The image shows the front cover of an antique book. The central portion is covered in marbled paper with a pattern of irregular, rounded shapes in shades of blue, red, and yellow. The spine on the left and the corners on the top-right and bottom-right are bound in a dark, textured material, likely leather or cloth. A small white label is affixed to the bottom-left corner of the marbled area.

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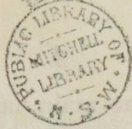
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## EXTRACTS OF LETTERS,

&c.

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THE following letter, with the exception of one or two passages relating to the private affairs of the writer, is from Captain Stirling, the Governor of the New Settlement at Swan River, which, whilst it does not at all conceal the difficulties with which the settlers have to contend, gives, we are happy to find, a much more favourable picture of their prospects than had been given by some other accounts.

*Western Australia, Sept. 7, 1829.*

My dear W.,—Long before this reaches you, your surprise at not hearing from me, and your curiosity as to our fate, will, I presume, have attained a considerable height; but the fault is not on our part, as this opportunity is the first that has occurred to us to send you any intelligence of our proceedings, and I dare say a full year from the date of our departure from England will have passed away before these, the first accounts from this settlement, will reach home.

We took our final departure from the Cape of Good Hope on the 4th of May, and made the land here on the 1st of June, after a fine-weather passage of exactly 28 days. We found the *Challenger* in Cockburn Sound; but, unfortunately, in approaching the anchorage, the *Parmelia*, under my over-confident pilotage, took the ground; and the night becoming stormy, and a heavy swell setting in, our situation became highly perilous. You may easily imagine what a night it was to me. I expected the ship to go to pieces, and saw in that prospect my own total ruin; but after 18 hours of beating, at day light she floated off, and was brought to an anchorage inside the islands. This was a severe damper to our hopes, and it required some management to allay people's apprehensions; but in time the hurry of landing and the novelty of the scene had their effect, and I placed my establishment on Garden Island, in temporary buildings, the weather being too boisterous to admit of making a

larger settlement on the main land, at a great distance from the ships, which were anchored under the lee side of the island. Since the period of our arrival, our progress has been gradual and prosperous. The weather, it is true, has been cold and stormy, but neither disagreeable or injurious to health, for, among two or three hundred people, many of whom never slept out of a comfortable four-walled house, there has been no sickness at all, notwithstanding the absence of shelter from the weather. Even in the Lieutenant-governor's house, I have been obliged to walk about with an umbrella in my hand to keep the candle burning. Yet Mrs. S. and my two boys have suffered no serious inconvenience, although they have been glad to crouch over the fire every evening and morning for the last four months. I had no expectation of finding the winter season so long. After I had landed the people and stores on the Island, I began to push forward exploring parties on the main land, and I found among the officers of the *Challenger* many competent and zealous adventurers. The result, however, has not added any thing very interesting to our previous knowledge of the country. We have found another River of the same description as the Canning, and discovered that the country on the sea side of the hills is every where much the same as that on the Swan River; that is to say, the banks of the rivers and streams and lakes (the latter being very numerous) are generally covered with very rich soil, but the rest of the country is more or less sandy, and although covered with magnificent trees and plants, is only fit for cattle and sheep. Upon the whole I think that the representation I made of the country when I was with you has been fully supported by my subsequent information on the subject. The bad land is better than I then thought it to be, but the good is not quite in such real proportion. The supply of water, from springs, and streams, and caves, is greater than I apprehended; the climate is cool and more bracing, and Cockburn Sound is a better anchorage, but has a more inconvenient entrance than I thought before I came out this last time. With these slight exceptions, my opinion as to the natural qualities of the country remains without change, and my anticipation of its future prosperity grows more and more confident the longer and nearer I contemplate its qualifications, and the further we advance in its occupation. Its future prosperity, however, is still matter of prospect; much must be done before it attains

substantial reality ; and it has still the dangerous period of infancy to pass through, before it gains strength sufficient to defy the accidents to which young settlements are exposed. I fully intended, when I left England, to send you all the details of our life here, which could afford you amusement ; but I believe it is best to confine myself, now an opportunity has occurred, to a representation of our present state, as this is the sort of intelligence which must, after all, be most interesting to you. We have at present here the *Sulphur*, *Parmelia*, and three merchant ships, the *Calista*, *Anglesea*, and *Saint Leonard*. About two hundred private settlers have already arrived ; and we have in the colony 35 horses, 17 cows, 3 bulls, 25 draught oxen, and 10 calves, 200 sheep, 100 pigs and hogs, a large stock of poultry, and some patches of garden ground already producing potatoes, peas, radishes, small salad, and other little articles. Vines, figs, pomegranates, quinces, and other fruit trees, are doing very well, and we have a very good stock of them. Of the olives, we have been able to bring out only one plant alive, but that and the New Zealand flax are doing very well, as far as making an experiment on them is concerned. I have a house on Garden Island, and one at Perth ; but houses here are not like houses in Grosvenor-square, being rather deficient in the article of defence against wind and rain, and sun and cold. Mrs. S. has resided heretofore on Garden Island, where our largest depot of stores and provisions will be for some time ; and, in general, the families of the civilians are still there. I have, however, established two other towns—one called Freemantle, at the entrance of the river, on the south side, as a port or landing-place ; and the other on the north bank of the river, about ten miles above Freemantle, just at the Islands : the latter is called Perth : its situation is very beautiful, and, upon the whole, convenient. It is at the last point to which boats can ascend, until the navigation of the river is improved, and immediately above commences the country which, from the richness of its soil, will be the first district put in tillage. There is in the neighbourhood of it stone, lime, clay, rushes for thatching, and an abundance of timber, similar to the cedar of New South Wales. There is great abundance of fresh water ; indeed, the river is at this season fresh near it ; but, beside that, there are springs and streamlets in abundance. I have opened to the public two hundred lots, and many of them, as well as at Freemantle, have

