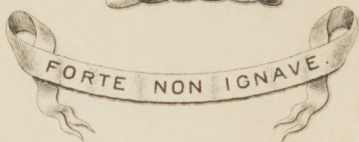


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An Account of the EXPEDITION to BOTANY BAY.

THE two ships of war, named the *Sirius* and *Supply*, with the transports under the command of Commodore Phillips, have made good their voyage to Botany Bay: of this important arrival, intelligence has been brought by the Prince of Wales, Moore, one of the transports which carried out the convicts. The Prince of Wales buried only one convict. The dispatches for government are not yet arrived, as the *Borrowdale* transport, by which commodore Phillips sent them, as well as a third transport in company, have not reached England.

On the arrival of this Squadron at Botany Bay, the destined spot was found not to have water sufficient for the supply of the new settlement: a council was in consequence held, and the ships weighing anchor stood away for Jackson's Bay, where Nature's gifts appeared equal to all their wishes: the verdure strong and rich, and the springs of the best water: the face of the country too possessing great variety, and well clothed with wood.

The moment commodore Phillips had made good the landing of the marines, and some lines of limitation were marked out, the convicts were put on shore; and the arizans among them, with those belonging to the ships, proceeded to cut down wood to form their habitations. This task continued for some time during the hours of day, and in the evening the workmen and others returned on board the shipping, leaving only the marines, and a detachment of the seamen, to guard the works as they advanced toward completion. The natives, when they discovered the preparations on foot, and that their visitors were likely to become stationary, appeared so dissatisfied, that several pieces of ordnance were mounted on the lines to awe them; they however kept at a distance, and though they did not provoke a fire, they declined all communication.

Of the convicts and others, from the departure of the Squadron from Portsmouth, to the time the ship which brings the advice left Jackson's Bay, only 40 appear to have died; and to compensate for this loss, 42 infants were born.

Three of the convicts were induced to try their fortunes among the natives, where

they hoped to have a favourable reception: two of these were in this expedition killed and eaten; and the third, after subsisting on roots for some time in the woods, returned, almost perished through hunger. This operated to deter further adventures of a like nature.

The cattle fared very unpropitiously; some of the cows died during their passage; and others, after their landing, strayed so far into the woods, as to be irrecoverably lost. The sheep did not thrive; the herbage did not afford the nutriment of their native pasture, and no stock, it is feared, will ever be reared from them. The pigs were in a state of better prosperity; and most of the poultry promise to be beneficial.

When the Prince of Wales transport quitted Jackson's Bay, which was on the 15th of July last, a very fine crop of grain was presented to the eye. This occupied 12 acres of ground, all that could possibly be cultivated before the season was too far gone for a crop of greater extent.

The fish immediately on the coast are found to be very indifferent. The natives live chiefly on testaceous fish, and the small quadruped which Cooke describes; the hind legs of which are much longer than the fore ones. The skins of several of these animals have been stuffed and brought to England. An attempt was made to bring some of them alive, but failed.

The Prince of Wales is said to have continued her course through the South Sea after she left New Holland, and passed through the Straights of Magellan. She parted company with the *Borrowdale* on the 15th of August last, but fell in with her at Rio Janeiro; they sailed from that place together, but lost company again on the 24th of December last. Capt. Mason, the master of the Prince of Wales, died on his passage home, and Mr. Moore, the mate, succeeded to the command. Four of her seamen also died.

Capt. Phillips, the governor of the settlement, and Major Ross, the deputy-governor, together with Capt. Hunter, Lieut. Ball of the *Supply* tender, and Lieut. Long of the marines, were all well when the transport above-named sailed for England.



CONTINENTAL AFFAIRS.

GENEVA.

Hague, February 18.

WE have accounts from Geneva, by the way of Paris, that the famous aristocracy, instituted for some years, is entirely put an end to, the people having found means to get possession of the entire government; the arms they used to oppose the troops were the fire engines of the city, from which they played upon the soldiers with boiling oil mixed with saltpetre and variol. The citizens do military duty, and the aristocratic party have sent couriers to Versailles, Turin, and Berne, to request the assistance of those three powers, who are guaranties of the treaty of 1782; in the mean time the citizens are quiet, after having proved that no military art can oppose the courage of a people struggling for their liberty.

