives apparently nearly a hundred including Women and Children - they advanced rapidly towards our Camp, at a short distance from which the Women drew off and about thirty of their young Men all dressed in their War Paint and each carrying three or four long Spears advanced to within a short distance of us and spoke very rapidly,

making at the same time violent gestures apparently meaning that we should remove - The Doctor accompanied by one of our Natives went up to them and made signs we were going far away

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by to-morrow's Sun - They seemed to comprehend this and our Native mounting his Horse and galloping about, they immediately took to the run and we saw no more of them, though we rather expected a nocturnal visit - There is little doubt but they were the same tribe, one of whom got up into the Tree, and they had been following our tracks to gratify their curiosity.

12th. Although our Meat is not yet in a fit state for packing our Leader considered it prudent to make a short stage to-day in case our neighbours should return and become troublesome. We accordingly travelled about seven miles entirely over level Country and halted by the side of a Creek, to put out our Meat to dry - In our progress this day we

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crossed the bed of a considerable River, but not running, though plenty of Pools of Water in it - Whether our Leader will name it or not is yet a matter of doubt -

13th. Our Horses could not be found until late this morning so we did not start until twelve o'clock and did not meet with Water until Sun down when we halted at a Muddy Pool in a dense Scrub and camped for the night having travelled twelve miles over very indifferent Country - Lat: 17.19.

14th. We made to-day ten miles, the Country still continuing very scrubby, and halted at a fine Lagune surrounded by thick Scrub and covered with Native Tracks - It is altogether a dangerous place to encamp in, but we shall be compelled to remain here for a day or two as one of our wounded Companions is so much worse as to be unable to sit his Horse. Our Latitude by Observation 17.28.

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16th. Roper is still so ill as to be unable to proceed - Indeed the Doctor is of opinion that he is in a dangerous state, one Spear having injured his Spine, nevertheless he has declared it imperatively necessary that we proceed to-morrow if we have even to fasten the Patient on his Horse -

17th. A good night's rest having considerably relieved Roper, we started about nine o'clock in the morning in a SW. direction through the same scrubby description of Country and after about an hours riding came upon the channel of the River "Carron" which we crossed. It is an insignificant stream and now quite dry with a sandy bed and high banks and large Maleluka Trees in the bottom, and by no means so large as the River we crossed on the 12th. Instant - The Doctor finding that the latter, though noticed in the Chart is still unnamed has baptized it "the Gilbert"

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in memory of our late murdered Companion. Previous to our starting this morning we observed a number of Blacks in the Scrub round us all armed busily watching our movements but they did not venture near us. The Country became more open as we proceeded and after making about ten miles we halted at the side of a small Pool in quite open forest ground

18th. We travelled to-day upwards of twelve miles but not more than seven in a direct line as our Course occasionally varied to all points of the Compass - We crossed some very extensive plains and were stopped at last by a thick Mangrove Swamp - One of our Natives penetrated thro' it and reported that the open Sea Beach was on the other side. We had accordingly to vary our course to the Eastward, and were a long time finding fresh water and at last in very small quantity - On our route to-day we killed an Emu, Two Wallabies and nine Ducks.

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19th. We travelled to day only about seven miles as the extreme exhaustion of our wounded Companion compelled us to halt very early in the day.

20th. We came to-day on a large Salt Water Creek or Inlet which we crossed, being accompanied from our last Camp by six Natives who had been watching our Motions all night and to whom our Leader went up and spoke in the morning - they were very friendly and assisted us much in putting us on the best way to avoid Scrub and the Creek until we came to the Crossing-place and from their repeatedly saying "Yappa" and pointing to the Water, our Leader named this "Yappa Creek". We crossed over the Rocks quite easily and the Natives then took leave of us. The Doctor is of the opinion that we are now passing the Apex of the Gulf of Carpentaria. All our efforts to find fresh water were fruitless and after travelling twenty two miles until

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quite dark we were compelled to camp for the night without water and had indeed a miserable night of it, as the weather was insupportably hot - Lat: 17.41.

21st. One of our Natives who went in search of the Horses shortly returned with the cheering intelligence that he had discovered plenty of water at about two miles distance. To this spot we immediately removed and found a fine rocky water hole where we remained the rest of the day to give Roper an opportunity of regaining a little strength for his journey to-morrow, and also to recruit our weary Bullocks and Horses.

22nd. Just at starting this morning we had the good luck to shoot a Bustard and a fine large Emu, when we proceeded across open forest ground and plains for about seven miles and camped on the side of a fine Lagune, just after crossing a dry plain which extended in a N.W. direction further than the

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the eye could reach - There was a fine Salt-Water Inlet running thro' it, apparently of great depth. Lat: 17.50

23^d. Our route this day lay entirely over immense plains - We made about twelve miles and crossed the Salt Water Creek last named which the Doctor called "Big Plain Creek" and camped at the extremity of a plain by the side of a large Lagune where we shot upwards of 50 ducks.

24th. We travelled this day from nine in the morning until six in the evening accomplishing about twenty two miles, having to take a very circuitous route in order to avoid the Salt Lakes and Creeks we came upon, and camped for the night in a large plain, at Sun down, without water, having been unable to find a drop the whole day - We had a distant view of the Sea and procured an abundant

supply of beautiful Rock Salt of which we were much in want - A Council was held at this Camp when it was determined to return to our last Camp.