been taken up, and some buildings are in progress. The settlers are all busily employed in landing and housing their goods, and, in general, are cheerful and confident under all the difficulties of a commencement, which, I assure you, are enough to appal the stoutest hearts. Their good humour I can attribute to no other cause than the strong hope they entertain of their future success. Upon the whole, our heads of families are very good, and are well calculated to succeed, and I trust will succeed; but it is a fearfully-dangerous experiment to come so far to a country wholly unknown, and with habits in general formed in other modes of life, as wide from this as earth from heaven. From all I hear, I look for a great increase to our number shortly; and I am obliged, therefore, to increase the establishment, so as to get the business forward, and I am sending a ship to Java to purchase stock and provisions. I have made arrangements for opening some portion of the country for cultivation shortly; and, in fact, must strive to remove every obstruction to the advancement of people in the prosecution of their several views. To-day an expedition, under the command of Preston, is to set out for the interior beyond the mountains, and is not to return for a fortnight. I propose, shortly, to send the *Sulphur*, to Geographe Bay, to establish a port there; and I hope before the end of the summer, to have a considerable population in that quarter as Colonel Latour's agent, who has forty people, looks in that direction. In short, we are all alive, and, except that there is a general persuasion of the scarcity of rich land, and of the badness of Gage's Roads as an anchorage in winter, from which the *Marquis of Anglesea* drove last week, and went on shore in a gale of wind, and the old misfortune of the *Parmelia*, we have met with no reverses. Captain Freemantle remained with us three months after our arrival, and was most kind and zealous. He and all his officers have become proprietors, and are charmed with the country. The natives are on the best possible footing with us; being much afraid they keep aloof; but they are not mischievous, and do not appear disposed to injure individuals, when they meet them at a distance from protection. You will probably desire to know what my opinion is as to people coming out. The facts above stated must be the answer, as on them every one may form his own opinion. The experiment is not as yet sufficiently advanced to speak with confidence; but I have no doubt that the settlement must and will prosper

most rapidly. Those who come will be wise in not bringing any goods beyond such as are necessary for their own immediate consumption. The best investments are steady farming servants, with but few useless children, strong, substantial, well-lined markees, good wholesome provisions, a few nails and tools—not for sale but for use—and as little furniture, clothes, and baggage, as they can manage. A boat will be valuable; but freight upon her may be heavy: if not, she should be brought.

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Extract of a letter from Captain Dance, R. N., (under whose Command the two Vessels chartered by His Majesty's Government, sailed for the Swan River,) to Mr. Under Secretary Twiss:

“ Dated September 10, 1829.

“ After experiencing every attention and assistance that public or private good feeling could suggest from Commodore Schomberg, we left Simon's Bay on the 8th of May, for our ultimate destination. We were thirty days on our passage, having had one continued gale of wind veering between N.W. and S.W. the whole way, with the most tremendous sea the oldest seaman on board ever remembered to have seen. Being quite a stranger on the coast, I intended to have remained, with a good offing, until an opportunity of more moderate weather had allowed me to run in, but circumstances induced me, the morning after I made the land, to run the hazard of the dangerous and still unknown passage between the islands, rather than remain at sea, with a lee shore, in a gale of wind, in a ship so deeply laden as we were. Thank God! we got in with perfect safety, having only just grazed once, hard enough to perceive that we did touch. Once into Cockburn Sound, the anchorage is quite perfect, well sheltered from all winds, but particularly from the westerly winds, which appear to be the most violent that blow on this coast. We found Freemantle here in the *Challenger*, but he had not been here long enough to make any great preparation for us; he had taken possession, and all that sort of thing, and had been one short trip up the river; had had two or three interviews with the natives, who had appeared very friendly, and up to within five or six days of our arrival, had experienced very fine weather. I suppose the time of our getting here to have been about the setting in of the winter, for with very little intermission we had one constant succession of bad weather—not very cold, the thermometer seldom below

60 deg., but very strong winds and deluges of rain. Notwithstanding this serious obstacle, our indefatigable and persevering Governor had not lost an hour that could be employed in forming and forwarding a Settlement.

