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THE  
SETTLEMENT  
OF  
JOHN BATMAN  
IN  
Port Phillip.  
FROM HIS OWN JOURNAL.

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GEORGE SLATER,  
94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;  
AND PALL MALL, SANDHURST.

"CREDITABLE TO ITS CONTRIBUTORS."—Argus.

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THE  
**JOURNAL**  
OF  
**AUSTRALASIA:**  
A  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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THE  
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OF  
**AUSTRALASIA,**

ILLUSTRATED :

*A Monthly Narrative,*

ON THIN LETTER PAPER,

TO FORM

**A LETTER TO SEND TO FRIENDS.**

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**GEORGE SLATER,**

PUBLISHER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST, MELBOURNE;

AND PALL MALL, SANDHURST.



SETTLEMENT

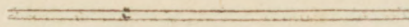
OF

JOHN BATMAN

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MELBOURNE :

GEORGE SLATER, 94 BOURKE STREET EAST.

1856.

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1835.

MAY 10.—Sunday. Arrived aboard of the “Rebecca” at half-past twelve, noon, in company with Mr. Sands, who remained on board for half an hour. The “Rebecca” had made about four miles down the river Tamar when that gentleman took his departure. We passed the “Jeannette” aground, and this tide reached Roserears, where I went on shore for the space of an hour.

The “Rebecca” was again got under weigh at 11 p. m., and the tide took us down to Middle Island. My Sydney natives have behaved handsomely, and worked well; indeed, it was greatly owing to their cheerful and willingly-offered services that we have succeeded in reaching this distance: their behaviour on this occasion was gratifying, as a good augury of their future services during the continuance of the object which I have in view, viz.: that of secretly ascertaining the general character and capabilities of Port Phillip, as a grazing and agricultural district.

May 11.—The anchor was heaved by 9 a.m., and a light, agreeable breeze carried us into a small, well-sheltered bay, near George Town. The banks of the country in the vicinity abounded in wood, of which a quantity was collected and taken aboard, for the purpose of fuel for the ship's use.

Captain Harwood and I walked over the narrow neck of land to George Town. At the time of our leaving the vessel (12 o'clock) the wind was fair, and it was our intention to have been again under weigh without loss of time, but, about 2 p. m., the wind veered to due west, and a violent hurricane, accompanied with large hailstones and rain, took place.

Fortunately, the vessel weathered the point, and, eventually, although with difficulty, found safe anchorage in the cove of George Town, where she was, shortly afterwards, joined by the government sloop, "Opossum." That vessel had started for the heads, but was compelled to retreat to the cove, for shelter, in consequence of the fury of the storm of wind, rain, and hail. Our crew, both whites and blacks, got thoroughly wet through. I took up my quarters at Wilson's Inn.

May 12.—The heavy storm of the preceding evening continued to rage throughout the night. By 9 a. m. the weather cleared up, and there appeared a probability of a fair wind. Our newly-raised hopes had, however, barely been formed, when a most decidedly unfavorable change of wind again took place, accompanied, as on the previous night, with heavy rain. We had the pleasure of meeting the port officer, Dr. Smith, with whom we held a consultation on the probable duration of the present unfavorable weather, as we were anxious to resume our voyage to Port Phillip. He gave it as his opinion, that we should not be able, nor would it be either safe or prudent for us, to renew our voyage, until the moon was at its full, on the following day, when a change of wind usually took place.

Here I neglected not my poor, four-footed, and faithful canine companions, but made a small investment with the butcher for the wherewithal to feed them.

We continued anxiously watching the weather from the window of our inn. At 8 p. m. the rain ceased, the clouds dispersed, and the full-orbed nocturnal luminary showed his jolly countenance, with his attendant satellites and sidereal companions dotting the vault of heaven. Every thing, indeed, to our great joy, promised an agreeable change, and that we should, on the following day, make up our lee-way. A bullock was slaughtered in the town, which, with three large kangaroos that had been caught by my Sydney natives, furnished an ample supply of food, both for ourselves and the dogs, wherewith to resume our voyage.

May 13.—Shortly before daybreak the wind set in with renewed fury, accompanied, as before, with heavy rain. A dense fog followed, which lasted till 10 a. m. Altogether, the prospect of resuming our journey was far from cheering.

The bullock killed on the previous day furnished the inhabitants of the primitive town of George a sumptuous breakfast, and most of them were engaged in cutting up and cooking savoury steaks. For three or four days previous to the arrival of our little vessel (which we destined to act the part of a pioneer to the future development of the hitherto uncultivated wild of Port Phillip) nothing in the shape of fresh meat was to be obtained

for love or money. They all feasted—were full, and, I hope and trust, were satisfied.

The rain continued and the stormy winds blew during the whole of the day. In the evening, as it still continued to look “thick in the clear,” and no signs of its abatement, an interesting nautical cabinet council was held, consisting of ourselves, a Mr. Brown, an old master of a government vessel, Mr. Wood, a pilot, and Dr. Smith, the port officer, who unanimously agreed that there was little prospect of a change for at least a week, and that we should consequently have to remain at George Town for that period. Upon receiving this doleful intelligence, I determined upon sending a boat to Launceston.

The blacks caught another kangaroo. The good conduct of my Sydney natives, as well as that of the three white men, affords me great pleasure.

May 14.—

“Blow on! ye winds, and crack your cheeks!”

The violent winds of the previous night, with heavy rains, characterized this morning; and we could not, in consequence, succeed in our object of sending a boat to Launceston. About 10 a.m. a small vessel hove in sight, and Dr. Smith, with his usual kindness, took Captain Harwood and myself in his boat to the newly-arrived vessel, which proved to be the “Hind,” brig, from Sydney, on its way to Launceston. This circumstance was fortunate, as it enabled me to despatch Captain Harwood to Launceston, for the purpose of obtaining a fresh supply of biscuits, meat, and various other stores, which our present and probable further delay rendered necessary. On Captain Harwood’s return to the vessel a barque hove in sight, which proved to be the “Belinda,” of Sydney, with a cargo of whale-butts. She left Sydney fourteen days previous to the sailing of the “Hind.” Sent the natives out to hunt kangaroos. It is tedious and distressing to be thus delayed at so short a distance from Launceston, and, but for the circumstance of my having taken a formal leave of all my friends at that place, I should have been induced to return, pending a change of wind. We were not, however, singular in our misfortune, as the “Opossum,” the “Edward,” and a small schooner of 18 tons, close alongside, are also wind-bound. The little 18 ton vessel belongs to Captain Friend, and is laden with bark from Cape Portland, with only one man on board. I have taken up my quarters at the Waterloo Tavern, where the accommodations are equal to anything of the kind in Launceston.