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26th. We had intended to make a very early start this morning but the Bullocks could not be found and about two in the Afternoon we retraced our steps with Pack Horses leaving the Doctor with the remainder of the Luggage until the Bullocks could be found or some of us could return with the Horses, and about six in the Evening we arrived at a small Swamp near our last Camp having all been without water for thirty six hours. We overtook the Bullocks on their way back for water quite exhausted and we therefore dispatched a Party with the Pack Horses as soon as the Moon rose, which was about two o'clock, and at eleven they returned with the Doctor and the remainder of our Packs and we determined to remain at this Camp for a day to recruit our strength

28th. We made this day fifteen miles and camped at a fine large Water hole in a deep Creek - We heard Natives in our immediate vicinity

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29th. At starting this morning we came upon the tribe of Natives we heard last night and they were at first exceedingly alarmed at our appearance, but soon gathered confidence enough to approach the Doctor who dismounted and went up to them - they appeared a fine set of Men, in number about fifteen - We made only six miles this day and camped on the same Creek - Lat: 18.0

30th. We progressed ten miles chiefly over level ground and camped at a small rocky Water-hole near a very thick Scrub -

31st. We made twelve miles over fine plains and camped a small Water hole in a Creek where there were some Natives already encamped. The Women only happened to be at the Camp when we came up and they fled with the greatest precipitation leaving a fine little Boy about six or seven years of age behind them: He made a most fearful outcry on seeing us and fought resolutely against the Doctor who went up

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to him and gave him an Iron Bullock Ring, with which he shortly after made off to some of his tribe who were calling to him at a distance.

Aug^t. 1st. Our route to day has been a little varied by some low Ridges instead of the immense plains which we have been for some days crossing - We made about seven miles and camped early in the day by the side of a small Lagune covered with White Lotus.

2^d. We travelled twelve miles and camped by the side of a fine Water hole in open forest ground.

3^d. We made good sixteen miles this day chiefly over Ridges and rather scrubby Country though we saw several fine plains, and camped by the side of a fine deep water hole in a rocky Creek with open country on both sides of it.

4th. This day we extended our peregrination ten miles further and halted in the vicinity of a

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large Salt-water River {We imagine "The Albert"} by the side of a very extensive Lagune. There were a party of Natives fishing in the River who, in the evening just before dark, approached in

rather strong numbers and assumed a threatening attitude, placing their Spears in the Wameras, and evidently inclined to commence hostilities, but upon two of our Party riding towards them they decamped and swam to the other side of the River.

Lat: 17.52.

5th. Having killed a Bullock at this Camp we shall be detained here this day but will proceed tomorrow as we do not much like the motions of the Natives who continue hovering about us though they do not approach.

6th. Although our Meat was in a very wet state we proceeded this morning and made twelve miles before we could find a Water hole, and when we did we found it previously occupied by a tribe of

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Natives - they however immediately vacated it and we intend remaining here a couple of days to dry our meat

8th. We could make no further progress to-day than six miles, a Salt-water Creek taking us so much out of our course that we determined on stopping at the first water hole we met, in case we should not find another -

9th. We travelled to-day upwards of fifteen miles without meeting with fresh water and camped long after Sundown on the bank of the River last mentioned. We killed three Emus which delayed our time of starting until one o'clock in the Afternoon

10th. We were fortunate enough to find a Crossing place over the River just by our Camp and crossed it in safety. We made to-day twelve miles and camped on a fine Creek with large plains on every side of us - On arriving at our Camp our Bullocks rushed eagerly into the

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Water and one of them had the misfortune to get bogged, and though we used every exertion for two days we found it impossible to extricate him, and were therefore obliged to kill him, so that we shall be detained two or three days to dry the Meat for use. We killed here seven fine Emus.

15th. We were unable to start again until this day, when we travelled fifteen miles without meeting with Water and were again compelled to camp without it

16th. We made to-day twelve miles and found but a very scanty supply of water -

17th. We journeyed this day about eight miles and came upon a fine deep Water hole in a Creek where we camped.

18th. We travelled to-day in a SW direction about ten miles and

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came upon a fine Creek or small River of beautiful fresh water by the side of which we camped.

19th. We made today ten miles over a beautiful Country and after crossing the Creek camped on another fine brook {both tributary to the River} It was running swiftly and is pretty deep but we shall be able to cross it to-morrow - The Doctor gave this the name of "Beames's Brook" in honor of one of the Contributors to the Expedition

20th. In about an hour and a half's travelling we again came on the River which was here about four hundred yards wide, though there was only a small stream then running through the middle of it - We continued our course through a rather scrubby Country and were unable to meet with Water at Sun down, having travelled about seventeen miles.

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we therefore camped in the Scrub without any for the sixth or seventh time within a few days, and the Doctor now acknowledged the absolute necessity of reconnoitring and accordingly started a ten o'clock at night with one of the Blacks to endeavor to find water leaving us to return about fifteen miles to-morrow morning to a Lagune near the River if he did not return before we started

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21st. The Doctor not returning by ten o'clock we accordingly had to plod our weary way back again - The Cattle and Horses were very weak for want of water, and indeed all of us in a bad state - The Writer was himself so oppressed by thirst {it having been exceedingly hot for the last three days} that his tongue swelled out of his mouth and turned completely black, and even after obtaining water was sometime before it became healthy again -

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22^d. The Doctor came back late last evening and we therefore started early this morning and travelled twenty four miles entirely through a vile scrubby barren Country and camped by a rocky Creek at eight o'clock at night, all pretty well knocked up from fatigue and long fasting and as our Cattle require a days rest we shall remain at our Camp until the return of a Party who will proceed reconnoitring to-morrow morning -

24th. The Party did not return until this morning with a very unfavorable account of the Country they traversed having been unable to find water in fifteen miles distance, the Doctor therefore determined on remaining at Camp again this day and starting early to morrow morning in another direction -

25th. We travelled from eight o'clock in the morning until eight at night and at last came upon a large

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Creek but after following it down for six miles could only find a small drop of water in some Wells the Natives had dug in the Sand - We therefore camped again for the night without water having ridden twenty five miles under a scorching Sun - The Doctor named this Creek "Kooembong Creek" {that word signifying "Moonlight" in the language of the Natives

26th. One of the Natives who went after the Horses, finding a Lagune about a mile and a half from our Camp the Doctor determined on returning back to it and remaining there for the day; thus it always happens that when we make a good stage it is invariably spoiled by the consequent delay - The Doctor's chief motive for losing this day was the report that there were plenty of Emus in the

neighbourhood of the Camp - Our Dog certainly caught one but the flesh was so bitter as to be disgusting food.