“For the first two months the Settlers have remained on Garden Island, in huts made from the timber, of which there is here abundance, and thatched and closed in by small brushwood, which is likewise to be had here in any quantity. Within the last month, indeed ever since the arrival of the *Marquis of Anglesea*, which brought out a number of settlers, and arrived here on the ——— we have removed over to the mainland, where, at the entrance of the Swan River, a town is established, to be called Fremantle, and about eleven or twelve miles up the river, and immediately above Melville Water, on the left hand, on the Swan River, the town of Perth. By the bye, the laying of the first stone of this town, which took place on the 12th of August, and on which occasion we made as much noise and rejoicing as our limited means would allow, was laid by Mrs. Dance, she being the only Lady who could be persuaded to venture so far into a savage country.

“There has been so much, injudiciously I think, asserted about the luxuriance of the soil, that many who have already arrived, and seen no further than the immediate vicinity of the place where they landed, have professed much disappointment; and you will very likely hear very exaggerated accounts from different sources, I am, however, quite persuaded in my own mind, that there is much to hold out encouragement to persevere, and I trust when we have made ourselves better acquainted with the country beyond the first range of hills, that we shall have much better accounts to give you. I have sent an expedition in charge of my first Lieutenant, a very zealous and active officer, to cross the mountains, and ascertain the nature of the country beyond. He started the day before yesterday, with a fortnight’s provision, and I intend going myself in another direction, very shortly, and you shall hear all I have ascertained, by the first opportunity that offers afterwards.

“I am sorry to tell you of the loss of the merchant ship *Marquis of Anglesea*, in Gage’s Roads, last Friday. She drove with three anchors a head in a gale of wind, and going on the rocks to the southward of the entrance of the river, was bilged, and I fear can never be got off. It is quite clear to me, and I have always given it as my de-

cided opinion, that Gage's Roads is not a safe anchorage in winter months; but, as I hope, when we have made ourselves acquainted with the passage in here, that ships may run into the Sound at any time this will be very little drawback on the Port. Ships may lie in the roads for seven or eight months in perfect safety, and consequently, as is the case in many other parts of the world, seasons must be established for the arrival and sailing of merchant ships. The *Challenger* left us for India about a fortnight ago, and got out without any difficulty; and the moment the weather breaks up, and will admit of boats going outside the Island, I shall employ myself and my master constantly, until we have got the passage properly buoyed off. I am happy to tell you that I am on the very best terms, and understanding, with the Lieutenant-Governor; and I do hope, and think, that through his perseverance and exertion, which I assure you shall be seconded by me to the utmost of my power and ability, you will soon receive the most satisfactory accounts of our Colony and proceedings."

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*His Majesty's Ship Sulphur.*

We arrived at Cockburn Sound on the 8th of June, from the Cape, having had a remarkably quick passage, nothing occurring during the voyage worth relating, except the loss of one of our boats and three oxen in a gale of wind. Cockburn Sound, in which we are lying, is an extensive harbour, formed by the island of Buache or Garden Island, and the Main, about nine miles to the S.W. of Swan River; it is an excellent harbour when you have entered it, but the entrance is so intricate, that the general opinion is, that it will prevent it from ever being a mercantile place. We arrived off the island on Sunday, the 7th, but it blowing rather fresh we hove-to till Monday, when we bore away to the entrance, the wind still blowing hard; when we were midway between the Island of Buache and Pulo Carnac we struck the ground, but the wind fortunately being quite fair, she went over without stopping her way through the water; immediately we rounded the point of the island, and saw his Majesty's ship *Challenger* and *Parmelia* transport lying in the Sound; a boat came off from the *Challenger* to us, with Mr. Bradshaw, the master of her, and took us to our anchorage. Captain Dance waited immediately on the Governor. We learnt from Mr.

Bradshaw that the *Parmelia* had arrived three days before us; was on the rocks two days in coming in; but through the exertions of the men and officers of his Majesty's ship *Challenger* she was got off with loss of rudder, false keel, and otherwise much damaged. During the time the *Parmelia* was on the rocks Mr. Stirling was on board the *Challenger*, and the *settlers* were sent to the Island of Pulo Carnac, which is a small island about a mile in circumference, without any thing save the necessaries of life, for three days, when they were taken in, and landed on the Island of Buache, where the temporary settlement is to be formed. The Governor and Colonial Officers are living on shore, in houses built of a few spars, the sides composed of brush-wood, and the tops made of stout canvass: here they remain until the summer, when they remove over to the main land, the spot for forming the Colony not being yet fixed upon, but it is supposed it will be on the banks of the river. On the 20th of June we landed the detachment of the 3rd Regiment at Swan River, where some of the seamen and marines of the *Challenger* have been employed in forming a sort of fort at the mouth of that river.