May 15.—This morning broke fine, although the wind still continues to blow strong from the west. During the course of the forenoon, a small schooner came in, the “William and Ann,” from Port Sorell, with a cargo of lime for Captain Scott. I borrowed a whale boat from Dr. Smith, and

went over to Captain Hassall's farm, and brought back three hundred weight and a-half of potatoes. The wind still continued from the west, and the "Edward," bound for Circular Head, was, like ourselves, unable to proceed.

May 16.—This morning was hazy, with the wind from the south-west; It was a fair wind for us, provided it freshened, in anticipation of which I immediately went on board of the cutter, where we had not been long, when the "Shamrock" made its appearance, towed by whale boats. Captain Friend, Mr. Scott, the surveyor, and Mr. Yeoland, were on board. Captain Harwood arrived, and informed me, that he had duly forwarded my letters to Mrs. Batman. He had scarcely finished his recital, when, to my astonishment, Mrs. Batman herself arrived in the gig, with the groom driving. In doing this she was guided by the contents of my letter, anticipating a stay of some days' duration, and was desirous of shortening the tedium of the delay by spending it in the company of each other. God bless her for such kindness. Her presence and company was, indeed, a compensation for a sojourn which had already proved sufficiently prolonged and provoking. The night closed with the wind again in its former adverse quarter—the west.

May 17, Sunday.—This morning commenced with a more favorable wind, and the vessel made the heads in company with the schooner "Edward." Anxious to spend the last minute with my wife, I drove down in the gig in her company. I went on board, and, the wind again changing to the west, we visited the lighthouse, afterwards driving into George Town to the "Waterloo," where Mr. Collicott, postmaster-general, and Mr. Wright, shortly after arrived from Launceston, and joined us at the dinner table. The westerly winds continued to increase in violence, and the vessels were compelled to take shelter in Kelso Bay, where they anchored for the night.

May 18.—Captain Harwood sent in a note this morning from the vessel, intimating that the wind was fair. After taking a hasty and parting breakfast with Mrs. B., Dr. Smith kindly undertook to put us on board. My dear wife had the horse put in the gig, and was driven to the lighthouse, from whence she could see me fairly off, and where she remained until we were lost to view on our entering upon another horizon in the distance, in which all my hopes and expectations had long rested. So long as any part of the outline of our vessel rested above the horizon, so long did Mrs. B., from the flagstaff, continue an anxious and interested observer. The "Edward" schooner kept just a-head of us all the evening. The wind, up to midnight, was westerly, and we consequently made little headway. (I hope my dear wife will get home safe.)

May 19.—At daylight this morning I was awakened by the captain with the very unpleasant intelligence of a foul wind having set in, and he advised putting into Port Sorell as soon as possible, as the gale was increasing. I had observed all yesterday a changeableness and uncertainty about the winds; and about 9 a.m. we cast anchor close to the heads, in a position to take advantage of a change of wind in our favor. We saw the schooner "Edward" a long way out in the offing.

Some fish were caught for breakfast, and after that I took a walk on shore, from whence I shortly returned, and had the vessel moored closer in shore, and under the lee of the island. I then went on land a second time in the hope of getting a kangaroo. The country, however, proved too scrubby to enable the dogs to have a fair run. During the afternoon the westerly winds continued to increase in violence, and it became necessary to run the vessel higher up the port, to the proper anchorage ground, under the shelter of a small island, which we did. We then paid a visit on shore, and saw two limeburners, who inhabited a hut, and were the only parties residing there. They gave me some excellent fish. One of them mentioned to me that there was a fine tract of land opposite the hut, on the other side of the bay.

May 20.—The morning broke with every appearance of a change of wind in our favor. At 9 a.m. the old man (one of the two limeburners) from the island came aboard, and I gave him a looking glass which I had promised him on the previous day. We were not aware of the length of time which might have elapsed since he had taken a fair survey of his woolly or frosty pow, and bristly porcupine-like head. He was probably desirous of reserving that pleasure until reaching his own hut, as he pocketed the glass.

By 11 a.m., the breeze having freshened from the right quarter, we again got under weigh, and sailed slowly past the farm lately in the occupation of Captain Thomas. Passed the mouth of the river Mersey, whose line of coast was distinctly marked and well-defined by a dense growth of the native Myrtle, Eucalyptus, and other Tasmanian timber trees, of stupendous growth, and in the far-off distance the bulky and towering, well-covered outlines of the Great Western Range, from whence the river Mersey takes its source. Continuing our course in the direction of what is called Round Head, we succeeded in accomplishing a distance of twenty miles by midnight, when the wind again veered, and blew a strong gale from the adverse quarter.

May 21.—

"Cease! rude Boreas, blustering railer!"

The heavy westerly gales of the preceding night continued this

morning, and caused our poor little vessel to toss and skip upon the troubled swell of the mighty waves; we found ourselves drifting rapidly in the direction of George Town. The captain recommended returning to Port Sorell. This plan we forthwith adopted, and anchored off that place about 2 p. m. As I was extremely anxious to effect my object in reaching the Port Phillip country, every additional delay was the more acutely felt.

After casting anchor, I paid another visit to the hut of my bearded friends, the limeburners. A dead calm having succeeded the roaring of the elements about 11 p. m., I rejoined my party on board ship. The calm continued until midnight.

May 22.—Just before daylight a slight breeze set in from the southward, with clouds drifting from the westerly quarter. By 11 a. m. all was again calm, and the little "Rebecca" lay like a gull asleep. We paid another visit to the shore, and took a short excursion inland; travelling over some good grazing land, of sufficient extent to form a large and valuable grant. Its position was, of course, a guarantee for a plentiful supply of that very necessary element, good water. In the afternoon I went out with my old friend the limeburner, and with his net succeeded in catching several nice fish, some of which we took on board for the use of the crew. Towards evening the wind blew from the westerly quarter, and we were unable to move an inch. An hour before midnight I turned in, and was soon in the "arms of Morpheus," dreaming softly and pleasantly of newly-acquired territories in Port Phillip. When we awoke, our fabulously-acquired wealth vanished like the "baseless fabric" which Shakespeare represents as its peculiar character.