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27th. We travelled to-day sixteen miles and came upon the head of a Creek which we followed down about four miles and found a small rocky Water hole where we camped - Our course was pretty nearly N.W but the mischief is that our's is in fact a tour in search of water instead of proceeding steadily in our proper course as will be readily seen when it is mentioned that we have already traversed two thousand four hundred miles and are still five hundred from Port Essington {which will no doubt be increased to seven or eight hundred} and we have not met a single obstacle to turn us ten miles from our proper course except the want of water; for this however there is now no remedy -

28th. We made to-day ten miles entirely through the same thick Scrub, to which at present there does not seem likely to be a termination - We then came on a

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Saltwater Creek which after following up about a couple of miles brought us to some brackish Water holes where we camped - The two black fellows having here quarrelled with each other one of them acknowledged to M^r. Calvert that they had both been concerned in committing a criminal assault on the persons of three black Women and also wounding an old black fellow on the night before the fatal attack on us by which a valuable life was sacrificed - The Doctor has of course been made acquainted with all this , but he notwithstanding encourages them in every species of insolence towards the rest of the Party, which it is to be feared will yet terminate in some fatal occurrence if not in some manner put a stop to -

29th. We made to-day ten miles and came on a Creek or small River which after following down about three miles we came to some fine

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Water and camped there - this is very probably the "Von Alfen".

30th. We travelled this day ten miles the Country gradually gets more open - We came upon a large Water course with plenty of good water and camped there - The Doctor intends remaining over to-morrow -

Sept^r. 1st. We made every preparation for an early start but could not find one of the Horses which detained us at Camp again this day. At this place we obtained a great number of Parrots and the Doctor ordered for greater economy that they should be stewed with the Entrails in - All the Party, even the blacks, remonstrated against this disgusting arrangement, but our Leader was impenetrable, and coolly remarked that if any one had an insuperable objection to eating them in the manner he had ordered them to be dressed, they could go without and there would be more for those who were not so fastidious -

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Sept^r. 2^d. We made sixteen miles though not more than seven in a direct course, and crossed a large Salt water Creek - Indeed the whole of the plains we have lately traversed appeared to have been at times covered with Salt-water, and we camped late at a small brackish Water hole -

3^d. We travelled this day ten miles over rather better Country and camped by the side of a Chain of fine Lagunes of beautiful Water which was a great treat to us after the Salt stuff we have lately had - Our Latitude here was 16.55.

4th. We made to-day twelve miles in a N.W. course over a fine Country and camped at a water hole in a large Creek in beautiful open forest ground - We here killed a fine fat Emu.

5th. We travelled ten miles and crossed a large Saltwater Creek about one hundred yards wide and full of water. We here shot another Emu -
Lat: 16.48.

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6th. We made to-day fifteen miles over very fine Country though we occasionally met with a little Scrub, and came upon a fine running stream of fresh water the banks of which shew that it is at times a considerable River - The Doctor thinks this is the "Von Alfen" - Our course was nearly N.W. all day.

7th. We progressed to-day nine miles over fine Country and crossed several Water courses, the last we came to running directly in our course we followed it down and soon came to a water hole where we camped - Lat: 16.35.

8th. Our course to day was nearly N.W, and we crossed several Creeks the Country is rather thickly timbered tho' small - We came to a fine running River about two hundred and fifty yards wide with plenty of water and camped in the bed of it having made ten miles - There

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is little doubt this is the "Abel Tasman" - We saw some high Ranges in the distance

9th. Our Horses having strayed to some distance we were unable to start until ten o'clock this morning when after passing some rocky Ranges at the distance of seven miles from yesterday's Camp we came upon a large Saltwater River - indeed the finest we have yet seen - and this we think must be the "Abel Tasman" and not the one we passed yesterday, which the Doctor no doubt will take the opportunity of naming - We made about ten miles this day and camped at a small Water hole -

10th. We made to day fifteen miles after crossing the River which we accomplished easily- the Country we passed through is fine, abounding with Stringy Bark Timber and but slightly scrubby - It also appears well water'd and we camped on the bank of a fine Creek, or Small River shaded with beautiful Trees.

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11th. We made to-day nine miles and crossed several Creeks - the Country rather more thickly timbered - We camped by the side of a Creek but the water was so brackish as to be unfit for use

12th. Our Horses could not be found until twelve o'clock in the day we therefore only moved further up the Creek about three miles where we obtained a little better water by digging wells in the Sand but even this was strongly impregnated with Iron and very disagreeable.

13th. We started early this morning and made twelve miles entirely through close forests of Cypress Pine and scrubby Country - We crossed several fine Creeks and followed down a Saltwater one for about three miles when we came to a Water hole of good Water where we camped - Lat: 16.28.

14th. We came this day, after two hours riding, on a fine Saltwater River about half a mile in width

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which we followed up for sometime before we could find a crossing place - this we did after travelling about nine miles from our last Camp, and the doctor named it the "Nicholson" when finding a small well of Brackish Water we camped for the day in order to cut up and dry seven Emus which we caught this day.

15th. We crossed the River early this morning and travelled until Sun down doing about twenty two miles without being able to meet with fresh water - Our Emu meat in consequence was quite putrid when unpacked, nevertheless the Doctor compelled us to eat it or starve, and though partaking very sparingly of it we suffered severely in the night from Diarhoea and Pains in the Stomach - Lat: 16.11

16th. We started very early this morning in search of water and after travelling about six miles came upon another large Saltwater River, on the bank

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of which we found a small well of brackish water dug by the Natives - We immediately halted and watered the Horses which expended the whole stock in the Well, and our Bullocks were in most distressed condition having to wait nearly two hours each for a two gallon potfull of water - The Doctor crammed us with some more of the putrid flesh of the Emu which nearly killed two of us by producing violent vomiting and excruciating pains in the Stomach - He then set off with one of the Blacks to reconnoitre for water, and found some at seven miles distance - He returned at Sundown and after eating an enormous quantity of the putrid Stomachs of the Emus he determined on removing immediately as the only means of saving our bullocks,

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one of which was quite knocked up - We started at half past six and arrived at Camp about nine o'clock - There was a large party of Natives in our vicinity - The Doctor named this River the "Robinson" -