Other advices, received from the Continent since, confirm the intelligence of this important revolution; a revolution the more remarkable, as it is the first time for above thirty five years that the whole republic have, with one consent, made and agreed to any laws, nor was there ever a greater day of rejoicing than the 13th ult. On the 7th, the senate laid before the council of 200, the laws required, which were approved of *in toto* by a majority of 138 against 9. On the 13th, they were carried to the council general, and approved of, 1327 votes against 54. The moment the scrutiny was declared at the cathedral, a general acclamation of joy was heard. They afterward went to the Town house, where all parties embraced each other. The senate was surrounded by 400 youths in uniforms, and three discharges made from 100 pieces of cannon. In the evening there was a general illumination, and the chief club of the old representatives finished it by giving a supper to the principal magistrates.

The following is a precise copy of the articles made into laws: 1st, The regiment established in 1782, and the military council, to be broke. 2d, The old garrison to be re-established, not barracked, and the soldiers engaged for one year only. 3d, The barracks to be emptied, and employed only for the use of the public. 4th, The principal tax established in 1782 for the support of the military council to be

abolished. 5th, The Cerises, or political clubs, to be established as formerly. 6th, The city militia to be revived, and arms given to the citizens, natives, inhabitants, subjects, &c. 7th, The election of all the members of the senate and the counsellors of state to be left to the general council. 8th, That of Syndics, chiefs of government, to be restored to its ancient form. 9th, Thirty-six citizens to be added to the council of 200, with a consultative and deliberative voice. 10th, The privilege of making every necessary representation to that assembly, and the authority to assist at the reading of all criminal proceedings and to make them public if necessary. 11th, To reinstate all those who refused the oath to the constitution of 1782, and who were in consequence thereof deprived of their rights as citizens, and who are to be replaced in the council they were members of.

FRANCE.

Paris, Feb. 23. His most christian majesty's letters have been issued for the convocation of the states general at Versailles, on the 27th of April next. *London Gazette.*

SWEDEN.

Stockholm, Feb. 24. Within this little time the face of things has changed greatly. The obstinacy of the majority of the first order in opposing the wishes of the king and the three other orders has at length obliged his majesty to come to the disagreeable necessity of arresting count Ferfen and about 30 other members of it, as the only means of preventing an entire discord and anarchy. Part of the state prisoners are conducted to Friedericshof, part to the common city prison, and the rest to the main guard near the royal castle, all which was done with amazing tranquility, though a great number of spectators were assembled upon the occasion.

Other advices from Sweden mention the very serious and critical situation of affairs in that country; the king, it is said, having determined to repress the order of nobles, and to confer some of their hitherto exclusive privileges on three inferior orders; and to assume to himself the right of making war, &c. without the consent of the diet.



An Account of the EXPEDITION to BOTANY-BAY.

THE two ships of war, named the Sirius and Supply, with the transports, under the command of commodore Philips, have made good their voyage to Botany-Bay :

of this important arrival, intelligence has been brought by the Prince of Wales and the Borrowdale, two of the transports which carried out the convicts. From these

these accounts we are enabled to lay the following particulars before our readers :

Commodore Phillips having made the Cape of Good-Hope, with the ships of war, transports, and victuallers, used the most unremitting diligence to supply the squadron with provisions and water ; live stock for the ships use ; and cattle, sheep, and hogs, for the benefit of the intended colony. To these we may reckon a large quantity of poultry, in addition to some which was carried from England.