I went in a boat with them about two miles up the river; the appearance of the country, in that direction, is most beautiful; it is certainly a splendid place when you reach it, but the difficulty of getting over the bar at the entrance is very great, there being only three feet of water. This River abounds with wild ducks and black swans; the latter are very shy. The natives visited us occasionally while the *Challenger* was at Swan River; they appear to be the same race of people as at Botany Bay, and are very jealous of their women, not one of them having been seen by our people; they were very friendly, but completely destitute of every necessary of life. On the — July a party was ordered to explore the Canning River, consequently five men from us seamen, and six marines from the *Challenger*, with the second lieutenant marine officer, surgeon, and two midshipmen, were ordered to form the party, and on Thursday they were landed on the Main with a week's provision. The object of this party was, to discover the source of the River, and to find where the fresh water united itself with the salt; also to bring specimens of the soil, and to make a general observation on the country. On the — I went with a shooting party to the Main, including Captain Dance, Freemantle, and our noble first and two colonial gentle-

men. We had not, however, proceeded far, when we saw four or five kangaroos, whose extreme swiftness added to the thickness of the underwood, enabled them to escape from us. During this excursion we shot several parrots of brilliant plumage; then pursuing our course five miles inland we saw several wig-wams; when, as we were returning, one of the party observed smoke, we therefore immediately concluded there were natives near at hand; we of course went towards it, and found it a quarter of a mile distant. When we approached we saw this spot was evidently the resort of the natives, as there was a capital fire made of the gum-tree, with a few stakes driven into the ground on the weather-side, and covered with the bark of this tree; however we saw nothing of the natives themselves, only distinct traces of their having been there, such as a spear, and bags made of the kangaroo's skin full of red composition, which they painted themselves with. When we had retraced our steps about twelve yards we all on a sudden heard a noise, when, to our surprise, we saw a native close to us, with a spear about seven feet long, and in an attitude of defence; he was very outrageous at first, pointing to his spear and roaring out, Warra! warra! which means, begone! After some time we advanced close to him, from which action he appeared to be more reconciled, and bartered, in a friendly manner, his spear for a silk handkerchief, with Captain Freemantle, which one of our men tied round his head; he appeared to be much pleased, and went away. As we were returning he came running after us with another spear, and without the handkerchief, which convinced us there were more of them very near us, although we could not see them. This man was entirely destitute of any kind of clothing, was a fine fellow, and very like his countrymen at Botany Bay. We then endeavoured to entice him down to the boat; he came half-way, but we could not prevail on him to proceed any farther. At five o'clock we were on board again, and much pleased with our day's excursion: the next day our people were employed in building houses for the Colonial officers and settlers. The Island of Buache is about seven miles long and one broad, very thickly wooded, but the soil is very bad, being chiefly sand. I afterwards made several excursions round the Island, and picked up a few shells, which I intend preserving. On the —— the exploring party arrived, having reached the source of the River, and returned along its banks to the encampment

at its mouth; the signal being made by means of a fire, boats were sent; and they gave a very favourable and pleasing account of their excursion up the country as to soil, &c. &c., especially on the banks of the river, the scenery there being very grand: they also shot several ducks and parrots. It is remarkable that they did not see any natives, although they met with several wig-wams; there being thirty of the party I suppose the numbers frightened them. We are quite stripped, yards and masts down, just the same as a ship laid up; we are close to the shore, which we visit at our ease. The Gun-room Officers gave a grand dinner to the Governor and his Lady, Freemantle and Officers of the *Challenger*, all the Colonial Officers: about forty in number sat down to dinner, and day dawned before the company departed. On the 3d of August arrived the *Calista* with settlers, and the *St. Leonard's*, from the Cape, with cattle. On the 23rd, the *Marquis of Anglesea*, with settlers. This ship has since been driven ashore in a heavy gale; it is supposed she will be sold for the benefit of the under-writers.

On the 12th of August, being the King's Birth-day, the ceremony of naming the town of Perth took place; accordingly the Governor and all the Officers went up the river, and fixed upon a spot near Mount Eliza, about fifteen miles from its mouth, and at half-past four the ceremony commenced. Mrs. Dance, the only lady who ventured so far up the river, was proposed by the Governor to christen the town, which she did by holding an axe, and the Governor guiding her hand, she then gave one blow with it upon a large tree, which was cut down for the purpose; the soldiers fired a volley, and all present gave three cheers. The Governor made a speech upon the occasion, and thus ended the ceremony; after which he gave a dinner to all the officers.

I have been living five weeks on shore in a tent with the Surveyor General, assisting in surveying Perth and Freemantle; the latter town is at the entrance of the river, and was named after the Captain of the *Challenger*.

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*Swan River, September 9, 1830.*

The face of the country *round the coast* is in general unpromising, and in consequence unfavourable accounts have been circulated by some, that have explored *very*

*little*, and who, when they have so done, know but very little of what they are about, which had discouraged some of the Settlers and struck a damp on their spirits and energies. Our exploring party has returned within this day or two, which gives a good report of the land above *Perth*, fixed for the seat of Government, which is about a mile and a half up the north side of the Swan River, above the branching off from the Canning and to the south, where there has been another large river discovered.