May 23.—From midnight until daybreak the wind increased in violence, and the captain dropped another anchor for security. The gale continued the whole day; not the slightest chance of our removing from here. To relieve the tedium, I went on shore, and left some letters in charge of the limeburners, with instructions for them to be forwarded to Launceston by the first opportunity. I purchased from these men the following tools:—4 maulrings, 3 axes, 1 breaking-up hoe, 1 cross-cut saw, 4 files, 2 harrows, 1 shingle hammer, 1 pailing hammer, 1 saw sett, 1 gimblet, 1 auger, 5 wedges, 1 hand saw, 1 spade. These tools I furnished with the intention of leaving Gunn, and the other white man, at Port Phillip, should the result of my present expedition prove equal to my expectations. At 9 p. m. I returned on board, and went to bed.

The letters left with the limeburners were, one from myself for Mrs. Batman, and another from the Captain to his better-half, Mrs. Harwood, and were addressed to the care of Mr. Cotterill. Our absent Penelopes

were, doubtless, dreaming of our having, by this time, reached the fertile land of promise.

May 24.—This morning, the wind having changed in our favor, we lost no time in getting under weigh, and succeeded in reaching the heads by noon, when it fell a dead calm, and so remained until 2 p. m. At that hour a breeze sprang up, directly adverse to our progress, and drove us back for shelter to our former anchoring place, opposite our friends, the limeburners, whose log hut appeared to act as a magnet, the circle of whose influence we were not allowed to pass. Our temper was severely ruffled at this continued series of delays (although we have as philosophic a temperament as most mortals), which perpetually interfered with the due carrying out the object of my voyage. But “persevere and prosper” we must allow to be our motto *pro. tem.* I was puzzled to pass away the time during the after part of the day, and at night turned into my hammock, which, under present circumstances, was far from being a bed of roses.

May 25.—The same unfavorable winds from the westerly quarter, and the sea running mountains high at the heads. As the gale continued to increase in violence, we were obliged to run higher up the river, and again took shelter close under the point. To kill time, and to relieve our ennui, the captain and myself went on shore and walked round the island. We obtained two augers from Hine, one of the limeburners. Two p. m.: westerly gales continue, and not the least apparent signs of a change. “In troubles, to be troubled, is to have your troubles doubled,” says the poet. We considered ourselves as being especially unfortunate in our detention at this place.

A week has elapsed since our leaving George Town, and here we are still. Nine p. m.: the wind continues. I sent for one of the limeburners, and gave him three dollars to take our letters and put them in the post office at George Town. I have despatched three long letters to Mrs. Batman, and Captain Harwood two to his absent fair one. My Sydney natives have taken up their quarters on shore the last four nights in preference to remaining on shipboard; therein they have shewn good sense.

May 26.—At three o'clock this morning it commenced raining in torrents, and at 8 a. m. the limeburner came on board for the letters for Launceston, which he had undertaken to post at George Town.

Eleven a. m.: a light breeze sprung up, fair if it continues, and we are now sailing gaily towards the heads. Ten p. m.: the wind continues favorable, and there is at length a prospect of our reaching Port Phillip. Our little vessel is sailing over cleverly in the direction of Circular Head.

May 27.—The favorable wind of yesterday continued up till 2 o'clock this morning, when it suddenly veered from the N.W. and by north; we were unable to keep our course, and made the West Hunter; having run eighty miles since leaving Port Sorell. This distance was more than I expected to accomplish from the time of leaving Port Sorell. At noon we cast anchor; I determined to visit the shore, and landed near the entrance of a large cave, which I explored, and found it to extend 180 feet from the mouth to the end; the entrance was 40 feet wide, and the average depth of the cave was about the same; the roof was beautifully fretted and covered with stalactites. This is the largest cavern I have yet met with in the Colony. A great many fish were caught in the course of the day. We again sighted the "Edward" schooner on her way to Circular Head. At 6 p.m. the wind veered in our favor, and the captain got his little vessel under weigh. We made a good run during the night.

May 28.—During the darkness of the night, we passed King's Island, and about 1 p. m. sighted a portion of New Holland, the land of promise and to reach which we had already endured many anxious days and sleepless nights. We continued nearing this hitherto unappreciated portion of New Holland, and, as evening now cast its shadows over the waters, the captain preferred lying off the land at a distance of about eighteen miles, until the following morning, when we anticipated the satisfaction of entering the port of Phillip. Several chain hooks, being baited and attached to the ends of ropes, were thrown over the vessel's side, and two fine, long, bright, and well-tasted barracoutas, fish peculiar to the coast of Australia, were caught, not however until we had lost several hooks, in consequence of the fish having bitten through the rope, above its junction with the chain or wire part.

May 29.—Daylight had no sooner broke this morning—and never had its cheerful return been so ardently longed for—than we were again greeted by the sight of Port Phillip heads, at a distance not apparently exceeding eight miles.

By 9 a.m. we were between the heads, with the tide running out, and nearly at low water; a heavy surf, and the wind light and baffling. We effected an entrance with difficulty, at a part of the bay where the width was about a mile and a quarter. We took soundings, and found the depth of water from five and a half to seven fathoms. We succeeded, however, in entering one of the finest bays, or basins of water, well sheltered, that we remember to have seen. Within the bay, the water was, compared to our late tossing in the boiling and foaming waters outside, as smooth as a mill pond: and our little bark floated gently along, like a sleeping gull.

I shall, however, take this opportunity to remark that it will be desirable to enter its mouth only at the times of the tide running in. As we were sailing down the bay, we were surprised to hear the repeated barkings of a dog, and were somewhat puzzled as to how he came there. We had just called upon P—— to account for this phenomenon, when a flock of at least one hundred wild geese rose, within a shot's distance of our vessel. They appeared of a large size, and flew before us in the direction of the port. After sailing about twelve miles up the port, we cast anchor in a small bay, and afterwards made preparations for going on shore. In getting ready the boat for that purpose, we caught sight of another dog on the sandy beach. We made for that spot, and found it to be a native dog or dingo, which had apparently been left by the natives a day or two before our arrival. It appeared to be quite tame, and was perfectly familiar with my Sydney natives, although, with the cunning peculiar to the Australian dingo, he would not allow them to lay hands on him. After a short time our dogs broke after and ran him down into the water, where we shot him. He proved to be a large and handsome animal, of the same character as the Australian dogs generally. On resuming our march from the scene of the last incident, we came upon, apparently quite fresh, tracks of the natives, leading to a village of huts or gunyahs, which had not been abandoned, as we judged from sundry indications, for more than a day or two; some appeared to have been used by the natives as their marine villas, in which they had been plentifully regaling on the mussel, unio, and periwinkle, from the large number of empty shells which lay in heaps around. We passed into the country, and, at the distance of four miles, commenced travelling over land, a little sandy in places, but of the finest description for grazing purposes; nearly all parts of its surface covered with kangaroo and other grasses of the most nutritive character, intermixed with herbs of various kinds; the kangaroo grass (*anthisteria Australis*), and other species from ten to twelve inches high, of a dense growth, and green as a field of wheat. We were perfectly pleased with the country at this part, and here changing our course, found it to open around into softly undulating hills and plains, with, as before, the richest grass and verdure, so delightful to the eyes of the sheep farmer. As a relief to the landscape, the gently rising eminences were adorned with wattle, banksia, native honeysuckle, and the she-oak, whose short, straight, stumpy butts and round heads resembled a number of pins sticking in a lady's pincushion. On our return to the vessel, we passed over another thinly-timbered and richly-grassed plain, of not less than from two hundred to three hundred acres, on whose rich