17th & 18th. Our knocked up Bullocks being unable to travel we remained at Camp these days to recruit them whilst the Doctor proceeded to reconnoitre - Three of the Party were again taken very ill from the effects of the putrid Emu Meat and the Doctor at last convinced that it is that which disordered us has consented to the remainder being given to the Dog - We caught an Emu to day

19th. We started at half past eight this morning and travelled seven miles over a fine open Country - Our Camp is however rather too much surrounded by Timber to be very safe, particularly as there

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are Natives close by, a large Camp of them having fled at the Doctor's approach yesterday
The Doctor is again gone to reconnoitre -

20th. We made this day ten miles partly over fine open Country and the latter part rather thickly timbered with small stringy Bark and Tea Tree - We camped by the side of a fine Rivulet which has only just ceased running - We caught another Emu today but the Meat was very bitter occasioned by the Bird's feeding on a small orange-coloured Berry which grows here in great abundance and is the most intense bitter ever tasted -

21st. We travelled this day twenty four miles and about two o'clock in the day came on a large Saltwater River which we followed up until Sundown without meeting with fresh water and were obliged to camp on the River Bank without any - Our Horses and Bullocks as well as ourselves were much

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distressed in consequence - We met on our Route with a tribe of Natives who were very friendly, exchanging presents with us and shewing every demonstration of having seen white Men before -

22^d. We moved early along the River Bank and made six miles when we found a Rocky Creek with fresh water where we must halt to kill a Bullock that is unable to travel - At this Camp our Black fellows report having seen a large Alligator - The Doctor this Evening took an Observation and reported as follows Long: 134.35 Lat: 16.5½

26th. We could not move forward again until to-day when we soon found a good crossing place over the River, which the Doctor has named the "Macarthur" and travelled over a very indifferent Country fifteen miles - We camped on a fine large Creek with plenty

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of water which the Doctor had previously found in his last Reconnoitre and here we must remain over to-morrow while the Doctor finds water for the next day

28th. We started at eleven o'clock this morning and after travelling fifteen miles party open Country but chiefly Scrub we camped on a fine Creek where we shall remain until the Doctor return from further reconnoitring - Lat: 15.47.

Oct^r. 1st. Our Leader not returning until late last night we did not start 'till this morning when we made fifteen miles entirely over wretched scrubby Country and camped on the Bank of a River which {judging from the Flood marks} is at times a considerable Stream - It was now running under the Sand and had detached Pools of excellent Water at short distances. We here obtained a good supply of a sort of wild Bean which when roasted and pounded made excellent Coffee and afforded us much refreshment.

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2^d. We travelled to-day twelve miles entirely through dense Scrub, crossing during the time three watercourses, all dry, - We came at last to a fine deep Creek which after following down for half a mile contained some deep Water holes of good water where we camped for the night -

3^d. Owing to the indisposition of the Doctor we only journeyed to-day seven miles and camped early at a Water hole in a small Creek - The Country we passed through was entirely the same wretched sort of Scrub as before - We were detained at this Camp the next day not being able to find our Horses until late in the day.

5th. We travelled this day ten miles over the same description of Country and shortly before camping came upon some low rocky Hills from which we had a distinct view of the open Sea at about four or five miles distance - This we

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conjecture must be "Linham Bight" but in the Doctor's opinion we were at least ninety miles from the Coast - Lat: 15.14.

6th. We made to-day seventeen miles but not in a direct line as we had constantly to veer about in order to avoid boggy sandy plains. We came at last on a Creek of Salt water which by following up some distance brought us to some very brackish water where we camped. We have to stay here to kill another Bullock which knocked up on the Road and we were obliged to leave behind us -

10th. We made to-day eight miles over very scrubby Country and camped by the side of a Lagune of fine water which afforded us a great treat.

11th. We were unable to start until two o'clock in the Afternoon of this day owing to not being able to get in our Bullocks - We therefore only made a short stage of six miles and camped on the bank of a large Creek or Salt-water River, but close to a

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small Creek of brackish water in which we shot seven fine fat Geese.

12th. We started at nine o'clock and followed the River until eleven when we found a Crossing-place and continued our Route through a very scrubby Country making altogether ten miles - We are in the immediate vicinity of another very large River which we shall probably be obliged to follow up for a day or two.

13th. Contrary to our expectations we were able to cross easily within three miles of our last Camp which we did safely and travelled over wretched scrubby stony Country for twelve miles when we camped by the side of a Creek of good water.

14th. We kept a good North West course this day for fifteen miles over the same sort of Country and camped on the bank of a large fresh-water River about half a mile in width from bank to bank and still running under the Sand - We camped on the right bank and had an Epicurean

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Feast on fine Red Kangaroo which our Dog was lucky enough to kill.

15th. We travelled from eight in the morning until half past six in the evening of this day, a distance of twenty four miles, continually ascending and descending steep rocky Ranges, some of

which it really appeared impossible for our Cattle to surmount; however the day passed without any accident, except that we were obliged to camp without water, not having seen a drop the whole day though we crossed many large dry Creeks - Our remaining Dog too, knocked up on the Road from excessive heat, thirst, and fatigue and we were obliged to leave him behind us, but will fetch him in the morning. A Party went out by moonlight to search for water and returned in five hours having found some very brackish in a large Creek which they followed down for seven miles.

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16th. At six this morning we moved our Camp to the Water-hole where we arrived at half past eight, to the great joy of both Men and Cattle who were all suffering dreadfully from exhaustion, not having eaten or drank since six o'clock on the previous morning - We shall remain here the rest of the day. Our Party came in with the Dog about twelve o'clock but in such an exhausted state that he died the same evening. This is a serious loss to us.

Lat: 15.10.