There is a superabundance of the *finest fish*, and whales are continually sporting about. We have landed our stores, and built an excellent store house, perfectly weather-tight. We intend to begin ploughing immediately, which I am very anxious to do for the support of our own people, as well as for a market. The country is as yet hardly, or rather not at all, explored; but our operations require mature deliberation and prompt action with regard to the situation of our lands. The obtaining a large grant in one lot is precluded by the Government regulations, of which I will send you shortly a copy. There is a *very fine* tract of land at one part, which I have not yet had time to go over, and which is very capacious. I do hope to send you most favourable accounts and reports shortly. The climate is heavenly, and although we arrived at the very worst season, and in the depth of their winter, we have had no one sick. As for corn, we have allowed Captain Rutherford to take away a cargo to the Mauritius which he brought here, as we do not want it. The quantity of stock we already possess in the Settlement, and the progress of our garden cultivation, prevent the Governor, whose attention and energies are beyond every thing kind and great, from feeling any fear of scarcity, and before next year, at this time, our fruit-crops will be sufficient to maintain all that are now here. We have already more stock here than existed in New South Wales five years after its first establishment, and more free settlers than were in that country until it had been settled twenty years. Very few natives have been seen, but there are some traces of their slight shelters from the weather, which are inartificial. Those that have been seen are perfectly harmless and inoffensive. If the tide of emigration carries a full stream of population to the infant colony, with a certain quantum of capital, not a doubt but we shall get on rapidly, as the country is *inexhaustible*, but it will require steam vessels for the

navigation of the rivers. Any person sending out one or two steam vessels will make a large fortune. You shall hear shortly again. The cattle have all thriven wonderfully since landing, a proof the soil and climate suits them.

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*Swan River, Western Australia, Sept. 10, 1829.*

On the 12th of August the first town in this country was founded—it is named *Perth*, and the site is excellent. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the country around it—it lies about ten miles up the Swan River. I went up there, for the first time, last week, and went on with Captain Luscombe, of the *Parmelia*, and four of his men, about nine miles further. The river was about the same width as the Thames at London Bridge, and in general appearance very much like what it is at Richmond. It was there quite fresh. A flock of forty-five magnificent black swans were cruising about within gun-shot of us. We found the country we passed through very variable, most excellent soil in patches, but no large extent of it. Up the country, on the banks of the river, I have no doubt of losing all sight of the sand, and the soil being all it has been described to be. We have an exploring party out now in that direction, which will return in about fourteen days, and enable us to judge more correctly on these matters. The natives are queer fellows, far different from the Aborigines on the other coast. I think these fellows may fight, if they are put to it, or imposed upon; and therefore, I say, we may reasonably hope, by proper treatment, to mould them gradually into the character and shape of the rest of the two-legged brute creation. With a cowardly malicious rascal you can do nothing, but with a man who is either your friend or your enemy you know how to go to work. To show how I estimate them, I need only tell you, that Mrs. ——— and Rebecca went as far as Perth with us, and the third day we were there, Rebecca, her mother, myself, and Luscombe, went up to the top of Mount Eliza to enjoy the magnificent prospect which is there presented of the Swan and Canning Rivers, with the long range of mountains in the rear. We were two miles away from the ground—I had a stick and Luscombe a gun. We passed a great many native fires, as we call them here, there being nothing to be seen like a hut. The kangaroos are excellent eating, and our hauls of fish have hitherto been most successful. We

have an abundance of rain, and although the winter commenced in June, it is not over yet; of course we have had queer times of it, but all this I expected, and am content, in the hope that the future may repay us. I would not, however, have any friend of mine come to this country without a marquee double lined, for the destruction of property under such a shelter as we have had, is both ruinous and heart-breaking.—Mrs. —— has had many a pipe of the eye on the subject. It is now coming on to rain again like the devil, and I must write, although indoors, under an umbrella. The colony is in excellent health, but we begin to wish for something like a beef-steak and a dish of boiled cabbage. Since we arrived the *Sulphur* came in through the passage between Garden Island and Carnac—she scraped over a bar, but without injury—the *Challenger* had previously done so likewise. This may therefore be considered for the present a touch and go entrance, but when properly buoyed, will be as good as any other blackguard place of the same sort, full of rocks and fearful to look on.

