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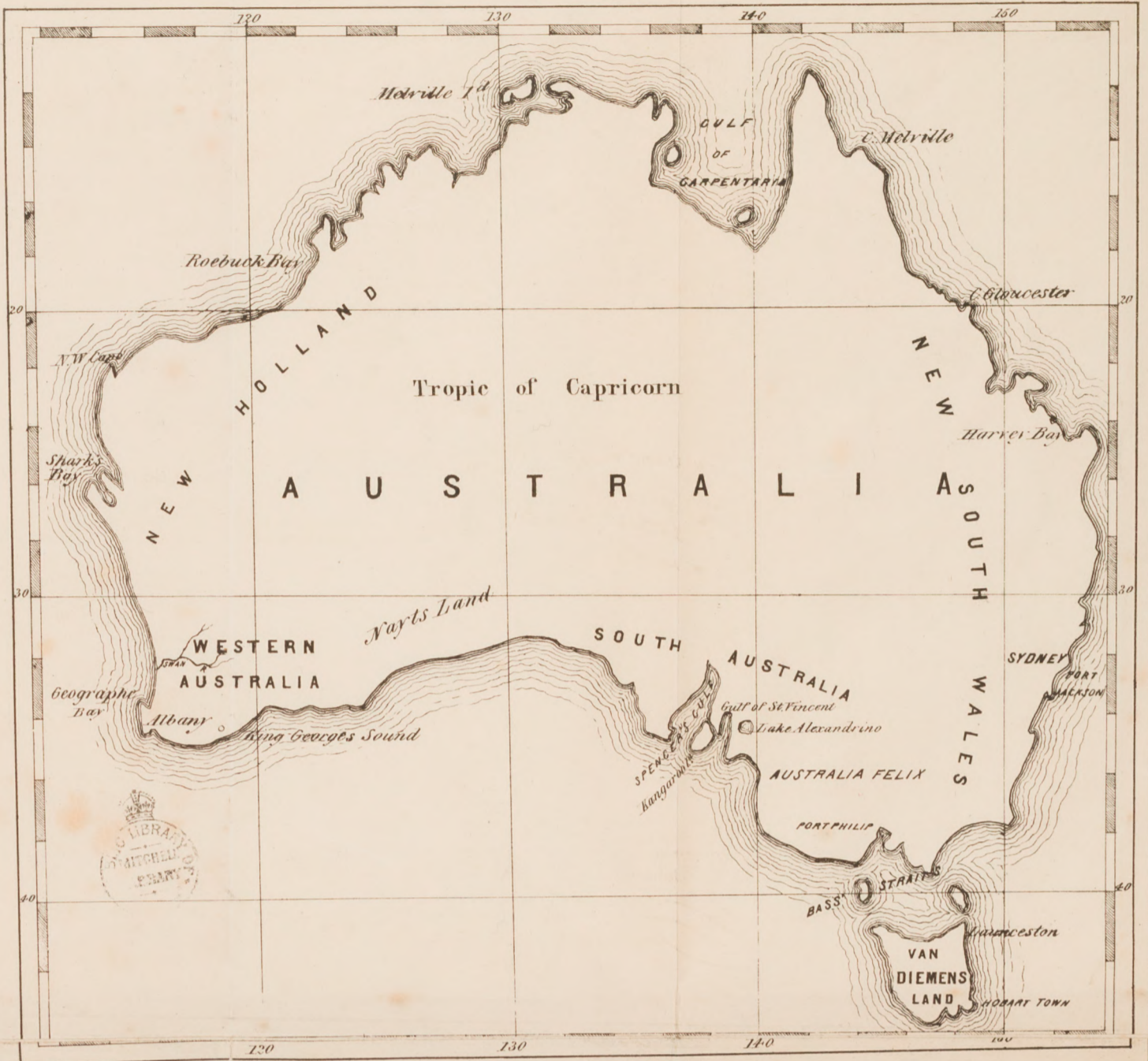
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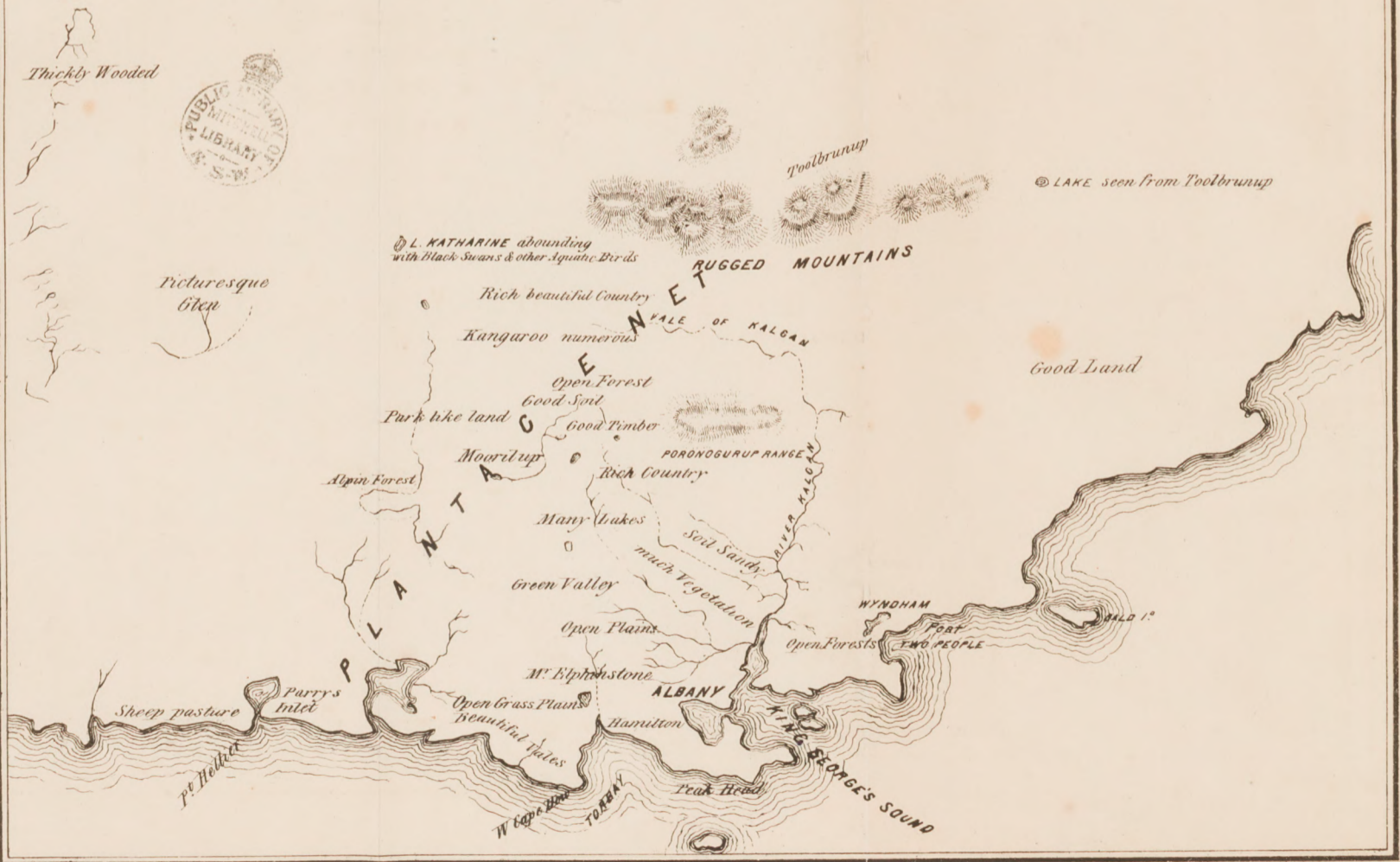






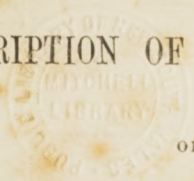
MAP  
OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

G O D E R I C H H A Y.



*D. J. Mitchell*

A DESCRIPTION OF THE SETTLEMENT



OF

KING GEORGE'S SOUND,

IN

THE COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

With a Map.

BY AN AUSTRALIAN COLONIST.

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THE SETTLEMENT  
OF  
KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

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THE colony of WESTERN AUSTRALIA, as now defined by the authority of her Majesty's Government, includes all that portion of AUSTRALIA which is situated to the *westward* of the 129th degree of longitude; its greatest length is therefore 1280 miles from *north* to *south*, and it extends from *east* to west about 800 miles. Of this extensive territory only a portion has been hitherto explored, viz., from lat.  $30^{\circ}$  to  $35^{\circ} 5'$  south, or 350 English miles from *north* to *south*; and from longitude  $115^{\circ}$  to  $120^{\circ}$  *east*, or 345 miles from *east* to *west*.

The known portion of this colony is divided into fifteen counties, viz.—Twiss, Perth, York, Murray, Grantham, Wellington, Wicklow, Sussex, Nelson, Goderich, Hay, Lanark, Stirling, Plantagenet, and Kent, each division being about 50 miles long, and

40 miles broad, and comprising an area of about 2000 square miles.