17th. We started at nine o'clock with the intention of only going a short stage if we could have met with water, and kept a direct North West course until seven in the Evening having travelled twenty four miles without meeting a drop of water - Our route was entirely through thick low Scrub until the close of the day when we came upon open plains with high ridges in the

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distance and what appeared to us to be a large Watercourse or River. We immediately made for it but night coming on obliged us to camp again without water; however we had only just turned out our Horses when we heard a shot very near us from one of our Blacks who had been some hours away in search of water, and in a short time he rejoined us with the cheering intelligence that he had found water and a fine open Country. As soon as the Moon rose we therefore again saddled our Horses and went to the Water hole, not more than a quarter of a mile distant and there we shall remain to morrow to recruit our Cattle -

18th. A Party went out shooting early this morning and found some very extensive Lagunes about three miles distant from us literally swarming with Ducks and Geese - they speedily returned with twenty three Ducks and a Goose which afforded a fine treat.

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19th. The Doctor was so pleased with the taste of the Duck Meat that he resolved on staying yet another day to obtain some more of them and we therefore travelled about four miles to the head of the Lagunes, when we came upon a splendid fresh-water River, far surpassing any we have yet (~~with~~) met with - The Doctor named it the "Roper" after one of our Party who first saw it at a distance. Here we camped and in about three hours our shooting Party brought us in twenty Ducks, and after taking their Lunch departed again in quest of more. They returned soon after dark bringing in thirty Ducks and two Geese making a total killed this day of fifty ducks and two Geese, and large as the number may seem they only sufficed for three meals, but they certainly were good ones.

20th. We continued our course along the River bank for eleven miles and camped for the day, having

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shot a fine Emu. Lat: 14.47.

21st. We made every preparation for an early start but our Black who went out for the Horses did not return with them 'till nearly three o'clock in the day and brought the sad tidings that three of our best Horses had been drowned in a deep rocky Creek close to the River - The lost Horses are "Dozey" a very powerful young Black Horse which the Writer hereof had ridden the whole way, and was in beautifully high condition - the next "Bobby" a fast young Horse belonging to poor Gilbert and the one we mainly depended on for procuring Emus and Kangaroos - the third was "Black Jack" a very large useful Horse either for Pack or Saddle, and indeed quite the Slave of the Party - This is a grievous loss but it is to be hoped will not be attended with serious consequences to the Party - the first inconvenience

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it has subjected us to is obliging us to throw away all that can possibly be spared from each Man's necessaries, the Doctor has left behind his large Collections of Plants and geological specimens which he valued at between four and five hundred pounds. We started in melancholy mood at halfpast three o'clock, making six miles along the River and camped just before Sundown in the vicinity of a Native Camp.

22^d. Previous to starting this morning three of the Natives swam over the River to us and approached close to our Camp seemingly without any fear - We stayed a short time with them making them some trifling present with which they were much gratified - They seemed a very mild intelligent race of Men and what is a rather curious circumstance they had all undergone the operation of circumcision - On leaving them

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we proceeded fourteen miles further up the River - it has now got much narrower but is still very deep -

23^d. The Natives paid us an early visit this morning, mustering to the number of twenty eight, besides some others who did not come near us - they followed us a long distance on our course and were very anxious that we should go to their Camp {near which we passed} to camp for the night, but this of course we prudently declined. We crossed the right branch of the "Roper" easily, and after two hours travelling came upon the other branch, running to the North West, along which we travelled and made a good course twelve miles
The River is here wide and deep and the banks very steep. Great blame is attributed to the Doctor in not selecting better camping places, which could very

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easily be found by going a little further: the sad consequence of this is that our remaining best Horse "Macarthur" {made a present to the Expedition by a Gentleman of that name in Sydney} in his great eagerness to get Water, fell over the steep bank, and we have been all the remainder of the day and night endeavouring to get him out.

24th. All our efforts to extricate the Horse proved unavailing and we had the misery of seeing the poor Animal drowned without being able to save him. Soon afterwards another {an Iron Grey

Valparaiso Horse} fell in from the same cause, and we were some hours before we could get him out but this at last we fortunately succeeded in - We have now lost six horses by accidents and our situation is becoming every day more critical and dangerous; still the Doctor will not shake off that

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apathy and indolence which pervades his every action and induces him so unnecessarily to prolong our journey - for instance, to-day over excellent travelling ground with our Cattle quite fresh, we made good only seven miles - it certainly was eleven o'clock when we started, but we halted at two, when we might have proceeded until four or five o'clock -

25th. We travelled this day ten miles, in a N.N.West course and camped at twelve o'clock on the River Bank, the bed of which has become quite rocky. We shot to-day two fine Wallabies.

26th. We made ten miles more to-day over a rough stony Country which has rendered our Horses and Cattle foot-sore and we camped on the River Bank.

27th. Owing to the jaded state of our Horses we were only able to journey seven miles to-day but that was in a direct North West

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course - The Country has now become quite open and we travel over fine open plains by the bank of the River which has now divided into several small streams - The Natives seem very numerous in this part of the Country. Just after dark as we were retiring to rest, an alarm was given by our black fellow on watch that several Natives armed with spears were stealing upon our Camp, and he called to Roper, who was standing near the fire, to come away from there, which he did immediately, or there is little doubt he would again have been speared. They evidently meant to attack us when sleeping but finding we were all awake and ready to receive them, they quickly made off and we heard no more of them.

28th. We started at half past seven

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this morning and in an hour's riding came to the head of the River "Roper", which appears to emanate from a Spring in a grassy reedy Swamp. We then continued in a good course for fourteen miles and luckily found some Water {though very bad} under a tree in a deep Creek, where we camped for the night

29th. We travelled to-day over some very fine open forest-land and crossed a high stony Range, making good eleven miles. We followed a large Creek for some distance but could only obtain a very scanty supply of water by digging in a part where the Natives had previously been searching for it. However one of our Blacks went out in search of water and returned at six o'clock with the news that he had found it in a rocky gorge about two miles distant - We immediately saddled and proceeded there and camped for the night on the side of a stony Hill where we passed a miserable night. Lat: 14.33.

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30th. We progressed this day twelve miles almost entirely through the mountains and came about one o'clock in the day, on a fine running Creek in open forest ground where we camped and having a Horse knocked up shall be compelled to stop over tomorrow

31st. We remained in Camp and a shooting Party went out and procured a Mess of "flying foxes" to the number of forty two - they generally weigh nearly a Pound each and when fat are really good eating. Lat: 14.24.