On the coast of this country we have as yet almost all to learn and discover—those who came first have the duty to perform and the hazard and peril to encounter, which paves the way gradually for those who come after. For all this, *all* ought to have prepared their minds before they left England. The *Challenger* has since gone out through the same passage and sailed for India; the *St. Leonard*, Rutherford, has also come in with cattle for Government from the Cape; she sails to day in company with the *Parmelia*; the *Calista* has arrived with settlers and goods, and will sail again for Sidney in a day or two, the *Marquis of Anglesea*, Stewart, is, I am sorry to say, a wreck, having drifted from her anchors in Gage Roads, and gone on shore close to the entrance of Swan River; she has had a beautiful passage, and brought out several men of good property, and a great lot of the common sort of settlers. The loss of this vessel is a very unfortunate occurrence, as it will give the under-writers an excuse for throwing the roadstead and anchorage into disrepute. I cannot presume to give any opinion as to the ultimate success of this colony; that it will or will not be a great agricultural and commercial country; we know not yet what blight or drought we may be subject to, and ten thousand other things may perhaps be in reserve for us; at present, all things promise well, and this is all we could expect upon so slight a knowledge of the soil and climate.

Port Louis, October 19, 1829.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have just now been writing to your agent, Mr. ———, in Western Australia, and am happy that you have put me in correspondence with him. I have sent him some useful seeds and plants from hence, and shall continue to do so as occasions present, which will probably be often, as we are so much in reach of one another. Your friend, ———, has shewn me a letter he has just received from Governor Stirling, which speaks in the most favourable terms of the infant Settlement, which appears more promising than any that has ever been made before. The ——— tells me also, that your commissions to him for supplies from the Cape for Mr. ——— shall be duly executed; from hence we have no other produce to export but sugar and rum. We import horses, mules, and cattle, never having succeeded in breeding sufficient for our own wants. If Mr. ——— can consign the produce of your estates here, I shall take care that it shall be immediately disposed of to the best advantage, and the proceeds remitted agreeably to his directions, either in supplies which he may demand, or in sugar, or Government bills to yourself. It is probable that he may raise a great surplus produce in corn, and that the demand for our sugar and rum will be comparatively very limited, so that the balance may be remitted directly to yourself. I am not myself in business, but am connected with all that is most respectable in that line here, and can secure you their best efforts, and have entered into the subject fully in my letter to Mr. ———. Mr. Rutherford, Captain of the *St. Leonard*, has been with me at breakfast this morning; he went to the Swan River from the Cape at the suggestion of Governor Stirling, and has just returned here on his way to England. I have engaged him to call on you in London, and to give you an account of what he has seen. He is a man of much information and observation, and will probably proceed from hence in three weeks. He brought from the Cape a cargo of wheat, which was not required for Swan River, he has therefore brought it here. He thinks that the local Government in the new Settlement wish to direct the attention of the people chiefly to the breeding of sheep; he states, that the indolence and excesses of the labourers are likely to be great checks on the progress of the new Colony; few people had done any thing in the way of raising huts to shelter themselves, although they

had been two months on shore ; and even the Governor's lady was obliged, when it rained, to put up an umbrella to shelter herself in her apartments. Your agent, Mr. ———, had begun a building to serve for store-house, and had covered over one end of it, so as to keep dry such articles as would perish if exposed to the weather ; but he was the only person who had done so ; his location was not fixed, and his store was on the island near where the vessels lie. The difficulties of the coast, for approaching and getting away to sea, are considerable ; the prevailing wind is directly to the shore, and much broken water even for twenty miles off. Mr. ———'s labourers had not all been on their best behaviour, but nothing serious ; they seemed all disposed to take the rough with the smooth contentedly, but not a grain of corn had been sown when Captain Rutherford sailed, nor any appearance of land being prepared for it—Captain Currie's was the only garden. There was no money to buy live stock among the settlers, much less for luxuries. Your live stock has done well, but the *Calista* was carrying a part to Hobart Town, particularly some deer. Captain Rutherford speaks very favourably of Mr. ———, but thinks that some years may elapse before there can be any produce for exportation from Western Australia. There were only four hundred people altogether when he came away at the latter end of September ; they live on pork and biscuit, and now and then a kangaroo, and they have at times much fish ; but there was no person who could buy his sugar, or had any thing to offer in exchange for it ; even cows could not be sold, though so much required, from the same cause, want of capital ; and carts and implements of agriculture were in the same predicament. This must, of course, be the state of all newly planted colonial establishments in their early infancy. Governor Sterling writes in good spirits—he says, in the letter I referred to—“ The quantity of stock we already possess, and the progress of our [garden cultivation, prevent us from feeling any fear of scarcity ; and before next year, at this time, I hope our fruit-crop will be sufficient to maintain all that are now here ; we have already more stock than existed in New South Wales five years after its establishment, and more free settlers than were in that country until it had been settled twenty years.”

Very few natives have been seen, but there are some traces of their slight shelters from the weather which are very inartificial and imperfect ; those that have been seen

appeared very harmless and inoffensive. If the tide of emigration carries a full stream of population with capital to the infant colony, no doubt it will get on rapidly, as the country is inexhaustible, but it will require steam vessels for the navigation of the rivers, and preventing the dangers which have already befallen almost every vessel that has yet visited that coast; and I think it probable, that in exploring further into that country, some preferable site may be ultimately found for the colony. Captain Rutherford saw a river, named the Canning, which was deeper, and apparently of longer range than the one on which the new capital called Perth is founded; at all events, an establishment is now made, and there can be little doubt of its attaining in time to prosperity, the climate being favourable, and the soil, though not very rich, yet making up in extent for any defect on that side. Most probably its chief supplies will be drawn from Batavia, or other ports of Java, or the islands of the Great East, concerning which Sir \_\_\_\_\_ is my oracle. He certainly knows more of the subject than any man in England.