surface a large number of kangaroos were feeding, and, but that our dogs were stiff, from being so long on shipboard, some interesting hunts would have followed. We saw several more native huts or gunyahs, and the marks on one tree are quite fresh, apparently cut yesterday. We continued our course down the bay, and found the country everywhere of the same richly-grassed character. We caught sight of some hills in the distance, bare of timber, although they had the appearance of being clothed with verdure to their summits. They appeared distant about six miles. I purpose paying them a visit next morning, as I anticipate being able to take from their summits a good survey of the surrounding country, more particularly that part lying in a north-west direction. My natives preferred sleeping on shore to-night, whilst Captain Harwood and myself took the shelter of the vessel. In the course of my day's excursion, we have travelled at least twenty miles, and the skipper is knocked up! In the early part of the evening the wind set in again, and continued to blow hard until midnight.

May 30.—The winds of last night continued, and the vessel was tossed about considerably, owing to the absence of shelter. We hailed our Sydney natives, and directed them to go round to a point of land and meet the vessel, as a boat could not land to bring them off. At the distance of about fifteen miles we reached the point indicated, and had no sooner anchored than we perceived my Sydney natives coming along the shore. I again landed for the purpose of taking another inspection of the country, which we discerned as exceedingly rich, and beautiful in the extreme; thinly-timbered, richly-grassed, and diversified by a few sweet vallies, and hills of small elevation and of volcanic formation. The soil was of a fine, rich, oily, decomposed whinstone. Nothing could be more satisfactory and in every point the reality far exceeded my most sanguine expectations. In these and other situations the kangaroo and other native grasses have attained at least two feet, and thick as it could grow, capable of affording hay of the best quality. The trees were thinly-scattered in a park-like form, averaging five or six to the acre.

Robinson Crusoe was never better pleased with the appearance of the first ship which arrived, and rescued him *from* his desolate island, than I was with the vessel which proved the means of my thus opening to view a country capable of supporting a future nation, and which, we trust, will be the means of relieving the Hobart Town country of its overstocked cattle, and the mother country of her surplus and half-starved peasantry. Futurity must develop this prophecy! Further travelling and examination only added to my pre-conceived estimate of this extremely interesting and extensive territory; consisting of plains or downs at least twenty miles

long by a width of ten miles, and the distance may have been greater, but for the interruption of hills more than ordinarily high, which broke the horizon in different directions. One of these vistas, which I have at present in view, cannot form a less area than 100,000 acres. Its general character presents that of cultivated pasture for centuries past; the few trees appear as though they owed their plantation to the hand of man. All the high hills are covered with grass to their summits.

I ascended these eminences or hill-summits, from which the view was most satisfactory. The country on either hand presented the same continuation of rich pastoral plains, apparently of greater extent than those already mentioned. The bay up which we sailed to-day, and where we cast anchor, varied in depth from two and a-half to six fathoms, and, to my great joy, I discovered the fires of the natives or aboriginal inhabitants of this marvellously fertile country, and felt delighted beyond expression that the task of its discovery should have devolved upon myself. I intend going ashore to-morrow morning to the camp of natives, and, if possible, shall establish a friendly intercourse with them, in order to effect a treaty for the purchase of a large portion of their fertile and hitherto useless territory.

May 31, Sunday.—The vessel lay last night in three fathom water, in a fine little bay, to which I gave the name of Gellibrand's harbour, in honor of —. Gellibrand, Esq., late attorney-general, of Hobart Town.

As soon as the day broke, we landed for the purpose of carrying out our object with the aborigines. We had not travelled more than a mile and a-half when we caught sight of the smoke arising from the fires of seven large gunyahs or huts. My Sydney natives immediately stripped off their clothes, and introduced themselves, *purea naturabilis*, to the inhabitants of the gunyahs; at least they intended to have so done, but on reaching the little village they discovered that the sable tenants had departed that morning. My natives forthwith beat for their trail, and, having found it, we commenced to follow, and continued on the track for about ten miles, when one of my natives caught sight of a black at the distance of a mile. Having made a sign to us, we again formed into Indian file, and marched after him until we came up to the black he had seen, who proved to be an old and crippled woman, having no toes on one foot. About a mile ahead we saw the main body of the tribe whom we had followed, and overtook them about 1 p.m.

My Sydney natives and their new companions, by a sort of freemasonry, or from a similarity of language, appeared to perfectly understand each other, and a friendly footing was at once established, which augured well for the accomplishment of my projects.

A corroboree with song was got up in quick time, in which both tribes joined, to my great delight. The company was composed entirely of women, twenty-four in number, each having a child at her back, excepting one who was young and very good looking. They informed us that the male members of their tribe had gone up the river. With this interesting group of females were four native dogs or dingos, and, independent of infant burdens, they each had a net or basket hung around their shoulders. The weight of some of their loads could not be less than sixty or seventy pounds; these loads were so large as to form a hump behind, on which their children rested. Each had, besides, two or three baskets of their own manufacture, containing nets, stone tomahawks, bones, crystals, &c. In one of the bags, which I took the trouble to examine, I found a piece of the tire of a cart wheel, with the remains of two nail holes. This piece of iron was ground down to a sharp edge and fixed in a piece of wood for a handle; they used it for the purpose of cutting with as a tomahawk; with this were several pieces of iron hoop, which they had likewise ground to a sharp edge, and used as substitutes for knives. Several large wooden vessels, of rude construction, for the purpose of holding water, were also among their utensils, and in one of them was some water, of a bad quality. They very willingly came back with us to where I had a number of blankets, glass-beads, looking-glasses, sweet sugar apples, and handkerchiefs; and I distributed amongst them 8 pair of blankets, 30 handkerchiefs, 1 tomahawk, 18 necklaces of beads, 6 pounds of sugar, 12 looking-glasses, and a quantity of apples. They appeared to be very much pleased with the presents, and shortly after receiving them took their departure. I had arranged that we were to meet again to-morrow. The young woman, of whom I have written, gave me a very handsome basket, of her own making: some of the other women also presented me with two baskets and several spears; all of which I took with me on board. I have this day travelled over at least fifteen miles of country, all of the same good character of open plains, several of which, seen from a neighbouring hill, could not be less than twenty miles square. In the course of the journey I ascended a sugar loaf hill, which was richly grassed to the top. This hill I dedicated to the honor of J. T. Collicott, Esq., postmaster-general, and I hope and trust that, should this magnificent country eventually be settled upon, this hill may in future be allowed to retain the name of Mount Collicott. I never could have imagined it possible that so fine a country existed on the face of the globe—gentle hills, plains, and downs, on which 5,000 sheep might have been allowed to feed with little trouble to the shepherd. I cannot, however, shut my eyes to the fact, that, fine as the land undoubtedly is,