A settlement was *first* made here in the month of June, 1829, near the mouth of SWAN RIVER, in the district of PERTH, on the *western* coast of TERRA AUSTRALIS, in lat.  $32^{\circ} 2'$  south, and longitude  $115^{\circ} 40'$  east. The colony was founded upon the reports of Captain Sir James Stirling, R.N., who was appointed the first governor, and he continued to administer the affairs of the settlement until the end of the year 1838. During the continuance of his government, he was very popular with the majority of the colonists; and, as an energetic and able officer, he certainly merits high commendation. He resigned his office in the year 1838, and was succeeded therein by JOHN HUTT, Esq., F.R.S. the present governor of the colony.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA now comprises a population of nearly 5000 persons, who are mostly engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits; and no *convicts* have hitherto been sent there. The laws and regulations of the settlement are similar with those of Great Britain, whilst the inhabitants are comparatively exempt from taxation, and the various evils which afflict the parent country. The climate is exceedingly healthy and agreeable, though much hotter than that of England. All the productions of Europe, and many of the plants and fruits of tropical regions may be advantageously grown within the colony, which has not yet suffered from the long droughts which have frequently prevailed in the settlements on the eastern coasts of AUSTRALIA. In the vicinity

of the coast the land is mostly sandy and poor, but at the distance of ten or twelve miles inland, it begins to improve in quality, and much of the country in the interior is extremely beautiful in appearance, well watered by rivulets and streams, and of great natural fertility. The chief towns of the colony are PERTH, which is the capital, and the seat of Government, and FREEMANTLE. The first is situated on the *northern*, or left bank of the entrance of the SWAN, and about ten miles up the river; and the last, on the *southern*, or right bank, and about a mile from the open sea. The other towns or townships are *Guildford* and *Kelmscott*, in the district of Perth, *Augusta*, near Cape Leeuwin, in the district of Sussex, and ALBANY, near King George's Sound, in the district of Plantagenet.

In 1840, a small settlement was formed by the Western Australian Company, near an inlet of the sea called *Leschenhault Inlet*, in latitude  $33^{\circ} 16'$  *south*, and longitude  $115^{\circ} 35'$  *east*. Off this inlet there appears, from the accounts, to be tolerably good anchorage for merchant vessels; but the depth of water on the bar at its entrance is not more than three or four feet. This settlement was rather bombastically named *Austral Ind*, or *Australind*; and the agents of the company reported that the surrounding country comprised much excellent and fertile land, and was abundantly watered in every direction; but it was so inefficiently conducted and supported, that it was speedily relinquished.

The entrance of the Swan River is very shallow, and it will not, therefore, admit of the passage of

large vessels; but there is an open roadstead opposite the mouth of this river called *Gages Road*, which affords tolerably secure anchorage for ships in moderate weather. A few miles to the *southward* of this roadstead there is another, called *Owen's Anchorage*; but the only *port* in the vicinity of Swan River is *Cockburn Sound*,—a capacious bay, which has an entrance about eight miles to the *southward* of Swan River, and another entrance about seven miles *further south*.

Opposite Cockburn Sound is a small, narrow island called *Garden Island*, which extends north and south about six miles. According to Sir James Stirling's Report, "Cockburn Sound is an excellent port, but its entrance is encumbered by rocks, and it is not accessible, with safety, to large vessels, while there is not an effective establishment of pilots and beacons." The *southern* entrance is much narrower, and more rocky and dangerous than the *northern* one; and, consequently, *Cockburn Sound* is an excellent port if you can but get into it,—whilst it is more difficult to leave than to enter. At the first settlement of WESTERN AUSTRALIA enormous *grants* of land were made by the Government to numerous individuals, on condition of their expending a certain amount of capital, and effecting various improvements thereupon *within the space of twenty-one years from 1829*. The system of *granting* land was wholly discontinued in 1832; and since that year the land of the colony has been *sold*. According to the existing regulations, *the minimum price* of the Government land within the colony, not in the immediate vicinity of towns or townships, is *twenty shillings per acre*, and the buyer

has to pay the cost of the necessary deed or deeds of conveyance. By an act of the local Government, No. 13 of 1841, all *private sales* of land were subjected to a transfer duty of one pound per cent. upon the amount of the purchase money; but this duty was not to apply to conveyances from the crown, mortgages, leases, or sales by auction, and has probably been since abolished. The *geographical* position of the colony is highly advantageous for the purposes of commercial intercourse with India, China, and the various islands of the Indian Archipelago, the Mauritius, the Cape of Good Hope, and many other important places, as the following table of distances will show, viz.:—

Swan River is distant from the	}	about 6000 miles.	
Cape of Good Hope			
"    Mauritius	"	5000	"
"    India	"	5000	"
"    China	"	6000	"
"    Java	"	2000	"
"    Ceylon	"	4000	"
"    by sea from King George's Sound		450	"
"    "    Adelaide, South Australia		1850	"
"    "    Port Phillip, New South Wales		2250	"
"    "    "    Van Diemen's Land		2300	"
"    "    "    Sydney, New South Wales		3150	"

The colony of Western Australia is now in a really prosperous and improving condition, but requires an annual importation of capital and labour from Great

Britain, the present population being too scanty and too much dispersed to admit of its making any rapid progress. There are no recent statistical returns showing its present state, but from many scattered communications and statements it appears to have about 2,000 acres under cultivation, and the live stock may be said to comprise about 60,000 sheep, 5,000 goats, 5,000 swine, 3,000 [horned cattle, and about 500 horses.

The value of the buildings and improvements in *all* the towns of the settlement is about 150,000*l.*; the quantity of land in the possession of the colonists comprises nearly 2,000,000 of acres. The annual imports of the colony are estimated at 40,000*l.*; and its exports at 20,000*l.*; its revenue is about 10,000*l.* Two papers are published weekly at PERTH, the *Perth Gazette* and the *Swan River Guardian*—a branch of the Bank of Australasia is established there, and the colonists have formed an Agricultural Society and several Associations for the prosecution of the whale fishery. The *net* profit upon pastoral and agricultural pursuits is 50 per cent. per annum, but these operations can only be conducted successfully by persons of moderate capital, and should not be engaged in by those who have but slender means, nor by *labourers* or *mechanics*. With the requisite capital and labourers, the following undertakings would yield large profits in the colony, viz. :—

Some shipwrights and boat builders' yards.

Several bay whaling establishments.

Several saw mills, calculated for sawing large round

timber trees into beams, joists, boards, &c. &c., to be worked by water-power.\*

A few flour mills, to be worked by water-power.

A few *good smithys* for the manufacture of agricultural implements, tools, and ironwork generally, for ships, houses, &c.

A few brick-making establishments.

A few *carrying* establishments for the land carriage of colonial produce, goods, &c., by vans or waggons.

A few good building establishments, competent to the erection of warehouses, dwellings, wharfs, and public buildings.

Some establishments for the manufacture of *coarse woollen* cloths and blankets.

One or two *good* and *powerful* steam vessels for trading with the other Australian colonies.

One or two horticultural establishments with a large supply of plants, seeds, implements, &c., &c.

But it is indispensable that every one of these concerns should introduce the capital and labour necessary for its conduct, and a considerable supply of provisions and stores.

The indigenous productions of Western Australia at present known, consist of large and small timber trees applicable to general purposes, but the wood is generally very hard and close grained, and difficult to work; an infinite variety of beautiful shrubs and flowers; good natural grasses, fit for the depasturing of sheep and cattle, or to be made into hay; marl,

\* The timber of the colony is exceedingly hard and close grained, and difficult to work upon.

selenite, granite, sandstone, limestone, slate, and clay; chromate of lead, and copper and iron ores. It is, however, very probable that these comprise but a small portion of its native products, and that coals, and many other minerals, may hereafter be discovered. The coasts, inlets, and harbours are greatly resorted to by *black* whales, and so many are captured by the colonists that the annual export of oil from the settlement now amounts, it is said, to nearly 10,000*l.*, and might be indefinitely increased. *Sperm* whales abound in the adjacent sea, but seldom or never approach within soundings of the coast. Excellent fish may be obtained in abundance from the coasts, bays, and harbours of the colony, and a great variety of aquatic and other birds may be seen in every district.

The quadrupeds of the settlement comprise kangaroos of various kinds, native dogs, opossums, flying squirrels, wild cats, and kangaroo rats, but these creatures are seldom very troublesome to the colonists, and usually abandon the settled districts.

The aborigines of *Western Australia* in form and features, as well as in their habits, manners, and customs, greatly resemble those of every other known portion of *TERRA AUSTRALIS*; and as they have been fully described in many valuable publications, a very concise notice of them will suffice for these pages. They are a nomadic, or wandering race; have no fixed habitations, flocks, or herds, and never cultivate the earth; they subsist by hunting and fishing, and lead a happy and independent sort of life in rambling about their native forests. They are tall, active, and

well proportioned, yet do no manner of work *for themselves*; but as they eat nearly every production of the animal and vegetable kingdoms, do, notwithstanding, generally obtain an abundance of food. Their features seem a combination of those of the Papuan negro and the Malay, and their skin is of a dusky chocolate colour, rather than black. Their eyes are dark brown, or black, and well shaped, and they are considered, by those best acquainted with them, to have the most perfect sight of any people in the world. They have very strong, large, and well-shaped teeth, with a profusion of long and coarse black hair, and the men have large whiskers, beards, and moustaches. They are divided into tribes or families, and each tribe has a certain district of country, beyond which they seldom travel in a body. The men have from one to three wives, and the women perform every sort of drudgery. The only articles of apparel in use amongst them are cloaks formed of kangaroo and other skins, and belts or girdles made of opossum skins. Their weapons of war and of the chase consist of spears and clubs, wooden shields, and a crescent-shaped weapon called a kyle. They are exceedingly dexterous in the use of their weapons, and are very courageous; in climbing trees, catching game and fish, and indeed in every matter of *forestry* they are very expert. They are intelligent and well disposed; and when kindly treated, generally behave exceedingly well to the colonists. Their occupations are war, hunting, fishing, and the manufacture of their weapons and cloaks; their amusements consist of singing and dancing,

sham fights and mimicry. A very friendly intercourse now subsists between them and the colonists, and they will occasionally perform some rough and simple labours for a trifling remuneration; but they can seldom or never be induced to work regularly, or for any long period of time. At their fights and dances they paint their faces and bodies with red and white streaks, with a sort of ochre which they find amongst the hills, and when thus adorned they present a most extraordinary appearance.