On the 16th of November 1787, the signal was given, and the squadron got under way, and continued their course for a time, with favourable winds, for New Holland ; some short tempests interrupting their course, Commodore Phillips removed to the Supply, and proposed going a-head to prepare a reception for the rest of the fleet, at the place of destination : three transports, the Friendship, Alexander, and Scarborough failed in company, but retarded the commodore's course so much, that he did not come in sight of land till the 14th of January 1788. Three days after, he made Botany-Bay, and on the 18th of January landed with lieutenant Shortland, Agent for transports, and lieutenant King. The natives who had in small bodies witnessed their approach, appeared in great consternation, on seeing these officers on their territory, and after setting up a yell, fled to the woods. They returned soon after more composed, and from the signs made by captain Phillips, were prevailed on to receive some presents of beads, necklaces, and other trifles ; but they were deposited on the ground, and the captain withdrawn to a distance, before they would venture to take them. After this, they appeared so friendly as to conduct,

by signs, the officers to a rivulet, where they found some excellent water, though not in a very abundant supply. In the evening the commodore, with his party, returned on board ; and the next day the three transports, which he had outailed, came to an anchor ; on which the commodore went again on shore, principally to cut grafs for the use of the cattle and sheep ; the hay on board being nearly all exhausted. On the dawn of the day following, the Sirius, captain Hunter, with the remainder of the transports under his convoy, appeared in sight, and three hours after brought to and anchored in the bay.

Captain Hunter immediately waited on the commodore ; and these gentlemen, with a small party of officers and men, went on shore again towards the south coast of Botany-Bay, the former visits having been made to the North of the bay. Here, as in most of the early interviews with the natives, commodore Phillips usually laid his musquet on the ground, and advancing before it, held out presents. A green bough held aloft, or their lances thrown down, were like signs of amity in them. It was a practice with the seamen, in these intercourses, to dress up the inhabitants with shreds of cloth, and tags of coloured paper ; and when they surveyed each other, they would burst in loud laughter, and run hallooing to the woods. The marines one day forming before them, they appeared to like the sight ; but fled at the sound of the drum, and never more would venture near it.

The appearance of this part of the country, was not, on examination, so favourable as we hoped, and in consequence the commodore, with a party and two boats, skirted along the coast for about twelve or fourteen miles ; and

having landed in Sydney's Cove, within the points of Port Jackson, found the aspect of the country so promising, as to induce the commodore, after a council with his officers, to fix the settlement here. Accordingly, on the 23d, the whole squadron weighed anchor, and brought to in good moorings at the entrance of the cove. The ground being marked out, a portable dwelling house for the commodore, and an hospital, both of which had been constructed in England, together with the officers' marquees, and tents for the artificers, were fixed out of hand; and storehouses and habitations were planned out, and proceeded on.

On the convicts being landed, Mr. Phillips assumed his office of governor, and caused the commission given him by the king to exercise such authority, to be read; and also the abridgement of the code of laws by which he was to govern. By this the settlers were informed, that four courts would occasionally be held, as the nature of the offence required:—namely,

- A Civil Court,
- A Criminal Court,
- A Military Court,
- And an Admiralty Court.

The settlers were then told, that nothing could draw these laws into exercise, but their own demerits; and as it was then in their power to atone to their country for the wrongs done at home, no other admonitions than those which their own consciences would dictate, it was hoped, would be necessary to effect their happiness and prosperity in their new country.

But such is the inveteracy of vice, that neither lenient measures, nor severe whipping, operated to prevent theft: rigorous measures were therefore adopted, and after a formal trial in the Criminal

Court, two men were hung in one day, and soon after two others suffered in a like way.

The governor, besides the above settlement, formed a colony on Norfolk Island, consisting of lieutenant King, two petty officers, nine men, and six women, with six months provisions. In their passage to this island, lieutenant Ball, of the Supply, discovered a new island, which he named Lord Howe's Island.

It is here necessary to observe, that while the squadron were under way from Botany-Bay to Jackson's Port, two strange sail appeared, with their hulls just in view; and soon after governor Phillips had landed in Sydney's Cove, he was waited upon by a party bearing a French flag. These ships proved to be two French frigates, which sailed from Europe in August, 1785, under the command of *Mont. Le Perieux*, on a voyage of discoveries to the South Seas. They were in some distress for stores and provisions, but the governor could not contribute much to their relief. However they remained five weeks in Botany-Bay, and during that time visits were continually reciprocally made, as the distance from that place to Sydney's Cove was but ten miles across the land.