from what I have yet seen of it, there is a great deficiency of water, although I have no doubt whatever that water might be easily obtained by digging.

I had forgotten to record, that, during our conference this morning with the aborigines, they expressed great alarm at the report of a gun, all falling spontaneously with their faces to the ground; they had evidently never heard the report of a gun before. All the children wore a good-looking and healthy appearance. We travelled this day, in going and returning, at least thirty miles, and, in the course of our journey, observed a number of the bustard or native turkey; but they were too shy to allow us to approach within shooting distance.

June 1.—We left the vessel this morning at daybreak, being most anxious to resume our rambles over a country possessing so many interesting features, and facilities so entirely congenial to the ripening of my intentions. We travelled round the bay to examine some plains and low hills at a distance. After crossing the neck of land we fell in with a small river or creek, which we were obliged to follow up, as we were unable to cross it; indeed I had rather a desire to follow it up, as I anticipated finding fresh water at its head: we followed the course of the creek for ten miles, when we saw a great many duck and teal. The creek here was from fifty to sixty yards wide. We passed many dams of stones across the creek, made by the natives for the purpose of catching fish during the summer months. These dams were from four to five feet high, and excellently contrived. Three or four of these stone walls were built in succession, with floodgates formed of sticks and bushes. We found at least a dozen of these dams or wears in different parts of the creek. It was also on the margin of this stream where we discovered the remains and bones of an animal unknown to us. I cannot describe it, but I counted twenty-four joints in the vertebræ or back-bone; and as each separate joint averaged at least three inches, the animal must consequently have been upwards of six feet in length; and we judged that a considerable time must have elapsed since its death, as many of the bones were partly burned. It is quite possible that there may have been originally more bones in the back than those enumerated. I have brought on board part of the head, thighbones, and some part of the back, for learned gentlemen to study over on my return to Van Dieman's Land. This skeleton was discovered by us in the vicinity of one of the native fishing places. We continued our journey up the stream, until it assumed the character of a chain of ponds, where the water was slightly brackish; the further we proceeded the better the water became; at length we reached a very large, deep pond, where the water was excellent, and we here shot two teal.

The diameter of this pond was at least 150 yards; and finding it situated in the heart of a tract of good country, of unknown extent, was an additional source of satisfaction to us. We here camped and took dinner, after which we ascended a chain of well-defined hills, but of no great elevation, and to reach which we travelled through the same fine, open country for five miles. Scarcely a tree was observed upon the surface of the plain; the stems of the largest did not offer a greater diameter than eight inches, and in some places there was not a solitary bush on an area of 500 acres, the whole of the soil being of a light nature, dark in color, with kangaroo grass. We ascended the hills I have already mentioned in the hope of catching a glimpse of the country in a S. S. West direction, and found it to be of the same open and extensive character, far as the eye could reach, viz., plains of good soil, covered with grass, well adapted for grazing and agricultural purposes, and all ready for the plough. In casting our eye in the opposite direction, namely, N. N. East, the same good country met our view, only bounded by the horizon. Perhaps the principal drawback that will be felt, should these plains be eventually occupied, will be the want of firewood, and timber for farming and other uses. We have not yet met with timber fit for the saw or splitting. Brush yards might be made for sheep or cattle. A gig or carriage might be safely drawn over these plains, without the possibility of being upset, as easily as on a turnpike road. I have given them the name of Arthur's plains, in honor of Governor Arthur, of Van Dieman's Land. Adjoining Mount Collicott are two others, which I have named Mount Cottrill and Mount Connolly, after Mr. Connolly and Mr. Cottrill, both of Van Dieman's Land. At a distance of 15 miles from Mount Cottrill, bearing N. W. from it, is another mount, to which I have given the name of Mount Solomon, after Mr. J. Solomon, of Launceston. To-morrow I intend proceeding up the country for several days, to meet the vessel at the river or head of the bay, if the weather will permit. It has rained all this day, and we have experienced a very heavy hail storm, with the wind blowing hard from the west, and very cold. We caught sight of the smoke of the natives' camp under the lee of Mount Collicott.

June 2.—My Sydney natives came on board this morning for the purpose of assisting in packing up, and otherwise making preparations for our contemplated expedition into the interior. As it continued to rain heavily, and a heavy bank of fog prevented our seeing any distance, I proposed, rather than lose time, to go with the vessel to the river, and from thence take my departure for the bush. We made the river by 3 p. m., and observed that the whole of the coast at the head of the bay was clear of timber, and a constant plain covered with grass.

Near the head of the river, on the point, was a plantation of she oak

We endeavoured to sail up the river, but found the water not more than a fathom deep. I went on shore this evening; the country is covered with kangaroo grass, and thinly-timbered with such trees as are before mentioned. I saw large numbers of pelicans, swans, ducks, teal, and other waterfowl; and the borders of the bay abounded in quail. There appeared to be two kinds of this bird, one of a dark and the other of a light color, the former being twice the size of the latter. To-morrow weather permitting, I intend taking my departure up the river.