The object of these pages being more to describe the settlement of KING GEORGE'S SOUND, than the colony of *Western Australia*, this notice of that colony may be appropriately concluded by an extract of Sir James Stirling's report to the Colonial Office, in 1838, wherein he stated—"The poorest individual " may procure for himself, by industry, in this " country, not only the necessaries of life, but future " independence of labour." And—"It is deserving " of record, that since the foundation of the settle- " ment, in 1829, the law has not found occasion to " impose sentence of death upon any individual."

As the magnificent and commodious harbour named "KING GEORGE'S SOUND," near the *south-west* extremity of AUSTRALIA, forms a most important feature of the *south* coast of TERRA AUSTRALIS, or "THE GREAT SOUTH LAND," and will, doubtless, become, at an early period, the port of a populous and prosperous settlement, a concise account of the *first* discovery of the *south* coast of Australia will be now submitted.

The great navigator, *Captain* MATTHEW FLINDERS,

R.N., in the able and comprehensive Introduction to his celebrated "VOYAGE TO TERRA AUSTRALIS," commenced in 1801, and continued for several years, in H.M. ship the *Investigator*, and the armed vessel *Porpoise*, and the *Cumberland* schooner, thus narrates the *first* discovery of the south coast of AUSTRALIA.

The Dutch recital says, "In the year 1627 the south coast of THE GREAT SOUTH LAND was accidentally discovered by the ship the *Gulde Zeepaard*, outward bound, from Fatherland, for the space of a thousand miles.

"The land so discovered by the *Gulde Zeepaard* was named NUYTS' LAND—after *Pieter Nuyts*, who was either the commander or the first merchant of the vessel.

"This discovery has always been considered as of importance. A memoir was published at Amsterdam in 1718, 'to prove that NUYTS' LAND being in the fifth climate, between  $34^{\circ}$  and  $36^{\circ}$  of latitude, it ought to be, like all other countries so situated, one of the most habitable, most rich, and most fertile parts of the world.'

"With the exception of Mons. *de St. Alouarn* (a French navigator), who is said to have anchored near CAPE LEEUWIN in 1772, the south coast of *Terra Australis*, though occupying much attention from geographers, seems to have been left unvisited from 1627 to 1791. In this year Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER, being on his way to North-west America, made the south coast, on Sept. 26th, at CAPE CHATHAM, in latitude  $35^{\circ} 3'$  south, and longitude  $116^{\circ} 35'$  east, not many leagues beyond

“ where NUYTS appears to have commenced his discovery. He sailed *eastward* from thence along the shore till the 28th; when he anchored in a Sound, to which was given the name of ‘ KING GEORGE THE THIRD’S SOUND.’

“ The country in the neighbourhood of the Sound, and of its two harbours, was found to be agreeably variegated in form; to be clothed with grass and wood; and though generally more barren than fertile, yet affording many spots capable of cultivation. No considerable river was discovered; but fresh water was everywhere abundant for domestic purposes; and the climate was judged to be as healthy as the temperature was found to be agreeable. Kangaroos did not appear to be scarce, nor were the woods ill-tenanted by the feathered tribes; and reptiles and other noxious animals were not numerous. Amongst the aquatic birds black swans and wild ducks held a distinguished place; but, like the land animals, were very shy: sea and shell fish were in tolerable abundance.”

KING GEORGE’S SOUND is situated near the southwest extremity of AUSTRALIA.

Its entrance, from the *westward*, is round a high rocky bluff point, called, from its smooth appearance, BALD HEAD. This point forms the S.W. extremity of the Sound, and, according to FLINDERS,\* is situated in latitude  $35^{\circ} 6' 15''$  south, and longitude  $118^{\circ} 0' 45''$  east, and is about 400 feet above the level of the sea. The *eastern* headland of the Sound is called CAPE

\* *Flinders'* positions, bearings, distances, soundings, &c., are more to be relied on than those quoted from any other navigator.

VANCOUVER, and upon this cape there is a lofty hill or mountain named MOUNT GARDNER, which is very remarkable from its handsome conic shape, and its rocky and almost uninterrupted polished surface, to its summit. The outer, or seaward line of *Mount Gardner*, or rather of Cape Vancouver, on which it stands, is in latitude  $35^{\circ} 2'$  south, and longitude  $118^{\circ} 11' 30''$  east. This cape may be said to form the *eastern* extent of the coast, rather than the opposite Point of *Bald Head*, from which it is distant about eleven miles, there being within it a projection which more properly forms the N.E. point of the Sound, lying from Bald Head N. 30 E., about five miles distant. Between these latter points are *Michaelmas Island* on the east, and *Break Sea Island* on the west, each about a league in circuit, one mile apart, nearly equi-distant between the two points, and affording, to all appearance, good channels on every side. *The port is safe and easy of access anywhere between its outer points of entrance; it may be entered, at all times, by vessels of the largest size, and is, in every respect, one of the best harbours in the world.*

The geographical position of King George's Sound is excellent, as it lies directly in the track of vessels proceeding from Europe, or from the Cape of Good Hope, to the Colonies of SOUTH AUSTRALIA, PORT PHILLIP, VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, and NEW SOUTH WALES, being, according to FLINDERS, "about 150 miles to the eastward of CAPE LEEUWIN, and with the safe and excellent roadstead two harbours are connected, sheltered from all winds, and completely

“land-locked — PRINCESS ROYAL HARBOUR to the  
 “*west* and OYSTER HARBOUR to the *north*,—the  
 “former having an entrance and secure anchorage  
 “within for the largest ships; but the entrance to  
 “the latter has not more than fifteen feet at high  
 “water.” The usual rise and fall of the tide is about  
 three feet.

For the information of the reader the distances, *by sea*, between KING GEORGE'S SOUND and the principal settlements of AUSTRALIA are undermentioned: from these it will appear that the voyage from EUROPE or THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, may be made thither in less time, *by three weeks or a month*, than is occupied in proceeding to VAN DIEMEN'S LAND, or NEW SOUTH WALES, viz. :—

King George's Sound is distant,	}	about 450 miles.
by sea, from Swan River,		
Western Australia,		
„ Adelaide, South Australia	1400	„
„ Port Phillip, New South Wales	1800	„
„ Van Diemen's Land	1850	„
„ Sydney, New South Wales	2700	„

KING GEORGE'S SOUND was *first* discovered by Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER, R.N., in His Majesty's sloop *Discovery*, on 28th September, 1791, as may be seen by the following extracts from his voyage.

*Extracts from a Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean and Round the World, undertaken by His Majesty's command, and performed in the years 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, and 1795, in the DISCOVERY sloop of war and armed tender CHATHAM, under the command of Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER. Vol. I. page 133, et seq.*

ON 26th September, 1791, Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER, in H.M. sloop of war *Discovery*, accompanied by the armed tender *Chatham*, commanded by Lieutenant WILLIAM ROBERT BROUGHTON, and whilst proceeding on "*A Voyage of Discovery Round the World*," made the land near the S.W. extremity of TERRA AUSTRALIS, in latitude  $35^{\circ} 23'$  south, and longitude  $115^{\circ} 52'$  east, and bearing, by compass, from N.E. to N. 27 E.

It seemed of a moderate height, resembling in appearance the land in the British Channel, and was supposed to be ten or twelve leagues distant: no soundings with 120 fathoms of line. He sailed towards the land observed, and, early the next day, neared a conspicuous promontory, to which he gave the name of CAPE CHATHAM, in honor of the Earl of Chatham, who *then* presided at the Board of Admiralty. This Cape is situated in latitude  $35^{\circ} 3'$  south, and longitude  $116^{\circ} 35' 30''$  east. In the hope of discovering a convenient port where he might refit the vessels and refresh the crews, he proceeded *eastward* along the coast, and within three or four miles of the shore, until the evening of the 28th September, when the *Chatham* led the way into a capacious

port, round a high, rocky, bluff point, and at length anchored, in six fathoms water, with a clear bottom of fine white sand. The high, rocky, bluff point forming the S.W. extremity of the Sound, bore by compass S. 85 E., and, from its smooth appearance, was called BALD HEAD; a high rocky island in the entrance, from its beaten appearance, obtained the name of BREAKSEA ISLAND, from N. 82 E. to N. 69 E.; Mount GARDNER (named after *Sir Alan Gardner*) a high mountain, bore N. 70 E.; another high island, named MICHAELMAS ISLAND, N. 62 E.; a small high island, called SEAL ISLAND, being a great resort of those animals, north; a low flat rock, S. 75 W.; and to the N.W. was an extensive white sandy beach. On landing, they proceeded along the shores of the Sound to the northward, to a high rocky point that obtained the name of POINT POSSESSION; and on reaching its summit gained an excellent view of the Sound in all directions. When on board we had supposed that the Sound branched into three arms, but it now became evident that there were only two. One immediately behind this Point, which is also its southern point of entrance, extended in a circular form, about a league across, bounded by a country much resembling that before described, though producing more trees, and with a verdure of a livelier hue, and approaching nearer to the water's edge. The other, lying about three miles to the north-east, seemed almost as spacious, though its entrance appeared very narrow. The surrounding country in its neighbourhood presented a far more fertile and pleasing aspect. Nearly in the centre of

that harbour was an island covered with the most beautiful herbage; and, instead of the naked rocks and barren sands that compose the coast of the Sound, the cliffs which bounded these shores seemed to be of a reddish clay, and the general texture or character of the soil appeared to be more favorable to the vegetable kingdom, as from the summits of the hills to the water-side was seen a stately and luxuriant forest.