The convicts, during this interval, were employed in cutting wood for fences, and to collect provender for the cattle and sheep, as the soil produced very indifferent pasture, although it was the middle of the New Hollander's summer. An aversion to labour, however, induced some of the new settlers to project an escape for Europe, on board the French ships; these efforts were, however, in a measure frustrated; the officers of the French ships would not hearken to any proposals except those made by the fair; for it was discovered

discovered two days after Mons. Perieux had sailed, that two women were missing. We must not omit saying, that Mons. Perieux lost two boats crews in a storm, and that he related he had fourteen of his people murdered at Navigator's Island.

We will now speak of the country and its inhabitants:—of the latter of which, captain Cook has said nothing.

The Inhabitants.—The men and women go without the least apparel, or fence against the weather. The men are upright, but not gracefully made; the women stoop very much, and in their gait particularly awkward. This arises, both in the women and men, from a practice of standing a long time on one leg, with the foot of the other limb resting on the joint of the knee, and in this posture they stand for a long time, and then change the limbs, as if for relief.—Their colour is of a dingy copper. Their features are broad and ill formed;—the nose is broad and flat;—their lips wide and thick; and their eyes circular and large.—From a practice they have of rubbing themselves with fish oil, they smell so loathsome that they cannot be approached but with disgust. The men have bushy beards, and the hair on their heads is furzy, and stuck full of fish-teeth and bits of shells, which is fastened with gum, and this is the only ornament they assume, except another still more preposterous, namely, a bone fastened in the cartilage of the nose; but this is worn only by a few of the distinguished, as those who had them were pointed out to Mr. Phillips with looks of significance. Some had also a belt of coloured clay smeared on them: and women out of number were observed with two joints cut from off the little finger, apparently a mark either of honour or disgrace.

They appear, however, from their unreasoning manners, to have few ideas of order among themselves; and if they have notions of worship, they are more than could be ascertained.—They seem however to regard a black bird of the raven kind, with particular veneration; for on one of the gentlemen pointing his fuzee at a bird of this sort, one of the natives ran and threw himself in the way of the piece, although he was aware it would have killed him had it gone off.

Their huts are formed of boughs, and covered with bushes.—Their canoes are made of bark—Their weapons consist of a long spear of hard wood, which they jerk with such skill, as sometimes to kill a bird; they have a shield made of the bark of a tree, which can hardly be penetrated. They have a lance also, with which they strike fish, and seldom fail to kill. Their tackle consists of a hook made of shell, and a line formed of bark, beat into thread; and their wants being few, these are all the instruments they have occasion for, except an adze made of stone, with which they cut wood.

Fish is their principal food, and this, as well as flesh, they eat scarce warm through; although they sit round a fire at all times at their meals.—They do not appear to have any disposition to steal, but certainly were dissatisfied on finding their visitors likely to abide among them.

They killed three of our men in the woods, two of whom were gathering bushes for thatching; but they did not eat them, as their bodies were restored and buried. After this hostility, they became very shy, and did not for some time approach the colony.

Animals.—The kangaroo is as large as a sheep:—the head, neck, and shoulders are very small in proportion to the other parts of

the body; the tail is long, but thick near the rump, and tapering towards the end: the fore legs in general measure only eight inches in length, and the hind legs twenty-two:—the progress is by successive leaps or hops of a considerable length, in an erect posture; the fore legs are kept bent close to the breast, and seemed to be of use only for digging: the skin is covered with short fur of a dark mouse or grey colour, excepting the head and ears, which bears a slight resemblance to those of the hare. One of these animals, of uncommon magnitude, is on board the Prince of Wales; a live dog from New Holland is also brought to England; and besides these animals there are no other to be noticed except the opossum and the polecat.

Birds.—Some large birds sometimes appear, but hawks, doves, pigeons, plovers, quails, ducks, and teale, besides a few birds of showy feather, and crows, are more numerous, but very shy.