Nov^r. 1st. We made to-day twelve miles in a good N.N.West course and after leaving the Creek we followed down from our last Camp we crossed some beautiful open forest land and came upon either the same or another fine running Creek or small River which the Doctor named "Calvert's Creek", and on the bank of this we

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camped about half past one o'clock and partook of a Lunch of two stewed foxes each - Soon after two more of our party brought in twenty nine more which furnished us with a scanty supper and breakfast.

2^d. We travelled this day in a nearly N.N.West course over a fine Country still keeping the line of "Calvert's Creek" and again we camped on its bank at one o'clock in the day -

3^d. We traversed the banks of the Creek again this day for ten miles further and camped in a beautiful spot on its bank at twelve o'Clock PM - Our course was N.N.West all day -

Lat: 14.2.

4th. We started at nine o'clock this morning and made ten miles over very rough stony mountainous Country as we very soon left the Creek which was taking us much out of our course. We

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We kept to-day to the Northward and came on another fine running Creek where we camped at one o'clock P.M. Lat: 13.56.

5th. We continued our route along the last mentioned Creek when we were compelled to leave it as it went out of our course. We then passed over some very rocky ridges, accomplishing this day fourteen miles and camped on the side of another Creek in an open flat surrounded by Rocks at three o'Clock in the afternoon - Our course was N.W. by West - Lat: 13.50.

6th. We started at nine o'clock this morning and travelled over much rocky ground and close forest until four o'clock in the afternoon and although we crossed several large Creeks could not find any Water - We made in all sixteen miles and camped late at a Water hole in a Creek which

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we followed up for four miles. One of our Bullocks was quite knocked up when we halted and we should have killed him at this Camp had there been any feed for the other Cattle but such not being the case we must wait until to-morrow though we have nothing but green hide to eat

7th. We travelled five miles further down the Creek in which there is now plenty of water, but very little feed on its banks and camped by the side of a large Water hole at ten o'clock A.M. and immediately killed our Bullock.

9th. Drying our Meat detain'd us at Camp 'till this morning when we again followed down the Creek for nine miles further and camped on it bank at three o'Clock in the day with one of our Horse very nearly knocked up.

10th. The Creek now taking an unfavorable course we were obliged to leave it and soon came on another with good water where we camped at eleven o'clock AM having only

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travelled six miles.

11th. We started at eight o'clock this morning and travelled over the worst Country we have yet seen, until Sundown before we met with Water - Our route lay entirely over fields of Stone and rocky gorges almost impassable to Man or Beast. At length we descended to the bed of a River at a great depth and camped for the night having traversed above twenty miles of ground though not more than ten in our proper course. The Wall of Rocks on each side of us cannot be less than six hundred feet in height - Here we have to wait for a day in order to fetch a knocked up Horse we were compelled to leave on the Road -

12th. The Doctor and one of the Blacks went this morning for the Horse and did not return until Sundown with the news that the Horse was dead in the same place we left him - This is the seventh Horse we have

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now lost and we have only one Pack Horse and two Bullocks remaining. The Doctor found a Camp of "flying foxes" on his route this day, and urgent as the necessity is for now pushing on, the Doctor has determined to stay another day at this Camp to get {in his own language} "a good blow-out of them".

13th. The Doctor and the blacks went out early this morning and returned at Sundown bringing with them fifty five foxes, besides having devoured the same number of them before they returned.

14th. We made to-day fourteen miles over the same rocky Country and camped at the side of a Creek at three o'clock PM.

15th. On account of the stony nature of the Country we only got seven miles further this day and camped on a fine stony Creek at half past eleven o'clock.

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16th. We made this day eleven miles over the same sort of Country and camped on a rocky Creek at half past two P.M. Our course was nearly all day N.N. West -

17th. We travelled ten miles of similar ground, and came to the top of what we believe to be the last range, from thence we had a fine view of a long District of low level Country - We tried for some hours to find a passage down the Rocks which formed a complete Wall on every side of us, but it was quite impracticable and we therefore camped on the top where the copious thunder showers we have had for the last three nights had left plenty of water on the Rocks and the Doctor set off with Charley on foot to reconnoitre for a path - they however returned in about two hours unsuccessful

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and the Doctor determined to return back to our last Camp to morrow morning and try the other side of the Creek

18th. We accordingly returned in about five miles to the Creek we had left and the Doctor and Charley went reconnoitring - the latter returned at Sundown leaving the Doctor behind and we are to rejoin him to-morrow morning - He is only about five miles off and has not yet been successful in finding a passage to the foot of the Rocks.

19th. We rejoined the Doctor who must have passed a miserable night alone and without food, and we all set forward again as far as we were able to find a way amongst the Rocks having travelled about seven miles and he Doctor and one of the Blacks went in one direction to reconnoitre and Charley went another way by himself and is sanguine in his expectations of finding a Road -

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Should they not meet with success the Doctor has expressed an intention of returning some distance back and trying to find a passage in a North Eastern direction, but this we all most strenuously opposed. - The Doctor and Brown returned soon after Sundown having had the good fortune to find a pass down though a very rough one -

20th. We made an early start and in an hour and a half's riding began to descend the Mountains - the last we had to descend was quite precipitous and frightful to think of riding down, however there was no alternative and thank God we all got safely to the bottom in accomplishing which we were upwards of an hour and it is certain that every Horse we had would have been knocked up had we had two days travelling over similar Country - Even as it is they look like perfect Skeletons.

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The height of the mountain we last descended cannot be less than two thousand feet. - After resting a short time at the foot we continued our route for about three miles along a fine Creek or small River running at the bottom, and camped on its bank having made about ten miles. In the evening we killed a Bullock

21st. and 22^d. We remained at Camp these days cutting up and drying our Meat but it is much to be feared that the continual thunder storms we have lately had will occasion us to have nothing but tainted meat to eat for some time to come

23^d. Our Meat was in such a bad state this morning that it was advisable to put it out to-day immediately so we could not start until two o'clock in the Afternoon when there being every appearance of Rain coming on soon we started and travelled

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until six o'clock along the Creek making good ten miles - We had scarcely halted when the Rain came down in torrents and continued for three hours without intermission.