The necessary observations being made at this station, the British colours were displayed, and having drunk His Majesty's health, accompanied by the usual formalities on such occasions, we took possession of the country from the land we saw north-westward of Cape Chatham, so far as we might explore its coasts, in the name of his present Majesty, for him, and for his heirs and successors. This Port, the first which we had discovered, I honored with the name of KING GEORGE THE THIRD'S SOUND; and this day being the anniversary of Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte Augusta Matilda's birth, the harbour behind Point Possession I called PRINCESS ROYAL HARBOUR; which, with the Sound, formed Point Possession into a Peninsula, united to the main by a very narrow, barren, sandy beach. Here, although we could not discover the least trace of its having at any time been the resort of the natives, yet in every part where we strayed were seen the same effects of fire on all the vegetable productions. The ceremony of taking possession being finished, we found a passage, narrow and shoal for some distance, into the north-eastern

harbour, where a bar was found to extend across its entrance, on which there was only three fathoms water. Within the harbour the deep water seemed to occupy some space to the N.E. and N.W., but the day was too far advanced to permit our making any particular examination.

The verdant island, covered with luxuriant grass and other vegetables, terminated the extent of our researches; and as the situation of the vessels seemed as convenient as any other for procuring what the Sound might afford, I determined to return on board, and lost no time in availing myself of the benefits it presented. In our way out of this harbour the boats grounded on a bank we had not before perceived; this was covered with oysters of a most delicious flavour, on which we sumptuously regaled; and loading in about half an hour the boats for our friends on board, we commemorated the discovery by calling it OYSTER HARBOUR.

On the morning of Friday, the 30th September, we began cutting wood and providing water, which sufficiently employed all our healthy men; whilst those who were still indisposed were directed to amuse themselves on shore. Finding it practicable to place the ship much nearer to the spot whence the wood and water were procured, the next day, Saturday, the 1st of October, she was removed; and by Sunday, the 2nd, we had made such progress that the yawl could be spared for the further examination of the Sound. In her I proceeded to Princess Roya Harbour, where, near a rocky cliff on the S.W. side, was found a small shallow stream of excellent water.

On tracing its meanders through a copse, it brought us to a deserted village of the natives, amidst the trees, on nearly a level spot of ground, consisting of about two dozen miserable huts, mostly of the same fashion and dimensions with that before described, though no one of them seemed so recently erected. Having gratified our curiosity, though at the expense of our feelings, in contemplating these very wretched and humiliating efforts of human ingenuity, we returned on board; and having, by the morning of Tuesday the 4th, replenished our water, and taken on board a supply of firewood, Messrs. *Puget* and *Whidbey* went to *Oyster Harbour*, with three boats, for the purpose of hauling the seine, and obtaining a quantity of those shell-fish previously to our proceeding the following morning to sea.

The next morning, Wednesday the 5th, the boats returned, not having been very successful with the seine, but bringing a sufficient supply of oysters, not only for our convalescents, but for the affording also of two or three excellent meals for all hands. As the S.E. wind, and a heavy sea in the offing prevented our departure, Mr. Broughton was employed in examining the eastern side of the Sound from *Oyster Harbour* to *Mount Gardner*. This was found nearly a straight and compact shore, on which Mr. Broughton landed in several places, where the same effects of fire were evident, although there were not any traces of the natives, or of their habitations, to be discovered. The like causes of detention still operating, on Friday the 7th a party was made for the further examination of *Oyster Harbour*, and by a little

excursion into the country on that side to acquire some information of its natural productions, and, if possible, also of the natives. After examining the channel, as we proceeded to the upper part of the harbour our attention was directed to several large black swans, in very stately attitudes, swimming on the water, and, when flying, discovering the under parts of their wings and breasts to be white: this is all the description we were enabled to give of them, since they were excessively shy, and we were indifferent marksmen. In the northern corner of the harbour we landed near a rivulet, navigable only for canoes and small boats. It meandered in a northern direction between the hills, which, opening to the east and west, presented a spacious plain with forest trees occupying the banks of the rivulet and the sides of the hills even to their very summits. We proceeded about a league by the side of the rivulet, which flowed through so dead a flat that its motion was scarcely perceptible, and continued to be brackish, although in its passage it received several other smaller streams of most excellent water. In it were an abundance of very fine fish, and on its banks were many black swans, ducks, curlews, and other wild fowl. On the sides of this stream, as well as on the shores in Oyster Harbour, were seen the remains of several fish weirs, about eight or nine inches high, evidently the sorry contrivance of the wretched inhabitants of this country: some of these were constructed with loose stones, others with sticks and stumps of wood; but none of them were likely to be of much utility at this season, as several were placed

nearly at, and others above, what now seemed the high water-mark; but we supposed, at times, when the rain or other cause should extend the rivulet beyond its present bounds, which in width did not exceed thirty yards, and in depth four or five feet, these humble contrivances might arrest some small fish. Great bodies of water evidently pass down this stream at certain seasons, as appeared by the river's course occupying from two to three hundred yards on each side the rivulet, the soil of which was composed of sea sand and broken shells, and was destitute of any vegetable production. This space when overflowed must, from its winding course, form a most beautiful sheet of water.

The wears for the taking fish, and steps made in the bark for the purpose of ascending some of the largest trees, though both excessively rude, were undoubtedly the effects of manual labour, and, with the huts, formed the only indications of the country being inhabited that we were able to discover. There were no paths in the woods, nor were any smokes to be seen over the extensive country we beheld, which fully satisfied us that any further search for the natives would be fruitless; and therefore we returned by a different route to the boats. In our way we saw the remains of two similar huts. Near these was an ant's nest, much of the same shape and magnitude, though finished in a very superior style and manner, and showing how very humble is the state of human existence when unassisted by civil society, and undirected by the sciences. Having eaten our salt beef, we proceeded homewards, much

mortified that the many wild fowl we had seen had escaped our vigilance; but that we might not return empty-handed, we stopped at one of the oyster-banks, where, in about half an hour, we loaded our boat, and returned on board about nine o'clock in the evening. The bank on which we found them in greatest plenty, and the best flavoured, is that which extends from the north or low point of the entrance towards the little verdant island. The wind blew a strong gale from the E.S.E., and a very heavy sea ran without the Sound, but the vessels within rode perfectly quiet. Whilst we were getting under weigh, I caused to be deposited at the hut near the watering-place some beads, knives, looking-glasses, and other trinkets, as a compensation to its solitary owner, should he ever return, for the wood we had cut down and deprived him of; and to commemorate our visit, near the stump of one of the trees we had felled, in a pile of stones raised for the purpose of attracting the attention of any European, was left a bottle sealed up, containing a parchment on which were inscribed the names of the vessels, and of the commanders; with the name given to the Sound, and the dates of our arrival and departure. Another bottle containing a similar memorandum was likewise deposited on the top of Seal Island, with a staff erected to conduct any visitor, on which was affixed a medal of the year 1789. Those who may meet with the staff will most probably discover the bottle hidden near it. This precaution was taken on a presumption that Seal Island was entirely out of the reach of the inhabitants, which might not be the case where the first bottle was



secreted. Our researches afforded but little matter worthy of notice excepting such as appertained to KING GEORGE THE THIRD'S SOUND. This port has its entrance in latitude  $35^{\circ} 5'$ , longitude  $118^{\circ} 17'$ . It is easily known on approaching it from the westward, as it is the first opening in the coast that presents any appearance like a harbour, *eastward* of Cape Chatham. The Eclipse Islands being the only detached *land* that can be regarded, are an excellent guide to the Sound, having between them and Bald Head some rocks on which the sea breaks with great violence. The port is safe, and easy of access any where between its outer points of entrance, Bald Head and Mount Gardner, lying N. 62 E. and S. 62 W., eleven miles distant from each other. Mount Gardner is not less conspicuous and useful in pointing out the Sound from the *eastern* quarter, than in its being rendered very remarkable by its handsome shape, and its rocky and almost uninterrupted polished surface to its summit. Its base may be said rather to form the *eastern* extent of the coast than the opposite point of the Sound, there being within it a projection which, more properly, forms the N.E. point of the Sound, lying from Bald Head N. 30 E. about five miles distant. Between these latter points are Michaelmas and Breaksea Islands, each about a league in circuit, one mile apart, nearly equidistant between the two points, and affording to all appearance good channels on every side. The water suddenly decreases in its depth from thirty to twelve fathoms; the latter depth, uniformly continuing across from point to point, I should conceive, must be

an additional means of preventing any very heavy sea from rolling into the Sound; which, in the most exposed place of anchorage convenient to the shore, is only open from E. by N., by S.E. by E. Between these limits are situated the two islands above mentioned, whence the Sound extends W. by N. about two leagues to Point Possession, and from our anchorage to Oyster Harbour north about the same distance, with regular soundings in mid channel of twelve to fifteen, and ten to six fathoms close to the shore, excepting near Seal Island, where there is a hole of twenty-one fathoms. The *Discovery* and *Chatham* were moored in a situation not only very convenient as to communication with the shore, but, I believe, in perfect security as respected the elements; for, although the sea broke sometimes with such violence on Break Sea Island that the surf ranged to its elevated summit during a continuance of the boisterous weather; yet it did not occasion us the least inconvenience. A more eligible situation, if required in the Sound, might very probably be met with above the flat rock, as vessels would be there more completely land locked, and a convenient sandy cove, easily to be discovered in that neighbourhood, is furnished with a stream of excellent fresh water.