Fish.—Bream and mackarel are in great plenty; the other fish is inferior to those caught in the European seas. Some pyramidal shell-fish are found, and these the inhabitants appear very fond of. There are also a few sharks in those seas, and sometimes whales are observed.

Soil and Climate.—The variations of climate in the course of 24 hours, sometimes occasion 30 degrees difference in the barometer.—Storms of lightning and sudden squalls, are also common.—The soil is quick; but none of the European plants, or those purchased for cultivation at Rio Janeiro, or the Cape of Good Hope, came to maturity, and the seed failed still more: though much care was taken of a plant of peas.—Some rice, wheat, and barley, are sowed in the ground the settlers have already

cleared; and it is said it promised well.

No rivers have yet been discovered; but small rivulets and shallow streams are found in various parts of the country round the cove.

Of the natural grass, it grew so thin, that of forty sheep of the public stock which were landed, only six were alive, when these accounts came away.—The cows, which were reduced during the voyage to three, strayed for food into the woods;—and though 500 men penetrated fifteen miles up the country, the utmost excursion made, they could not trace them; the opinion therefore was, that the natives had killed them.—The hogs appear to thrive pretty well.

The trees afford no great variety; three or four different kinds grow to fifty feet high:—the cabbage tree is to be reckoned first in respect to utility; this affords sustenance, which is much needed. For such was the aspect of affairs when the Borrowdale left Port Jackson, that the Fishbourne and the Golden Grove victuallers were proceeding for the Cape of Good Hope, to procure fresh provisions for the colony. Of the other vessels, the Scarborough and Charlotte failed to China, to take in tea for the East-India Company: the Lady Penrhyn failed to the north-west coast of America, on the fur trade; and, as we have already mentioned, the Prince, and Borrowdale, are arrived. They all came round Cape Horn, and the only one expected to pass through the Straits of Magellan is the Lady Penrhyn.

It has been observed, that several of the women were noticed with two joints cut off the middle finger:—to this peculiarity it may be subjoined, that frequently large assemblies of the men were noticed together, all of whom had one



one of their front teeth out:— One inference made from their appearance was, that these marks distinguished the particular class to which the parties belonged; but of this there were many doubts. Although the women appear always without the least covering, the men seem, notwithstanding, to possess some jealous notions; for though they permitted our seamen to decorate their wives with gilt and coloured slips of paper, they never would leave them behind, when they were about to depart. In the early interviews between the settlers and natives, the women always appeared defended by strong parties of men in the front, armed with lances. Captain Cook relates, that only a few of these people presented themselves, and therefore it was concluded the country was thinly inhabited; but in this he was mistaken, as frequently tribes of three and four hundred came down together. Towards evening, they have often been seen, to the amount of seventy and eighty, sitting round a fire in the open air:—and numbers of these fires were nightly near the coast, on commodore Phillips's first arrival; but they were lighted at a greater distance soon after.

Some huts, formed of boughs, were seen; but in the greatest extent up the country that was ever made, small bodies of the natives were noticed under hollow banks, and in caverns. They generally fled as the English parties approached, and when these places of refuge were examined, heaps of rushes and long dried grass appeared to be their beds. The rocks upon the sea-shore afford many of them a like asylum; but these were at some distance from Sydney's Cove.

The women who had infants, carried them generally on their shoulders; but few of these came

very near the English lines of limitation, according to the state the ground was in, when the Borrowdale left that coast.

When governor Phillips and his officers presented these people with necklaces, pieces of cloth, and handkerchiefs, they greedily took them; but so temporary was the pleasure of possession, that they scarce ever kept the gift beyond a day, and all their finery was found from time to time scattered about the woods and unregarded.—One man submitted to be shaved, and have his hair dressed.—They frequently advanced in a formidable array, but always lost their courage, as the approach became nearer. The terror of our guns killing so precisely the object aimed at, is the great source of awe.—Of the three men who were killed in the woods, one was found covered from head to foot with short darts or arrows.— They once threw a spear at a party of the seamen; but as it failed in effect, they seemed anxious to disown any hostile intent, and struck the man by whom it was thrown.—In their fits of levity, they will laugh for a long time, from no evident cause.