June 3.—Everything being in readiness, we left the vessel about 9 a.m., and proceeded in a boat up the river for about five miles, taking soundings as we went, and found from seven to nine feet water in the channel. I now landed, and joined the party on shore, who had walked some seven miles on a well-grassed and thinly-oak-timbered country; four miles further I came upon the banks of the river, which appeared open on both sides, well-grassed, and deeper than at the place where I landed from the boat. In travelling further up we passed over several rich flats, about a mile wide, by two or three miles long, destitute of trees, and covered knee-deep with grass, from which hundreds of tons of good hay might be made. The land was of the best description, equal to anything in the world, nor does it appear subject to being flooded. For twenty-six miles we continued following the course of this river, and found on both sides of it, as far as the eye could stretch, fine open plains, with a few trees of the oak species; one striking object was the absence of fresh water all throughout this distance. Just before sundown, as we were preparing to camp on the bank of the river, I caught sight of a damp place, and, on sending one of my men, Gumm, to make a hole with a stick to the depth of two feet, we had in the course of an hour a plentiful supply of good water. By 10 p. m. the water was running over the top of the hole; I am certain the same might be done in most places, with a like result. The river varied in width from 100 to 60 yards; at this place it is but 40 yards wide, and is becoming narrower as we go up. I have named this place Gumm's well. In the course of the journey to day we saw several parrots, kangaroos, and a native dog or dingo.

June 4.—Re-commenced our journey up the river at 8 a. m.; after travelling four or five miles, I turned off to obtain a view of Mounts Collicott, Cottrill, and Solomon. After taking the distance and bearings of these mountains, some emus started across a fine slightly elevated plain, my dogs gave chase, and I followed for a mile or two. From Mount Cottrill I could see in the distance two other mountains, which I have respectively named Mount Wedge and Mount Sams; both are in a range with Mount Solomon.

We continued travelling over the plains, and in eight miles again made the river, which was now perfectly fresh. We all took a hearty drink. Having crossed the river, we travelled over the richest land I had ever seen in my life; marsh mallows, with leaves as large as those of the cabbage tribe, and as high as my head. We recrossed at a native ford, and we observed on a wattle tree, which they had been stripping of the bark, scratches or marks of figures, representing blacks in the act of fighting. These figures I copied as nearly as I was able.

We ascended a small eminence where the grass reached our knees, and followed the course of the river for a few miles; we camped for the night in a snug corner of land on its bank, which I called Gumm's corner. After taking a refreshing pot of tea and something to eat, I started with four of my natives, and took a circuit of thirteen miles up the river, which was here running in a northerly direction. The whole of the land was of excellent warm hill and valley, with grass three feet high in places where it had not been burnt by the natives. Where it had been burned by these people, the young blades are from ten to twelve inches high, affording fine feed for the kangaroos and other animals. In the course of the evening we heard a dog howl. The weather has been very fine and warm. We have travelled about thirty miles to-day.

June 5.—I left the river this morning, and journeyed in a W. N. W. course, as I wished to cross over some large plains in that direction. We saw a large flock of emus, but too distant for the dogs to overtake them. Some wild geese were also seen. In the course of this journey we crossed three running streams of fresh water, with steep banks, covered with grass to the margin of the water. In some parts of these creeks the water did not run, but we observed large and deep ponds in the heads of the three creeks I crossed, and am inclined to believe that they are the same waters, but running in different directions until reaching the river. This country is consequently well watered, the only thing apparently wanting being timber. Pursuing our course, we passed through an open forest two miles in length, composed of oak, with about ten of those trees to the acre, and the stems or butts about a foot in circumference, their heads forming good shelter for stock, with excellently-grassed surface. The last creek I have named Eliza creek, as a small token of regard for my absent, affectionate wife. About noon we ascended a hill, and from thence took a bird's eye view of the country, for a distance of forty miles on every hand, the same open, grazing-like land is every where seen. The hill on which I am now sitting, under one of the few she-oaks which are scattered over its surface, is distant fifty miles from the bay, and all around are rich open plains, with trees,

gentle rising hills, and valleys of the best description of soil. We have just discovered smoke arising from the fires of the natives in an easterly direction, and have commenced to follow in that course. After accomplishing sixteen miles over rich plains, we crossed another fresh water creek, just at its point of junction with one running from the N. N. E. We again renewed our journey over plains, until reaching a small forest of box gum trees, which formed a belt of about two miles. Here, then, we have, at length, found timber suitable for splitting or sawing, and the great and only desideratum wanting supplied. In this forest, which was well grassed, we caught one of the largest kangaroos I have ever seen, measuring nine feet. This *was* a BOOMER. From the box and oak forest we came upon beautiful open plains, with the usual interruptions of gently rising eminences, on which grew oak, black wood, and wattle trees, with grass up to our waists, through which walking was both painful and tedious. We came eventually to a small lovely valley, where, to our great delight, was a dense tea-tree scrub, which we knew to be the surest indication of good water in its neighbourhood, and it soon led us to the upper end or head of a well of the purest water, the current of which took a south-east course. It being, by this time, sunset, we camped for the night. We were hungry, and enjoyed a pot of tea and other viands, to which our late discovery gave an additional zest.

June 6.—During the greater part of last night the wind was very high, accompanied with a few showers of rain. We made an early breakfast, and resumed our journey in order to reach the camp of the blacks, the smoke of whose fires we had seen yesterday. We travelled over land equal to any that we had seen, a deep black diluvium, with grass three or four feet high, and thinly-timbered. After travelling eight miles we struck the trail of the natives, which in a short time led us to a branch of the tribe, consisting of one chief, his wife, and three children—fine, plump, chubby, healthy-looking urchins they were. To this distinguished royal chieftain of the prairies I gave one pair of blankets, handkerchiefs, beads, and three pocket knives; upon the receipt of these presents he undertook the part of guide. We crossed a fresh water creek, with good land on either bank. Our new guide informed us that he would take us to his tribe, at the same time naming many of their chiefs. After travelling about eight miles we were surprised to hear a number of voices calling after us, and on looking round encountered six men, armed with spears fixed in their wommeras. We stopped, and they at once threw aside their spears, and came up to us in the most friendly manner possible. We all shook hands, and I gave them knives, tomahawks, &c., whereupon they took the lead, and brought us back about a mile, to where we found huts or gunyahs,

and a number of women and children. We sat down in the midst of these sooty and sable aboriginal children of Australia; amongst whom, we ascertained, were eight chiefs belonging to the country near Port Phillip, over which we had travelled, and with which we had so much reason to be pleased. The three principal chiefs were brothers. Two of them were fully six feet high, and tolerably good-looking; the third was not so tall, but much stouter than the others. The other five chiefs were equally fine men. And a question, to myself, here arises, and the answer as speedily follows, viz.: now is the time for entering into and effecting a purchase of their land. A full explanation, that my object in visiting their shore was to purchase their land, they appeared to understand; and the following negotiation or agreement was immediately entered into. I purchased two large blocks or tracts of land, about 600,000 acres, more or less, and, in consideration there for, I gave them blankets, knives, looking-glasses, tomahawks, beads, scissors, flour, &c., and I also further agreed to pay them a tribute or rent yearly. The parchment or deed was signed this afternoon by the eight chiefs, each of them, at the same time, handing me a portion of the soil: thus giving me full possession of the tracts of land I had purchased.