PRINCESS ROYAL HARBOUR admits of a passage into it about a quarter of a mile wide; nearest to the northern shore the depth is five or six fathoms, but on the southern not more than two and a half and three fathoms water, occasioned by banks of coral rock, which are very conspicuous, and not being liable to any of the violent agitations of the sea are

by no means dangerous. Within the points of entrance the depth is regularly from four to seven fathoms, and the bottom clear good holding ground. This depth though occupying part only of the harbour, yet affords a sufficient space for several vessels to ride in safety.

OYSTER HARBOUR is rendered admissible alone for vessels of a middle size, by the shallowness of the water on the bar, extending from shore to shore, on which we found 17 feet water only, although the depth increased from 5 to 7 fathoms on each side.

The deep water within the harbour did not seem of any great extent. In both these harbours the communication with the country is rendered unpleasant by the shallow depth of water in most places extending to a great distance from the shore. This inconvenience could easily be remedied should it ever be an object so to do, by wharfs, although it is not unlikely that, on a more minute inspection, the necessity for such a measure would cease to appear. In navigating the Sound, we did not observe any danger that was not sufficiently conspicuous to be avoided; circumstances, however, did not admit of our requiring that satisfactory information respecting Princess Royal and Oyster Harbours, which fall into it, that could have been wished; yet, so far as related to the Sound, the annexed sketch will, I believe, be found to contain no very material error. The climate, if a judgment may be formed by so short a visit, seemed delightful; for though we contended with some boisterous weather on our approach to the coast, nothing less ought reasonably to have been

expected at the season of the vernal equinox, and breaking up of the winter. Whilst on the coast, whales and seals were frequently playing about the ship. The usual rise and fall of the tide in King George's Sound was about 3 feet.

Thus far is Captain GEORGE VANCOUVER'S account of the discovery and examination of KING GEORGE'S SOUND; and it does not appear to have been again visited by any vessel until the month of August, in the year 1800; but on the 27th of that month, it seems to have been entered by the ship *Elligood*, commanded by CHR. DIXON, who is supposed to have removed the bottle deposited by Captain Vancouver, on the little island in Oyster Harbour, as previously described; for FLINDERS, on visiting the same island, on 9th December, 1801, could not discover the bottle and the parchment it contained, nor any vestiges of the flag-staff or pile of stones left by Captain Vancouver; but he found thereon a sheet of copper bearing this inscription, "*August 27th, 1800, Chr. Dixon, Ship Elligood;*" which he says solved the difficulty of the felled trees, and the disappearance of Captain Vancouver's bottle.

On the 19th of January, 1801, MATTHEW FLINDERS was appointed to the command of His Majesty's sloop *Investigator*, and immediately thereafter commenced the preparations for his celebrated "VOYAGE TO TERRA AUSTRALIS," a performance which fully entitles him to be considered as one of the ablest navigators Great Britain has ever produced. As copious extracts will be made from this invaluable work some parties may become desirous of referring

to it, and for this reason an exact copy of its title page is subjoined, to the end that those who may require it may be enabled to procure it from any Bookseller. It was originally published in two volumes, quarto, with numerous plates, and an atlas, at the price of eight guineas, but may now be purchased at a much lower price.

A  
VOYAGE  
TO  
TERRA AUSTRALIS,  
UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING THE  
DISCOVERY OF THAT VAST COUNTRY,  
AND PROSECUTED IN THE YEARS  
1801, 1802, AND 1803,  
IN  
HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP THE INVESTIGATOR,  
AND SUBSEQUENTLY IN THE ARMED VESSEL PORPOISE, AND  
CUMBERLAND, SCHOONER,  
WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
SHIPWRECK OF THE PORPOISE.  
ARRIVAL OF THE CUMBERLAND AT MAURITIUS, AND IMPRISONMENT  
OF THE COMMANDER DURING SIX YEARS AND A HALF IN  
THAT ISLAND.  
BY MATTHEW FLINDERS,  
COMMANDER OF THE INVESTIGATOR.  
IN TWO VOLUMES, WITH AN ATLAS.  
LONDON:  
PRINTED BY W. BULMER AND CO., CLEVELAND ROW;  
AND PUBLISHED BY G. AND W. NICOL.  
BOOKSELLERS TO HIS MAJESTY.  
PALL MALL.  
1814.

Captain *Vancouver* could not meet with any of the natives in the vicinity of King George's Sound, though

very anxious to see and communicate with them but Captain *Flinders* was more fortunate, and maintained a friendly intercourse with many of them during his stay there. On Monday, the 14th December, 1801, "some smokes being perceived at the head of the harbour, Mr. Brown (the naturalist of the expedition) and other gentlemen directed their excursion that way, and met with several of the natives, who were shy, but not afraid. One man with whom they had communication was admired for his manly behaviour, and they gave him a bird which had been shot, and a pocket handkerchief; but, like the generality of people hitherto seen in this country, these men did not seem to be desirous of communication with strangers; and they very early made signs to our gentlemen to return from whence they came. Next morning, however, we were agreeably surprised by the appearance of two Indians, and afterwards of others, upon the side of the hill behind our tents. They approached with much caution, one coming first with poised spear, and making many gestures, accompanied with much vociferous parleying, in which he sometimes seemed to threaten us if we did not begone, and at others to admit of our stay. On Mr. Purdie, the assistant-surgeon, going up to him unarmed, a communication was brought about, and they received some articles of iron and toys, giving in exchange some of their implements; and after a short stay left us apparently on very good terms. On the 17th, one of our former visitors brought two strangers with him, and after this time they and others came almost every day, and frequently stopped a whole morning at the tents.

We always made them presents of such things as seemed to be most agreeable, but they very rarely brought us anything in return; nor was it uncommon to find small mirrors and other things left about the shore, so that at length our presents were discontinued. On the 30th, our wooding and the watering of the ship were completed, the rigging was refitted, the sails repaired and bent, and the ship unmoored. Our friends the natives continued to visit us, and the old man with several others being at the tents this morning I ordered the party of marines on shore to be exercised in their presence. The red coats, and white crossed belts, were greatly admired, having some resemblance to their own manner of ornamenting themselves, and the drum, but particularly the fife, excited their astonishment; but when they saw these beautiful red and white men, with their bright muskets, drawn up in a line, they absolutely screamed with delight; nor were their wild gestures and vociferation to be silenced but by commencing the exercise, to which they paid the most earnest and silent attention. Several of them moved their hands involuntarily, according to the motions; and the old man placed himself at the end of the rank, with a short staff in his hand, which he shouldered, presented, grounded, as did the marines their muskets, without, I believe, knowing what he did. Before firing, the Indians were made acquainted with what was going to take place, so that the volleys did not excite much terror." The natives of this part of the coast of Australia, did not seem to understand the making of canoes, nor the use of fish hooks, and were

fearful of trusting themselves upon the water: these facts are remarkable, as all the natives of the *eastern* coasts of Australia have canoes and fishing hooks of their own manufacture, are excellent swimmers and expert boatmen, and are very fond of boating excursions. In nearly every other respect they resemble, exactly, the natives of the *eastern* coast of Australia. “ They do not, indeed, extract one of the upper front-teeth at the age of puberty, as is generally practised at Port Jackson (*Sydney*), nor do they make use of the *womerah*, or throwing-stick—but their colour—the texture of the hair—and personal appearance, are the same; their songs run in the same cadence; the manner of painting themselves is similar; their belts and fillets of hair are made in the same way, and worn in the same manner; but their language is very different. The women were kept out of sight with seeming jealousy, and the voyagers appear to have had no communication with them. The fish caught with hook and line were principally small mullet, and an excellent kind of snapper, nearly the same as that called *wollamai* by the natives of Port Jackson; but these were larger, weighing sometimes as much as twenty pounds. The birds and quadrupeds appeared to be similar to those inhabiting the forests around Port Jackson, and the *eastern* coast generally.” Flinders quitted King George’s Sound on the 5th of January, 1802; and, from the date of his departure until the year 1829, it does not appear to have been much visited or noticed. In this year a settlement on a small scale was formed, about *eight* miles within the heads

of the Sound, and on the *north* side of a capacious bay, previously mentioned as "PRINCESS ROYAL HARBOUR." Here a small town was formed, and named ALBANY; and the position chosen for the town appears to be nearly the same that was occupied by Captain FLINDERS'S tents, in 1801 and 1802. This Settlement was originally, and is still, a dependency of the colony of WESTERN AUSTRALIA, *first* known as SWAN RIVER. Upon its establishment it was placed under the superintendence of *Sir Richard Spencer, R. N.*, and it continued under his direction until his decease in 1840.

The division, or District of *Western Australia*, which comprises King George's Sound and the surrounding country, is called PLANTAGENET; it extends about fifty miles north and south, and about fifty miles east and west, and has an area of about 2,500 square miles. King George's Sound forms a most convenient place of resort for vessels engaged in the SOUTHERN WHALE FISHERY, or proceeding to or from any of the Settlements of AUSTRALASIA, whilst it possesses every requisite qualification for commercial purposes; *but the country around the shores of the harbour, and for some distance inland, is mostly poor and sandy, though beautiful in appearance, and abounding in elegant shrubs and flowers.* The settlement has been much neglected by the local and British Governments, and, in consequence, the inhabitants—few in number, with but slender means, and wanting labourers of every kind—have hitherto made but little progress, and have been unable to avail themselves, to any considerable extent, of the

fine country which commences about thirty miles *north* of Albany—extends in that direction for a long distance—and is admirably adapted for pastoral and agricultural purposes. Much of the land here-about is fertile, well watered, and of a very pleasing appearance, and yields crops of grain fully equal in quantity and quality to those produced in the best parts of the colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, celebrated for growing the *finest* wheat ever seen in the London corn-market.