As there appears not the least sign of cultivation, it is thought the natives live entirely upon fish caught upon the coast, at a particular time of the year, but within an interval of six months; so that they must have a method of drying them for future use.

The trees at Jackson's Bay, have a most beautiful appearance—very tall, and of a proportionate diameter; but upon being cut, were found to be a mere surface, containing a hot, bituminous fluid, which issued in surprising quantities, and being for some time exposed to the air, coagulated, and then became a sort of gravelly calcination.

The settlement must depend entirely

irely upon Great Britain for all kind of flesh-meat and grain, there being but one quadruped found in the country—this is called the kangaroo—is of a beautiful colour, and from one to two hundred pounds weight; but they are very scarce, of a very disgusting flavour, and so shy that it is almost impossible to get within shot of them.

From every observation of the natives and the soil, it is clear that the settlement must depend almost entirely upon Great Britain for its existence. The settlement was actually upon short allowance when the Prince of Wales left the bay.

We shall conclude our account with a few particulars relative to the New Colony, beyond those already recited; for the prosperity of so many subjects of this country, cannot but be an object of general concern.

The following were the live stock landed on the Colony on the Public account.

- 1 Stallion—3 Mares—3 Colts.
- 1 Bull—3 Cows—1 Calf—Strayed in the woods and lost, except one cow.
- 4 Rams—40 sheep—All dead but six.
- 2 Boars—26 Sows—Five killed by lightning.

The horses thrive on account of their being regularly worked, and carefully attended at night.—The cow that still remains, being taken care of by reason of her being in calf, escaped the fate of the rest:—She has since calved.

The very same lightning storm that killed the pigs, killed also some sheep, belonging to the governor's private stock. That the sheep died, was owing to the want of proper feed;—where the pasture was good, there was scarce any, and in other places, it was strong sour grass.

In clearing the earth, more was appropriated for garden-ground

than for farming:—Raddishes and turnips promised better than other vegetables. The beans and peas wore a bad aspect.—Parsley, balm, a sort of sage, and other European herbs, were found of natural growth.—Besides the cabbage tree, there is an uncommon fine gum tree—and also a tree which when cut down, distils, for a time, a sap which hardens like a cement, and afterwards falls into dust:—when thrown in the fire, it neither blazes nor burns, and has nothing of the bitumen quality in it.

The effects of the lightning was perceptible on every hill; every other tree appeared shivered by it. Three earthquakes were felt in the first six months of the colony being established.

In digging to try the soil, they found an earth from which they made such excellent bricks, that several houses are already built. They have also found a dry marle or chalk, from whence lime has been produced.

The poor convicts were in a wretched state for want of bedding; a very shameful improvidence at home!—Some of those who were placed at the head of the different classes of workmen (a regulation made by the governor) behaved extremely well. One of the four who was hanged, after his condemnation, fled to the woods; here he remained for several days:—At length he returned almost starved to death, to meet his fate, and the governor ordered his instant execution! A rock, at some distance from the shore, is fixed upon as a sort of bastille; here some offenders are sent, exposed to the weather, and with no other food than bread: this sometimes produces reformation.

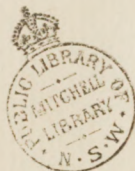
Among the curiosities which will arrive, is a stuffed black swan, which

which is said to have been shot by major Rofs, the lieutenant-governor: several stuffed kangaroos are also coming over, but it was impossible to take any alive of a growth to send. A young one is, however, in major Rofs's possession, and intended as a present to his majesty, whenever it can be conveyed with safety to England.