24th. We started at a quarter past seven this morning and halted at half-past eleven on the bank of the Creek having done ten miles - We trust this day's hot Sun will yet preserve our meat from putrefaction. Lat: 13.5.

25th. We made ten miles over a beautiful fertile Country interspersed with large Lagunes literally covered with Geese, Ducks and other Aquatic Birds - We shot five Geese which had to suffice for two Meals - Lat: 13.0.

26th. We travelled from seven o'clock this morning until three PM. doing about sixteen miles over a very rich Country abounding in Lakes covered with Wild fowl, and camped by the side

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of a large Swamp now nearly dry where we had most abominable Water - We had a visit here from a large tribe of Natives in number about forty - they were quite friendly but very noisy and importunate - We could not make out the meaning of either their words or gestures; - they went to their Camp at dusk, and left us to our Repose of which we all stood much in need. Lat: 12.51.

27th. The Natives were with us again by break of day and intimated an intention of proceeding onwards with us - this is very fortunate for us as we are now surrounded by immense swamps in almost every direction. - Some delay occurred in finding our remaining Bullock which prevented our starting until ten o'clock when we set out and crossed several of the Swamps though hardly dry enough to be ventured on and indeed some of us were nearly

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bogged several time, however with the kind assistance of the Natives we got safely over them and camped in the middle of one at three o'clock PM. having travelled eight miles but not more than half the distance in our proper course.

28th. A number of the Natives camped in our vicinity and were with us early but we could not start until half-past eight o'clock when they followed us about eight miles and were very desirous that we should go with them to their Camp. We however kept on in our proper course and trust that we have at last got out of the land of Swamps. We travelled fourteen miles and camped by the side of a small Water hole of excerable water in a dry Creek in fine open forest land at half past one o'clock P.M. Lat: 12.38.

29th. We continued our route over a beautiful Country abounding

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with fine Creeks, and made about thirteen miles, camping by the side of a Creek in a pleasant valley shaded by Palm Trees.

30th. We were not able to get all the Horses until twelve o'clock in the day so that we made but eight miles over good Country and halted at three by a Creek side to enjoy a feast of fat Emu

which we were lucky enough to shoot on our way, and a splendid treat it would have been had there only been another of them.

Dec^r. 1st. We travelled to-day fourteen miles over fine open forest until the last five miles which was over a dry swamp, on the edge of which we camped at two o'clock P.M. and were doomed to use the most filthy water ever tasted.

2^d. Whilst waiting for our horses this morning we had a visit from a numerous tribe of Natives who soon increased to the number

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of Seventy - They had evidently seen white Men before and were well acquainted with the Settlement at Port Essington which amongst them goes by the name of "Nimbo Carriga" and "Bellindar" or "White Man's Place". They agreed with us by signs to furnish two of their party for guides and we set forward accompanied by the whole tribe. We had not travelled more than five miles when one of our Horses knocked up and the Bullock also appearing very much distressed as he had been driven a long way this morning from the place he had rambled to in the night, the Doctor determined on camping for the rest of the day - this we did at twelve o'clock, and had the Natives with us all day. - They went out and dug us a quantity of small ground Nuts which they call "Alamoor" and are really very good eating.

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Dec^r. 3^d. We set forward this morning at half past seven o'Clock accompanied by the whole tribe, which including Women and Children, exceeded two hundred - they all however except ten soon left us, and on coming to the Salt-water which we very soon did, the whole of them, including those who had promised to be our Guides, also took their departure. We then proceeded in a N.E. direction to avoid the River, which there is little doubt is one of the "Alligators", and travelled until Sundown without being able to find a drop of fresh water. We were then lucky enough to fall in with another tribe of Natives who shewed us some of their small Wells very near us - this however was but a very insufficient supply for ourselves and Cattle and we passed the night almost without water after having travelled upwards of twenty miles in an excessive hot day.

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4th. We started this morning at seven o'clock and continued our route sometimes through small patches of open forest land and again emerging into vast plains or dry swamps and continually obliged to deviate from our proper course to avoid the River, until three o'clock when we came to a fine Lagune covered with the beautiful Nelumbo Plant and absolutely swarming with wildfowl of every description. Here we camped and in two shots got ten Geese. We shall remain in this Spot over to-morrow to rest our Cattle who are all nearly knocked up from fatigue and want of water, and two parties are gone out, one in quest of flying foxes, and the other to procure some more geese. We journeyed this day full eighteen miles and neither Horses nor Bullock could have gone a mile further

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5th. We had a visit this morning from another Native Tribe but we were soon glad to get rid of them as they became very rapacious in their demands for presents, and indeed almost took away things by force. We killed nine geese again to-day and fifty flying foxes. -

6th. We started at eight o'clock this morning and after making a circuitous route of eight miles to avoid the Lagunes and cross the River we halted by the side of another large Lagune at half past eleven A.M. not more in a direct line than two miles from our last Camp - We are however now able to follow our proper course and hope we shall meet no further obstruction - We here again got four more Geese. Lat: 12.23.

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7th. We started at half-past seven o'clock this morning and made good sixteen miles nearly all in our proper course. The Country we travelled over was rather rocky and mountainous.

8th. We started at nine o'clock this morning and halted at two P.M. having made about twelve miles. We passed over a good deal of rocky Country but interspersed with fine flats and open forest land. Soon after camping a party of Natives came to us and were most friendly inclined. - On telling them that we wished for some "Alamoor" they went away and promised to bring some in the morning - however when the Moon rose three of them came to our Camp bringing a small bag of it with them, and had very nearly got shot for their pains as we were not quite certain what might be

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the object of their nocturnal visit - they remained with us all night and slept alongside of the Doctor. The whole tribe, which was pretty numerous, accompanied us on our journey next morning for about five miles. Lat: 12.6.

9th. We started at halfpast seven in the morning and halted at some Water-holes in a Creek about two o'clock P.M. having travelled sixteen miles over good Country.
Lat: 11.56.