This most extraordinary sale and purchase took place by the side of a lovely stream of water, from whence my land commenced. A tree was here marked in four different ways, to define the corner boundaries. Good land, to any extent, either for stock or tillage, with good water, was here in abundance, ready for sheep, cattle, or the plough. The timber was she-oak, dwarf-gum, and wattle.

Our negotiation was terminated by my Sydney natives giving our newly-acquired friends a grand corroboree at night, much to their delight. Upon a close observation of the domestic habits of these people we discerned that each chief had two wives and several children. The group consisted, altogether, of forty-five, men, women, and children.


June 7.—Sunday. I awoke this morning with the agreeable consciousness of my being able, like Alexander Selkirk, of school-boy memory, to say,

“I am monarch of all I survey;

My right there is none to dispute.”

With a view, however, of securing this right more permanently, I busied myself in drawing up triplicates of the deeds of the land I had purchased, and in delivering over to the natives more property. This was done on the banks of the lovely little creek, which I have named Batman's Creek, as a memento of the novel and interesting transaction occurring on its banks. After the purchase and payment, at the conclusion of the preliminaries, I had made preparation for departing, when two of the prin-

principal chiefs approached, and laid their royal mantles at my feet, begging my acceptance of them. Upon my acquiescing, the gifts were placed around my neck and over my shoulders, by the noble donors, who seemed much pleased at their share in the transaction, and begged of me to walk a pace or two in their (now my) princely vestments. I asked them to accompany

 me to the vessel, to which request I received a rather feeling reply, by their pointing, first to their children, and next to their own naked feet, importing that they could not walk so fast as ourselves, but would come down in a few days. In the course of the late transaction I had no difficulty in discovering their sacred and private mark, so important in all their transactions, and universally respected. I obtained a knowledge of this mark by means of one of my Sydney natives, Bungit, who, going behind a tree, out of sight of the females, made the Sydney aboriginal mark. I afterwards took two others of my natives, and the principal chief of Port Phillip, to whom I showed the mark on the tree, which he instantly recognised, and pointed, also, to the knocking out of the front tooth. This mark is always made simultaneously with the loss or abstraction of the tooth. I requested the chief, through the interpretation of my Sydney natives, to give the imprint of his mark. After a few minutes' hesitation, he took a tomahawk and did as he was desired on the bark of a tree. A copy of this mark is attached to the deed, as the signature and seal of their country.

Sacred Mark.

About 10 a. m. I took my departure from these interesting people. The principal chief could not be less than six feet four inches high, and his proportions gigantic; his brother six feet two inches, also a fine man. I recrossed Batman's creek, and travelled over thinly-timbered country of box, gum, wattle, and she-oak, with grass three or four feet high. Travelling twelve miles down one of my side lines, in a south-west direction, we came upon another creek of good, pure water, running through a most romantic valley. I named it Lucy's creek, in token of affection to one of my daughters; and the valley Maria's valley, after my eldest daughter. This valley and creek ran for many miles through land of the richest description. We crossed more plains or grazing land, and came, subsequently, upon a thinly-timbered forest of gum, wattle, and oak. Here, for the first time, the land became sandy, with a little gravel. The grass was ten inches high, and resembled a field of wheat. We have not seen the slightest appearance of frost. After leaving this forest, we came upon the river I had gone up a few days before. Intending to come

down on the opposite side and hail the vessel, I crossed, on the banks of the river, a large marsh, one mile and a half broad by three or four long, of the richest diluvium; not a tree was to be seen. Upon the borders of this extensive marsh or swamp we disturbed large flocks of quails. In one flock the birds were so numerous as to form a dense cloud. I shot two very large ones. At the upper part of this swamp is an extensive lagoon, at least a mile across; its surface was covered with swans, ducks, geese, and other aquatic fowl. Having crossed this marsh, we passed through a dense tea-tree scrub, very high, expecting to make the vessel in the course of an hour or two, but, to our great surprise, when we got through we found ourselves on the banks of a much larger river than the one we had originally gone up. As it was now near sundown, and at least two days would be required to head the river, I decided upon allowing two of my Sydney natives to swim across it, and go to the vessel, distant about seven miles, to fetch the boat. Bullet and Bungit started on this enterprise, and returned in about three hours from the time of their departure. Their return with the boat was most opportune, as we had got on the point of junction of the two rivers, where the tide had set in, and was already up to my ankles. I first dispatched the party with the dogs in the boat to the opposite bank, and, on the return of the boat, myself and old Bull, who had cut his foot, went, in first-rate style, to the vessel. I hope my travelling on foot will terminate, at least, for some time. I had now accomplished a most arduous undertaking, and, in order to secure the fruits of my exertions, I intend leaving Gumm, Dodds, Thomson, and three of my Sydney natives—Bungit, Bullet, and old Bull—as overseers and bailiffs of my newly-acquired territory, and of the possession of which nothing, short of a premature disclosure of my discovery on the part of my companions, can possibly deprive me. These people I intend leaving at Indented Heads, as my head depôt, with a supply of necessaries for at least three months. The chiefs of the Port Phillip tribes made me a present of three stone tomahawks, some spears, wommeiras, boomerangs, and other weapons of warfare.

June 8.—This morning the winds set in foul for Indented Heads, and, having made several attempts to get out of the river, we gave it up as hopeless. We went, in the boat, up the large river coming from the east, and, after examination six miles up, I was pleased to find the water quite fresh and very deep: this will be the place for the future village.

June 9.—We made a fair start this morning; and are now, with a light wind, under weigh for Intended Heads. We reached the bay early in the afternoon, and commenced landing goods as expeditiously as possible, the bay being rough and the wind increasing in violence. We have suc-

ceeded, however, in landing all the goods. I selected a spot where I wished Gumm to commence the garden, house, and other appurtenances. All my Sydney natives being desirous of permission to remain here, it was determined that Pigeon and Joe, the marine, should also remain in addition to the other natives, this making a total of eight individuals; three whites, namely, Gumm, Dodds, and Thompson; and of natives five, Pigeon, Joe the marine, Bunjit, Bullet, and Old Bull, for whom we have left a plentiful supply of everything to last for three months or more. I left a large quantity of potatoes for planting, and a great variety of garden seeds, stones and pips of fruits, with apples and oranges. I also left the six dogs. To Gumm I gave written authority to warn off all persons found trespassing on the land I had purchased from the natives; and, everything being now perfectly arranged and understood, we shook hands with all and took a friendly farewell. We sailed for the heads with a fair wind, which we cleared by 8 p. m.