Of the convicts and others, from the departure of the Squadron from Portsmouth, to the time the ships which bring the advice left Jack-

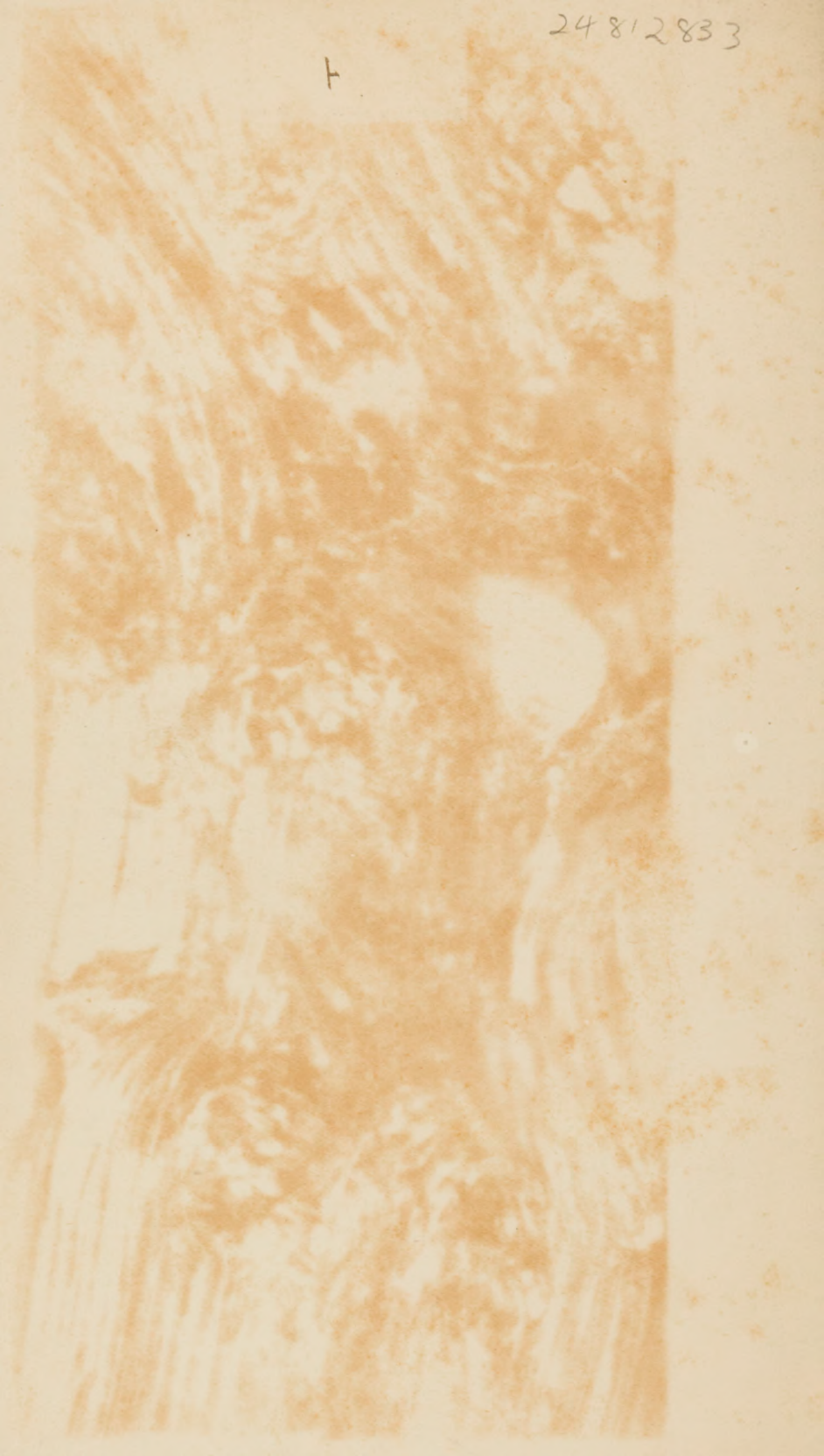
son's Bay, only forty appeared to have died, and to compensate for this loss, forty-two infants were born.

When the Prince of Wales transport quitted Jackson's Bay, which was on the 15th of July last, a very fine crop of grain was presented to the eye. This occupied twelve acres of ground, all that could possibly be cultivated before the season was too far gone, for a crop of greater extent.



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