10th. We travelled about nine miles this day when we came on a large plain at one end of which we observed a party of Natives, to whom the Doctor immediately rode up - they received him in a very friendly way and shewed us some water at their Camp - We camped with them the rest of the day and two of their number agreed to guide us into the Settlement which they

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knew well and had been to before - they had a tobacco-pipe in their possession which they had obtained there and appeared to be well acquainted with its use.

11th. We started at eleven o'clock this morning with five of the Natives as Guides and after crossing a plain about eight miles over we camped at eleven o'clock at a Water hole having made nine miles. We should have gone further but our Guides said this must be the first day's stage as the next water was very distant, and that it would take four days more to reach the Settlement. We observed the fresh tracks of some Buffaloes near our Camp, and a party immediately went on their tracks in pursuit and in about an hour to our great joy they succeeded in shooting a fine young Bull about two years old - We directly sent some

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Pack Horses for as much as could be brought in and a splendid feast we all had - the Natives with us were delighted with their fare, and we were not much less so, as it was very fat and beautiful Meat and we have had nothing but absolute Carrion for some time past. - We had seen numerous tracks of these Animals for some days past, and there is no doubt there are large herds of them in the adjacent forests and Scrubs, the Natives not being able to destroy them as their hide is so thick as to resist any force less than a musket-ball. They have propagated from a herd of forty who escaped altogether from the Settlement at Port Essington about ten or eleven years ago - the tame ones now in use at the Settlement are very tractable, and excellent Meat.

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12th. We remained at Camp this day not being able to persuade our Natives ~~{so soon}~~ to part so soon with the relics of the Buffalo, and in the Afternoon our Party was increased by a whole tribe of Natives busy feeding around us. -

13th. We proceeded on our Route with three Guides but had not got more than three miles from our Camp when they conducted us to another Water-hole and Camping place of their own and were very desirous that we should remain there for the day - this however we would not accede to, and our late guides would go no further - Indeed they appeared unable, from repletion, to have travelled any distance. We at length induced three others to promise to conduct us into the Settlement and we then proceeded on our route, making altogether about twelve miles and camped at a Water hole in a Creek.

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14th. We started at halfpast seven this morning but our guides with true native fickleness had made up their minds to proceed no further with us: - We therefore went on alone and travelled until four o'clock when we camped by a small water hole in a Creek having made sixteen miles.

15th. We made this day in a very circuitous route about fifteen miles without being able to find any indications of our approach to the Settlement, and halted by a Water hole at three o'clock, when the Doctor proceeded to reconnoitre - he returned at six in the evening having met with a tribe of Natives who promised to furnish us with a Guide to "Nimbo Carriga" to-morrow morning

16th. We started at eight o'clock and soon came to the Native Camp when one of them accompanied us about four miles and then suddenly

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refused to proceed any further though one of us dismounted and gave him the Horse to ride {which at first seemed to please him} and tried every method to induce him to go on - We therefore kept the course he pointed out but after travelling until Sundown we were obliged to camp without water having ridden upwards of twenty miles - We however fell in with another tribe of Natives who very kindly fetched us a small quantity of water from a long distance and promised to guide us to the Settlement in the morning. -

17th. It may easily be supposed that the excitement caused in us by our near approach to our desired haven did not permit us to sleep much. We accordingly started with our Guide named "Bill White" at six o'clock this morning and travelled until five

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o'clock in the evening, doing upwards of twenty miles, when thanks be to Almighty God, we at last reached our long-desired destination, where we were most cordially welcomed and hospitably received by the Officers of the Party of Royal Marines occupying the Station - Their names and Rank are particularized at foot, and every member of the Party feels deeply grateful to them for their kindness and humane attention to all our wants and wishes. -
May God bless them all ! .

John McArthur Esq: R.M. Captⁿ. Command^r.
Lieut^t. & Act^e. Paym^r. & Quart^r M^r. George Lambrick
Lieut. W. A. G. Wright
Assist^t. Surgeon Tilstone
Serg^t. Major W^m. Masland
Serg^t. Copp
Serg^t. Brooks
Corp^l. Quinn
Corp^l. Jefferies
and thirty seven Privates.

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25th. Dec^r. Though much emaciated and travel-worn in appearance when we arrived at the Settlement the great care taken of us had by this time pretty well restored us to health, and this being Christmas Day we all dined together on very sumptuous fare, furnished chiefly by the Officers, and each Man was supplied with an extra allowance of Grog - Many loyal and appropriate toasts were drank with enthusiasm and each retired from the Banquet impressed with heartfelt gratitude towards the donors of the feast.

The greatest neatness, cleanliness, and order prevail in all the arrangements of this little Settlem^t., but from the immense swamps surrounding it there are always many cases of fever and ague in the Hospital, and on the whole

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it is not considered a healthy station.

1846 Jan^y. 8th. "The Heroine" Schooner Captⁿ. McKenzie came into the Harbour this morning and will sail again for Sydney the latter end of next week and it is arranged that we shall all proceed in her to that City.

17th. We this day bade adieu to our kind friends and put ot Sea in the "Heroine" but have had contrary winds and clams during the greater part of the Voyage - We passed the wrecks of three Vessels, two of which appeared to have been recent, and spoke only one Vessel, a Man-of-War Schooner proceeding on Surveying duty to the Coast of Guinea - The Officers came on board and very civilly made us a present of a fine large Turtle of which they had a great

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number on board - We thought we should also have been able to catch some on the numerous Islands which we passed but were disappointed. Many of the Natives came out to us in their

double Canoes from the shore and came on board, but on one of our boats going to shore the Natives collected on the Beach and stood prepared to attack them had they endeavored to land. -

March 25th. After a tedious passage of sixty seven days we landed safely in Sydney and were most kindly received by the generous Inhabitants, who duly appreciating the advantages which must ultimately result to the Colony from our discoveries, and compassionating the toils and fatigues we have undergone, set on foot a Subscription which has been most liberally contributed

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to by all parts of the Colony.

As a humble Individual of the Party the Writer takes this opportunity of expressing his heartfelt gratitude to the Australian Community for this munificent testimonial of their approbation. -