I shall keep you informed of every thing here that can interest you regarding your settlers. I have no doubt of their succeeding, but it will require much perseverance and industry on their side, and patience on your's, before *great* returns can be expected. I trust also to find Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ a good correspondent, and shall lose no opportunity of writing to him.

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Extract of a Letter *via* Mauritius.

On my arrival in Cockburn Sound, I found his Majesty's ship *Challenger* had been upon a rock in coming in. His Majesty's ship *Sulphur* had slightly touched: the *Challenger* had received little or no damage; the *Parmelia* was hove down to the *Sulphur*, having, in attempting to pass into the Sound by going to the north of Rottenest, grounded upon the reef which extends from Woodman's Point to Pulo Carnac; she was on shore for some days, and beat over it into the Sound with the loss of her rudder and other damage. The ship *Calista* arrived from England the day before the *St. Leonard*, but anchored in Gage's Roads, off the river—as did the *Marquis of Anglesea*; when I left, the former had lost three

anchors, and the latter went ashore with three anchors a-head, and was wrecked; the passengers and most of the cargo were on shore before the accident. A brig, supposed from England, came to in Gage's Roads the day before I sailed; having no communication with the shore I did not learn her name.

Cockburn Sound, I believe, is the only safe anchorage near to Swan River; it is capable of giving security to several hundred sail of ships, which may lie in from four to fourteen fathoms water—mud and clay in most places; and may anchor close to the shore in several parts, at least within a quarter of a mile. Were the passage buoyed off, it would be a safe one. We had gales of wind, commencing at N.N.E. and veering to N.W., and as far as W.S.W.; it then gets round to the southward, and becomes fine weather.

Garden Island is sand, but covered with trees; the highest part is from 150 to 200 feet high. Bad water is got by digging wells in the sand: the land on the coast is sand, and in some places calcareous free-stone and decomposed coral, mixed with silicious sand. The river-heads are of this rock, and there is one upon Garden Island, at the landing-place. More pure lime-stone has been found up the Swan River. I have been twenty miles up it; at that distance I saw about 2000 acres of very good land, and it is said more of such has been seen higher up the river. About 200 settlers are stuck to the beach, and few or none have been out of sight of the tents they erected on landing.

Lieutenant Preston was upon an exploring expedition, but had not returned when I sailed. I have no doubt that he will find a third branch of this river, of extensive magnitude, if not the principal one. I have not been induced to take a grant of land, even upon the moderate terms it is offered. I will not venture my opinion on the capabilities of the place; it will require more time and research before they can be developed.

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The *Parmelia* sailed from Cockburn Sound on the 22d September, bound to Java for stock.

The *St. Leonard* had a most disastrous passage from the Cape to Swan River; nearly one-half of her live

stock perished before their arrival ; and Captain Rutherford carried his wheat, wine, and fish, back to the Mauritius.

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Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman filling a high official situation at the Swan River.

We have all undergone a good deal since our arrival ; and proved beyond any doubt that the establishment of a settlement is no place for women and children, even in the summer, let alone the winter season ; all, however, I am happy to say, bore up with great patience.

During the winter months I think this coast is liable to much rain, with strong winds from N.N.W., which may do well enough when the inhabitants are either in the interior, or under good houses, but not under canvass on the sea-coast.

During these gales one of the ships with settlers (*Marquis of Anglesea*) drifted from her anchors, and is, I fear, a complete wreck ; she had anchored in Gage's Roads, which I cannot call a safe anchorage during three of the winter months ; in the summer it will prove quite sufficient ; but Cockburn Sound must be the winter resort—a safer and better anchorage I believe no where exists.

This is one of the finest climates I ever was in ; at all times, except when the wind comes from the N.N.W., we have the finest of weather ; and as to healthiness, notwithstanding the wet and windy weather, we have not had one case of sickness.

The scenery, to the extent I have been, is most beautiful, far beyond any description I can give you of it. You meet with no good soil until you proceed up the river, and leave the salt water, when it visibly changes, and you have a considerable variety, all fit for agricultural purposes ; from the mouth of the river till you meet with this soil, there are some patches of vegetable earth, but the rest is of sand. It is, however, worthy of remark, that the whole surface is covered with trees and rich herbage, and at the cantonment, near the mouth of the river, where there is scarcely any thing else but sand, the officers of the 63rd regiment have a garden in which they have at present, fit for the table, peas, potatoes, &c.

The site chosen for the town of Perth seems formed by nature for a town ; the principal part will be built on a

commanding terrace, a little below the islands in the Swan River. We have at present about two hundred settlers arrived in the *Marquis of Anglesea* and *Calista*; and by accounts from England, several vessels are on their way. Money is scarcely known here as yet.