In the year 1837, Mr. JOHN HASSELL, who had for some years cultivated an estate near *Launceston*, in the colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, touched at KING GEORGE'S SOUND, on his return to England. He made several short excursions into the interior during his sojourn there, and, from what he thus saw, he formed a most favourable opinion of the soil, climate, and capabilities of the Settlement. Having long resided in the colony of *Van Diemen's Land*, and frequently visited the neighbouring colony of *New South Wales*, he may be fairly supposed competent to judge of its relative merits; and so strong were his predilections in favour of KING GEORGE'S SOUND, that some time after he arrived in London he bought a vessel of about two hundred and fifty tons, named the *Dawson*, loaded her with a suitable cargo of merchandize for the Australian market, and made arrangements for selling the ship and cargo to the best advantage, at *Launceston* or *Sydney*, and employing the proceeds in the purchase of land near KING GEORGE'S SOUND, in order that he might conduct extensive agricultural and grazing operations

in that Settlement. In pursuance of this design, he sailed from London in the *Dawson* on the 28th of September, 1838, and arrived safely at King George's Sound on the 27th of January, 1839; and afterwards sailed for Launceston, in Van Diemen's Land, where, in the month of April, 1839, he sold the vessel and her cargo at a handsome profit, and soon after proceeded to Sydney, in New South Wales; at which place he chartered a vessel named the *China*, of six hundred tons, and loaded her with a choice selection of sheep, cattle, horses, and other live-stock,—provisions, implements, merchandise, &c., for KING GEORGE'S SOUND, where he arrived, with everything in excellent order, on the 1st of March, 1840. Soon after his arrival he purchased many large tracts of land in the Settlement, and by means of judicious management he has since increased the number of his sheep, cattle, horses, and other live-stock, very greatly; and cultivated land to a considerable extent, and with the utmost success. His example induced a few other parties to locate themselves in the Settlement; and the concurrent testimony of every person who has resided in, or visited the district, fully establishes the fact that it possesses extraordinary natural advantages. The town of ALBANY, beforementioned, is by *land* nearly three hundred, and by *sea* about four hundred and fifty miles from PERTH, the capital of the colony of WESTERN AUSTRALIA. The intermediate country has been frequently traversed, and found fully equal to the most favoured portions of AUSTRALIA. The overland journey has been much enjoyed by many,

and every person who has written on the subject dilates with enthusiasm upon the beauty of the scenery, the fineness of the climate, and the superior natural advantages of this extensive and fertile region.

The author of this publication deems it right to state, that he has not visited the colony of *Western Australia*, but has resided in the colonies of *New South Wales* and *Van Diemen's Land*; and that, in the various remarks made upon Australia, he believes the capabilities and advantages of that fine region have been rather underrated than exaggerated. Many writers have manifested, that every settlement hitherto founded in that country possesses great intrinsic merits, and therefore deserves the favourable consideration of all persons. Invidious comparisons or disparaging observations have been studiously avoided; but that the reader may not suppose the notices above referred to are partial or too favourable, numerous *verbatim* extracts from books and letters are hereunto annexed, and it will be gratifying to the author to learn that these pages have obtained some share of public attention for the settlement he has endeavoured to describe, and have induced the resort thither of many useful emigrants. Persons having a moderate pecuniary capital, and useful labourers and mechanics, may greatly promote their happiness and prosperity by proceeding thither, and could scarcely be directed to a settlement more likely to realize their reasonable expectations than that of KING GEORGE'S SOUND.

In nearly every part of Great Britain, many useful and industrious labourers and mechanics can obtain but occasional employment and inadequate wages, and in consequence, these men and their families have frequently to endure much privation and hardship. In the colonies and settlements of *Australia*, such persons are greatly needed, and may nearly always obtain constant employment, and a liberal remuneration for their labour. By voyaging to *Australia* they would remove to a region possessing a delightful and healthy climate, and to a pleasant country, wherein, by a moderate exertion of industry, they may procure an abundant supply of the necessaries and comforts of life, and be able to save a portion of their earnings; and it is to be hoped that Her Majesty's Government may ere long be induced to provide a fund for the promotion of *systematic emigration* to many of the colonies of Great Britain.

The parties most required in the settlement are persons of moderate capital who desire to become farmers and graziers, Scottish shepherds, good farming labourers, gardeners, millwrights, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, sawyers, stone-masons, boatbuilders, shipwrights, plasterers, bricklayers, brickmakers, dairy women, female house servants, and women accustomed to farmhouse business, a few sempstresses and mantua-makers, shoemakers, and tailors.

Per day.

The current wages of labourers are	4s. to	5s.
„ mechanics	8s. „	12s.
„ needlewomen	3s. „	5s.

(*Without provisions.*)

The current wages of female house servants, 20*l.* per annum, with board and lodging, &c.; and whenever any increase takes place in the prices of provisions, stores, &c., it is invariably attended by a more than proportionate increase of wages.

*Extract of a Despatch from Governor Stirling to the Colonial Office.*

“The district of *King George’s Sound*, being exposed to southerly winds in summer, and frequently visited by showers, is the most equable, perhaps, in the world, and the most temperate.

“The climate, the ports, and the extent of the country are such as fit it to become the seat of a wealthy and populous possession of the Crown.”

*(From various publications.)*

The harbours abound with fish of excellent quality, and, as well as the neighbouring coasts, are much frequented by sperm and black whales.

There are some falls of water near the Sound, adapted for mills, and excellent timber, granite, red sandstone, limestone, and clay, fit for brick-making, are said to be abundant in the district. The port is, unquestionably, one of the finest in the world, and it is admirably situated as a place of resort for vessels engaged in the southern whale fishery, or proceeding to or from any of the colonies of Australasia.

*Extracts from “Journals of Expeditions in Western Australia,” published by J. Cross, 18, Holborn, 1833.*

PAGE 15.—*From the Journal of Dr. J. B. Wilson.*—  
“On Friday morning we passed through a country

“ beautifully diversified by moderately elevated hills,  
 “ and fertile, verdant valleys, adorned and enriched  
 “ by streams of the purest water.” (This was not  
 far from *Moor-ilup*.)

PAGE 108.—*From the Journal of Captain Thomas Bannister*.—“ From what I have written it will be  
 “ concluded, and justly so, that there is a body of  
 “ available land, with certain extensive tracts of the  
 “ richest description, fit for the plough, sheep, or  
 “ cattle, or indeed any cultivation, in the interior,  
 “ commencing about twenty-five or thirty miles from  
 “ KING GEORGE'S SOUND.”

PAGE 16.—Colonel Hanson asserts, “ that PRIN-  
 “ CESS ROYAL HARBOUR is equal to any port in the  
 “ world.”

*Extracts from “ Returns, ordered by the House of  
 Commons to be printed,” dated August, 1838.*

“ The voyage from England to Western Australia  
 “ may be performed in about a month less than the  
 “ voyage to New South Wales; and the homeward  
 “ route, instead of being by the way of *Cape Horn*,  
 “ is by the Cape of Good Hope.”

“ ‘ KING GEORGE'S SOUND,’ possesses all the quali-  
 “ ties which constitute a good harbour.”

“ The experience of the last eight years has  
 “ established in the minds of the colonists the full  
 “ belief that the climate of the settlement is, in  
 “ a remarkable degree, conducive to health and  
 “ comfort.”

“ The quantity of rain that has been ascertained

“ to fall at KING GEORGE’S SOUND in the six winter  
 “ months, equals that which falls in the Western  
 “ counties of England.”

*Extract of a Letter from John Hassell, Esq., dated  
 Albany, King George’s Sound, 9th September, 1840.*

“ I have now the pleasure of enclosing an account  
 “ of the stock, which is all doing well, and in a high  
 “ state of condition. I have also the pleasure of  
 “ informing you that the grant I bought has turned  
 “ out a most valuable plot of ground, much more  
 “ so than I expected; it is far superior to any estate I  
 “ have seen in New South Wales, and the pasturage  
 “ is very fattening. It is situated on the Kalgan,  
 “ about forty miles from Albany. Wheat, barley,  
 “ oats, potatoes, &c. may be grown here, quite as  
 “ well as in Van Diemen’s Land. I have just  
 “ returned from a bush excursion, and have dis-  
 “ covered a most splendid tract of country, within a  
 “ day’s journey from Albany, and which I mean to  
 “ secure.”

*Extract of a Letter from John Hassell, Esq., dated  
 Albany, King George’s Sound, 12th September, 1840.*

“ The estate I mentioned in my last is really a  
 “ most excellent tract of country, and capable of  
 “ growing immense quantities of grain, hay, pota-  
 “ toes, &c.

“ We all enjoy excellent health,—the climate is a  
 “ most delightful one; it is between the climates of  
 “ Sydney and Launceston, and very agreeable.”

*Extracts from various Letters.*

“ The town of ALBANY, at King George's Sound, comprises nearly 200 inhabitants, and about 40 houses. The number of persons in the *district* of PLANTAGENET is about 300; and nearly 100 acres of land are now in course of cultivation therein.”

“ The Sound is greatly frequented by vessels engaged in the southern whale fishery, and as many as 150 large ships, chiefly whalers, have entered the port in one year. Two or three small whaling establishments are carried on in the Sound, and the oil collected by them is usually sold to British merchants resident in the colony, and by them shipped for England.”

“ The military force stationed at King George's Sound consists of about twenty-five men and two officers.”