June 10.—We made a good run last night, about 80 miles, and by midnight were within sight of the coast of Van Dieman's Land.

June 11.—Got into George Town heads at six a. m., with a fair wind up the river, and arrived at Launceston this evening. I lost no time in reaching my own house, where I was kindly and affectionately greeted; and, in the bosom of my family, I soon lost all sight of my past wandering.

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Mr. Batman again reached Port Phillip in the latter part of April, 1836, by the "Caledonia," accompanied by Mrs. Batman, their family, and servants. Among the passengers were James Simpson, Esq., late police magistrate of Campbelltown, Van Dieman's Land, Major Welman and son, who were on their way to India, and the Rev. Mr. Orton. On the first Sabbath day after their arrival, the church service was read by Mr. Orton, on Batman's Hill. Forms had been arranged, at the rear of Mr. Batman's residence, for the convenience of the congregation, consisting of the enterprising founder of the Colony, his wife and family, the governess, Miss Caroline Newcome, Dr. Thompson, Mr. J. Simpson, and the shepherds and farm servants in the employ of Mr. Batman. Not the least interesting group of individuals were the Sydney natives, who had performed no unimportant part in the discovery of the colony. Their appearance among the company was striking, dressed in their clean white jackets and trowsers, and headed by their king or chief, in a scarlet coat and military pantaloons, with breastplate and gorget, the gift of Colonel Sir George Arthur, then Governor of Van Dieman's Land. The protrusion of two black legs from the lower part of the pantaloons, we must admit,

in great measure impaired the otherwise military bearing of the ci-devant Governor of Tasmania. Another group consisted of the Port Phillip aborigines, of both sexes, who were stationed at a little distance from the main body of the congregation.

These simple people appeared to be watching with considerable interest the movements of the others, and when they joined simultaneously in sacred song their astonishment was very great.

Batman's first sheep station was situated on the present site of St. James' church, where a shepherd's hut had been erected, and the sheep were under the management of a Mr. Togarty.

Mount Eliza and Mount Martha were named by one of the lieutenants of the Rattlesnake, at that time employed in surveying the coast; the former in honor of Mrs. Batman, and the latter in honor of Mrs. Lonsdale, and the manner in which it was conferred was as complimentary as it was judicious. The gentleman called on Mrs. Batman and desired to know her Christian name, as he said it was but paying a well-merited compliment in naming the two most remarkable eminences after the only two ladies at that time in the colony.



*C. J.*

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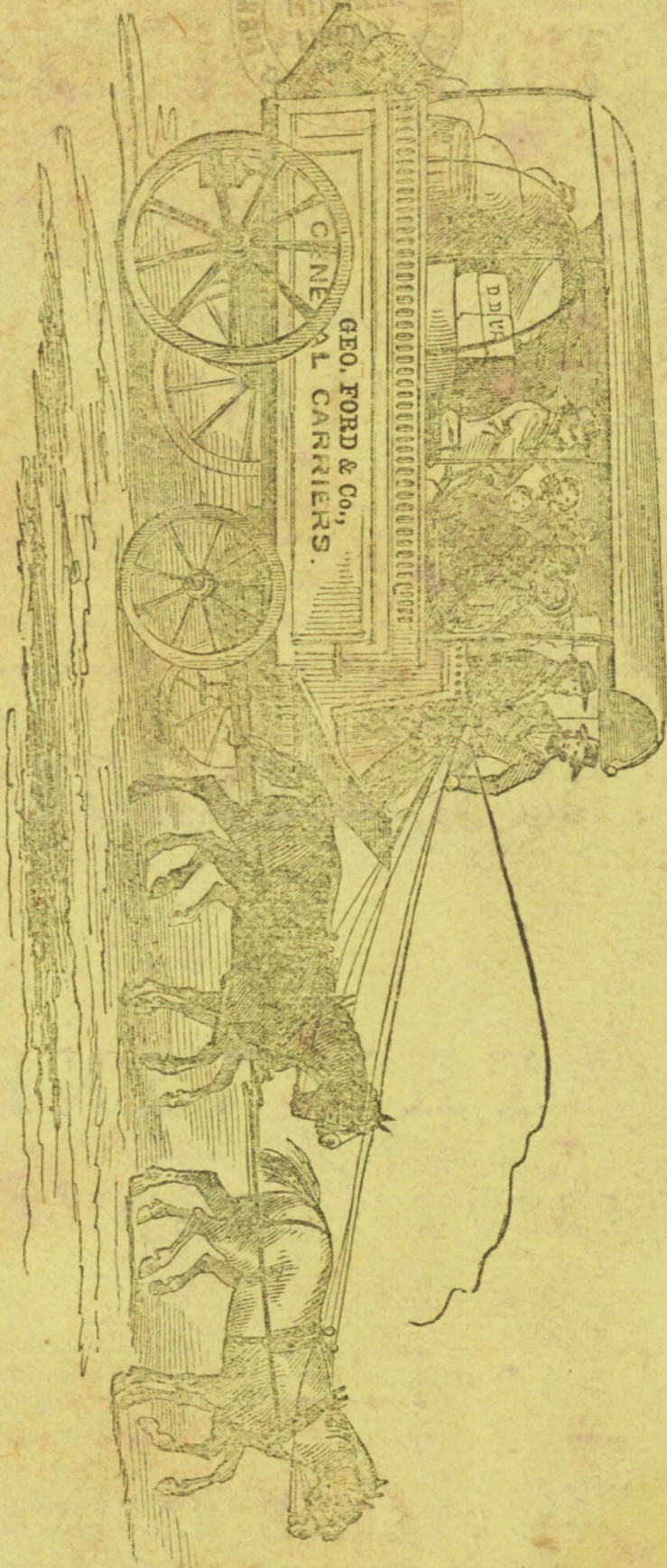
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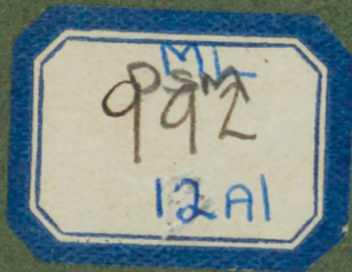




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