“ As a secure and commodious harbour, for large vessels, KING GEORGE'S SOUND possesses every desirable qualification, and it cannot be too highly commended; *it would be difficult to name a finer or a better harbour.* The land around the shores of the Sound, and for some distance towards the interior, is generally of a very inferior description, with occasional patches of good soil, but at the distance of twelve or fifteen miles inland, it improves greatly in appearance, and continues to improve as you advance in a northerly direction. I have traversed much of the country in this neighbourhood, and have seen many portions highly eligible for the purposes of agriculture and grazing; but the land in its natural state is seen to

“ great disadvantage, and I have, therefore, no doubt  
“ whatever that many tracts which at first appear to  
“ be of indifferent quality, would prove capable of  
“ yielding good crops of grain, vegetables, hay,  
“ potatoes, &c. Sheep, cattle, horses, goats, swine,  
“ and poultry, thrive in a remarkable degree through-  
“ out the settlement, and the climate is exceedingly  
“ healthy and agreeable. I have now resided in the  
“ vicinity of King George’s Sound for nearly five  
“ years, and I consider the district very eligible as a  
“ place of resort for emigrants of every class from  
“ Great Britain; and when I think of the advantages  
“ it undoubtedly possesses over many other places,  
“ I cannot help expressing my surprise that it has  
“ not yet become a favourite place of resort for  
“ emigrants, and that it still appears to be compara-  
“ tively unknown in England. I have now nearly  
“ 20,000 pounds weight of wool ready for shipment,  
“ and all my sheep, cattle, horses, &c., are in excel-  
“ lent condition. We are greatly in need of shep-  
“ herds and agricultural labourers, and of female  
“ house servants; the young woman we brought  
“ from Sydney has been decoyed away, and we have  
“ long been compelled to manage without any  
“ woman servant, except a native Indian, who helps  
“ occasionally, but is not much to be depended on.  
“ I hope you will do all you can to induce emigration  
“ to this place, by making its advantages known.”

In concluding this brief and imperfect account of the settlement of KING GEORGE’S SOUND, in the colony of *Western Australia*, some of the principal

matters hereinbefore mentioned will be now recapitulated, that they may be the better remembered by the reader; and it is but just to remark that many extracts from books and letters, manifesting the extraordinary eligibility of the district as a resort for *useful emigrants*, might readily have been added to those which have been quoted. It is hoped, however, that a sufficiency of testimonials has been submitted to show—

That KING GEORGE'S SOUND may be reached in less time *by three weeks or a month*, than *South Australia, Port Phillip, Van Diemen's Land, or New South Wales*.

That the settlement possesses, in an eminent degree, the chief sources and elements of prosperity, viz. :—A harbour almost unequalled, a delightful and healthy climate, and an abundance of fertile land, capable of yielding, in any quantity, nearly every production of the vegetable kingdom, and admirably adapted for pastoral and agricultural purposes.

That the district is not subjected to droughts, and is known to yield many useful indigenous productions.

That the adjacent seas, and the coasts, bays, and inlets of the settlement abound with whales, and excellent fish of various kinds; and

That capital and labour may be safely and advantageously employed in the settlement.

The land around the shores of the harbour is mostly poor and sandy, but the country improves greatly towards the interior. Settlers requiring good land should, therefore, proceed from twenty to fifty miles beyond ALBANY.



## APPENDIX.

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*Extracts from a Despatch from Governor Hutt to the Right Honourable Lord Stanley; dated — Western Australia, Perth, 28th March, 1845.*

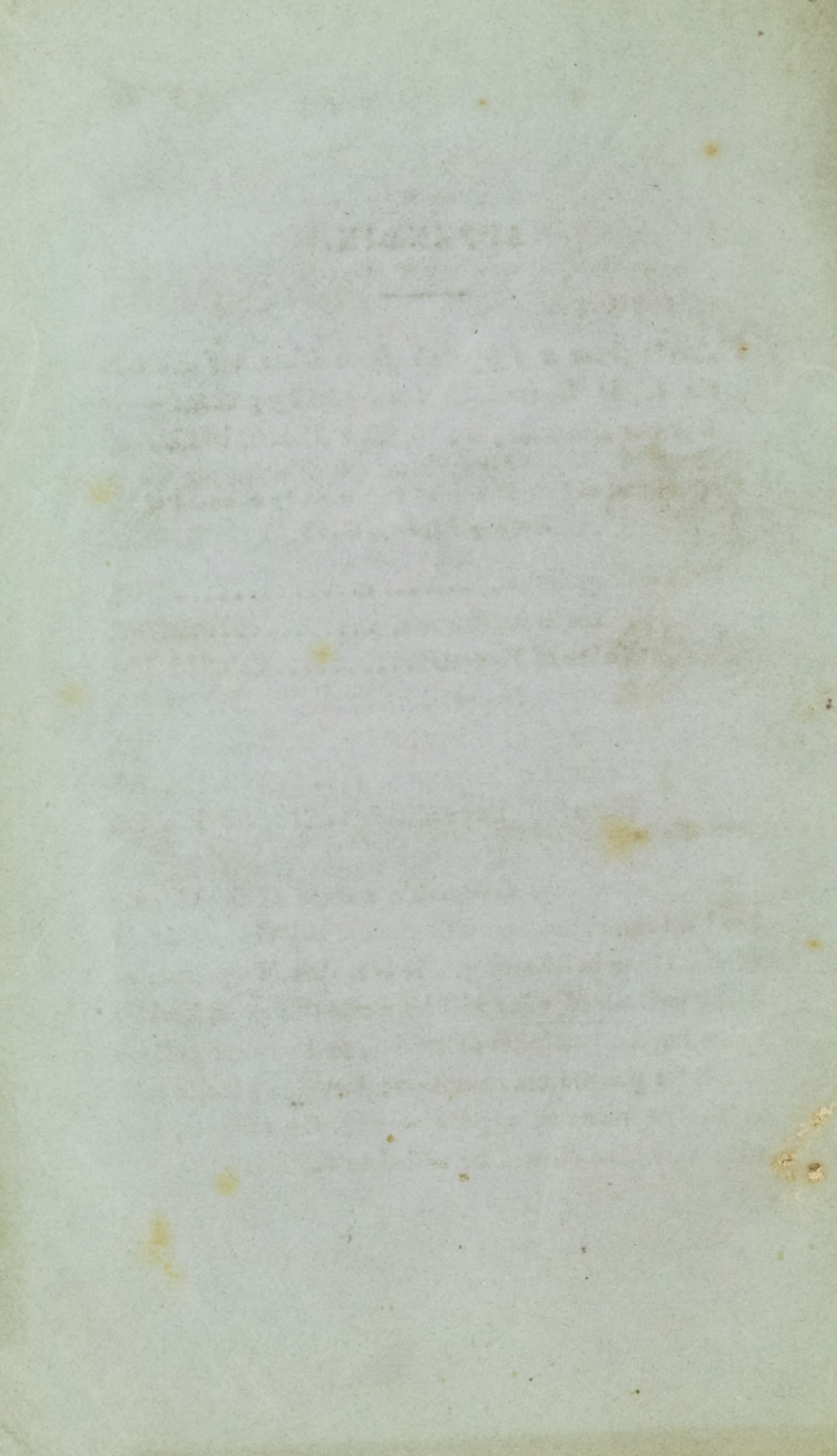
(Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of Her Majesty, July, 1846.)

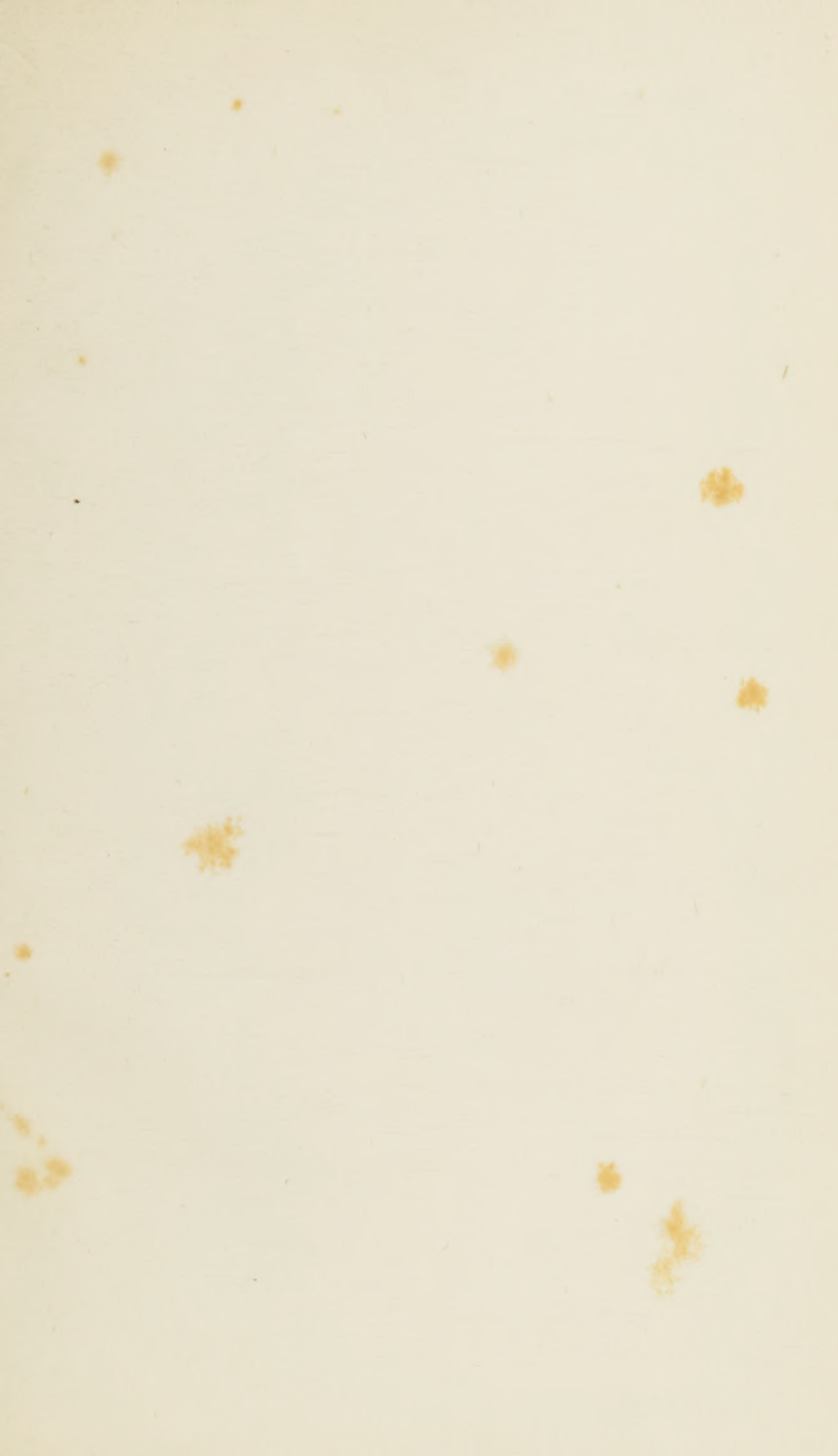
1844.—Population, .....	4108.
Acres in cultivation, .....	4867.
Value of Exports, .....	£13,343 15s.
Ditto Imports, .....	£36,440.
Tonnage of Inward ships, .....	10,002.
Amount of Revenue, ....	£7,740 19s. 5d.
Ditto Expenditure,..	£14,562 16s. 3d.

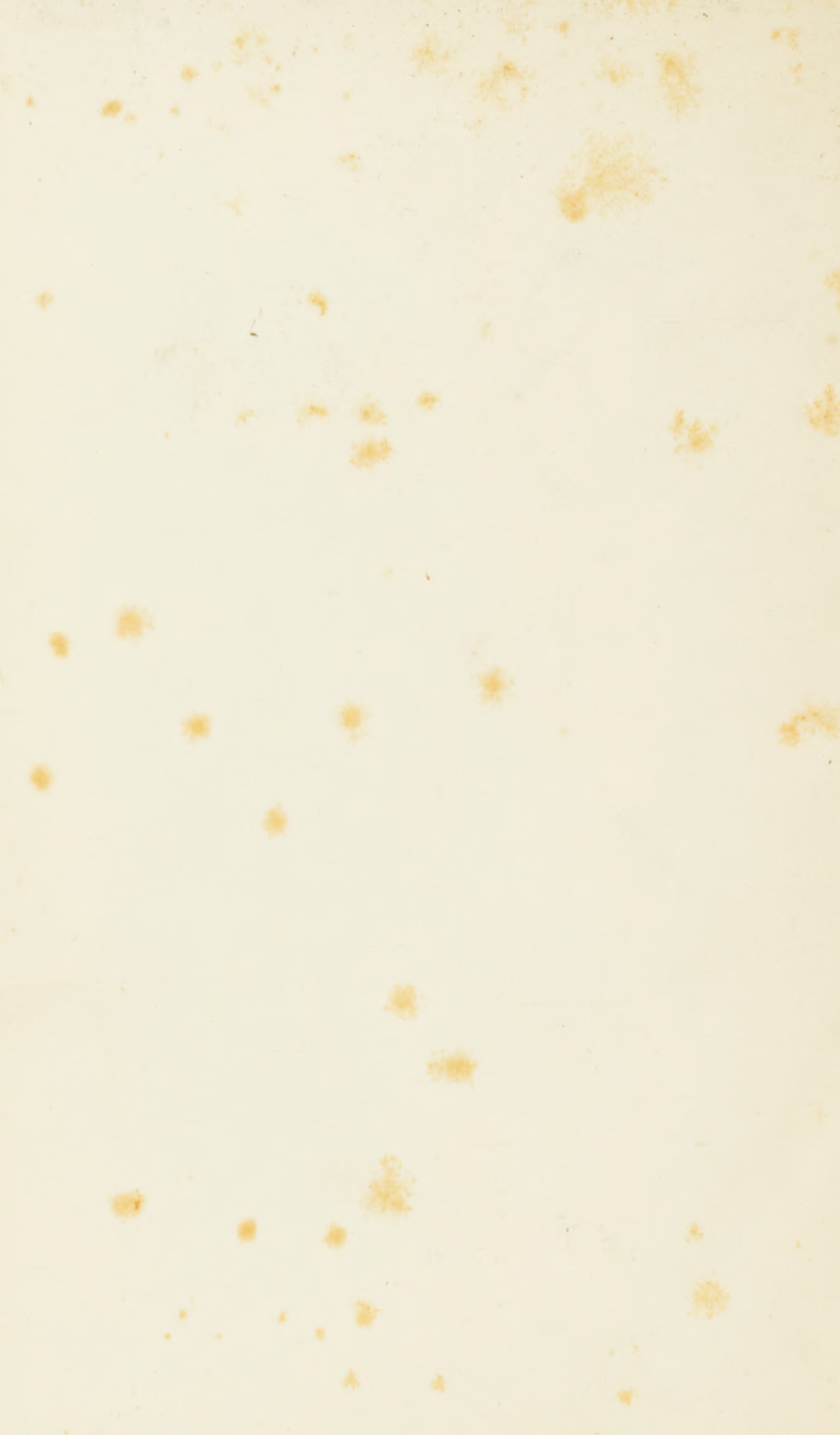
“ The extremely favourable nature of the climate has led to an extensive cultivation of the Vine, and that of the Olive is following. It is reckoned upwards of 5,000 gallons of wine will be made this year, besides some hundred weights of raisins, and several gallons of oil, for private consumption; but dried fruits will, in twelve months, appear among the exports, and wine and olive oil will be added to the list.”

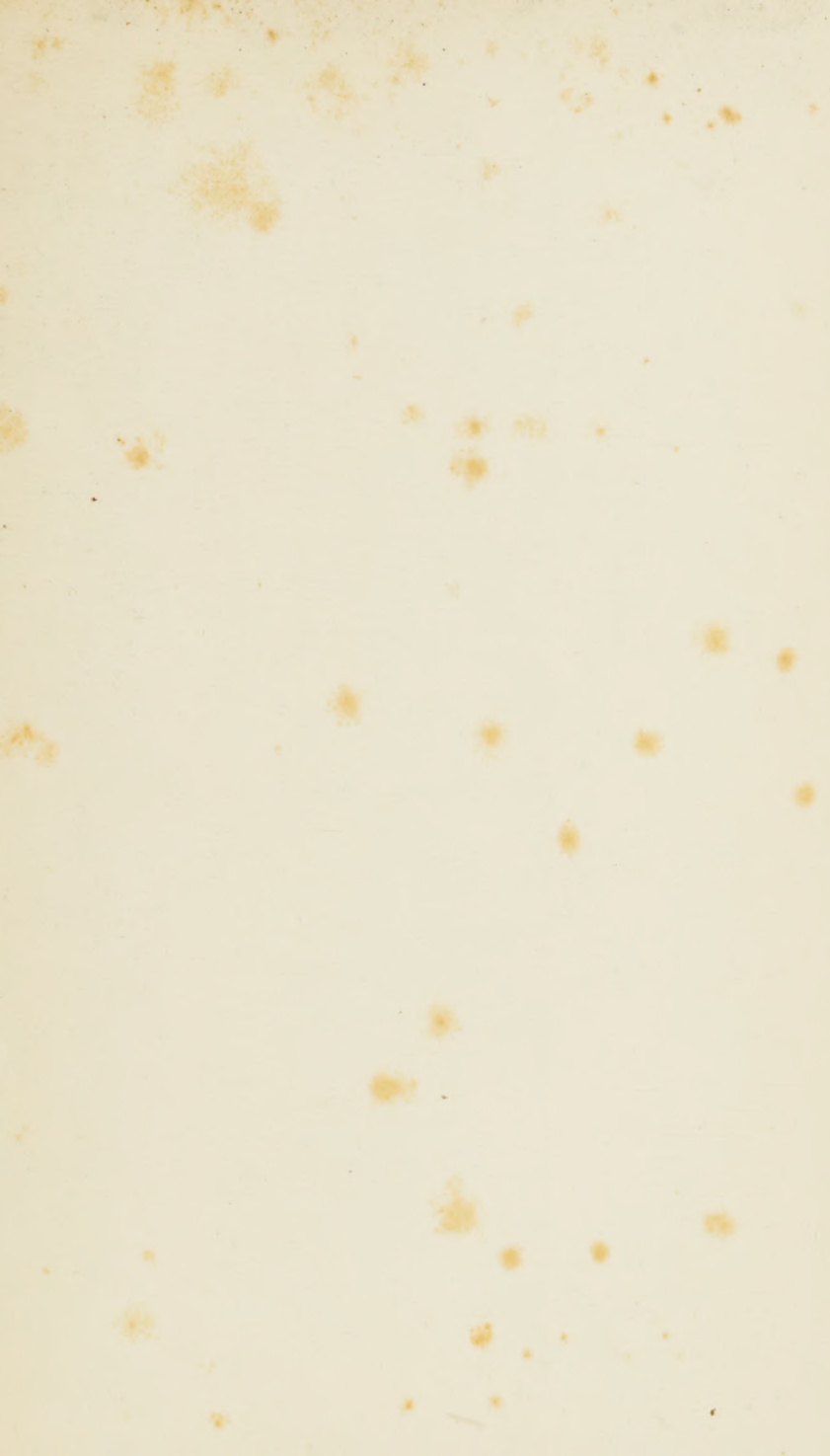














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