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*Western Australia, Freemantle, Sept. 5, 1829.*

The *St. Leonard* arrived here after a long passage of two months. From the captain of that vessel you will acquire many particulars of this settlement. It has been taken up so warmly in England, that we do not doubt of its success, although we have combated with many difficulties, and must naturally expect many more to follow. The winter, which now is at a close, has been our chief enemy—under canvass, and insecure temporary houses. It has prevented much exploration of the country, or surveying or ascertaining the best entrances to Cockburn Sound, which, at this season of the year, is our only perfectly safe anchorage.

An expedition across Darling's Range is about to take place. It is pregnant with interest to us all, as it is generally supposed an older and finer country will be found than this on the sea-coast.

The agricultural land, fit for tillage, appears to be confined to the vicinity of the rivers; the rest of the country is of a light sandy soil, producing much natural herbage and lofty timber, and is well-fitted for pasturage, and very improvable by the introduction of English grasses.

There is plenty of fine fish in the Sound, the rivers, and in the various lakes, which abound throughout the country. We have already in the colony as large a quantity of live stock as I observe in Colins' Account was in New South Wales four years after the first settlement there. We are told by our last arrival, that not less than five thousand persons will be here before next year. Should any thing like this number arrive, we shall soon afford a considerable market for supplies.

We have remarkably fine limestone here, and the New South Wales cedar, in large quantities, and of great size; these, with salt fish, may probably be our first exports.

*Western Australia, Freemantle, Sept. 7, 1829.*

As you may suppose, every one here has had time and leisure to attend to nothing but providing himself and family with shelter from the weather, during the inclemency of the winter. An expedition of this kind, perhaps, never reached an uninhabited coast at a worse season, and with worse means of protection from rains and gales of wind; both of these have been frequent, but we hope now they will not revisit us for the next nine months. The salubrity of the climate cannot be doubted, as little or no illness has occurred, although we have been for three months under canvass, and frequently, when on exploring parties, literally for a week together subject to rain. This wild and irregular kind of life has charms which lighten all our little difficulties. Since the *St. Leonard* arrived, two cargoes of settlers have invaded us, all clamorous for land and locations, &c.

It strikes me that the sudden rise of this settlement (whatever its progress or ultimate fate may be) will be a matter of record and wonder when we, perhaps, are all forgotten.

The good soil is found in the neighbourhood of the rivers; the rest of the country is of a light calcareous sand, throwing up trees of an immense height, and herbage beneath; it may prove good for pasturage, but too light for tillage; but on the rivers, as before said, the soil is as rich as any in the world. A new river has been discovered, running to the southward, but not yet explored; the season of the year has operated against obtaining much knowledge of the country; but this week a party will set off to penetrate the mountains; and every one will wait with anxiety for their report. The presence of sand, shells, &c., throughout this plain, between the range of hills and the sea, seems to indicate a country not so old as on the other side of them; and we hope to learn that the large tracts of fertile plains, which were found over the mountains of Sydney, may be rivalled by those on the other side of our hills.

The natives have never troubled us in any interviews we have had; they do not like our parties approaching their wigwams; but they sometimes come down to us, and willingly part with a spear, or throwing stick, for some little present. One of the 63rd regiment was lost for a week, and came suddenly on a large party, with their wives and children, beside one of the numerous lakes;

they attacked him, but on his firing and wounding one, they all left him.

The town of Perth (our capital) was founded on the 12th of August, the King's birth-day; it is situated a little above the junction of the Swan River with the Estuary called Melville Water. A town called "Freemantle," after Captain Freemantle of the *Challenger*,—who first took formal possession of the coast a month before our arrival,—has been laid out at the mouth of the river opposite Gage's Roads, and the settlers are building storehouses, &c.

EXTRACTS  
OF  
LETTERS FROM SWAN RIVER,

*Continued up to November 22, 1829.*

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Extract of a letter from one of the new Settlers,

*Dated Swan River, October 13.*

“ The Governor gave notice of his intention to proceed up the Swan River on the 28th ult., and on his arrival there, to make the allotments of land, giving the preference to the first settlers, in case two parties might make the same choice. I started from here on the Saturday previous, and remained during the night with the officers' births. On Sunday morning, at ten o'clock, I again started on our journey, and on that day proceeded about ten miles, no great distance you will say, but then you must understand we had to pass over a flat, which accounts for the delay. For this night we pitched our tent, made a good fire, and, on the whole, made ourselves pretty comfortable. On Monday we were up at five o'clock, and after breakfast we started to explore the land in advance and judge for ourselves. We made this day about twenty miles, and you may well imagine I was much fatigued, and not a little pleased to cease marching for that day. The night we passed without pitching our tent, the whole of our party sleeping round a large fire. The night was cold, and the dew fell heavily, but none of us felt any ill effects; in fact, the climate is so fine, I really think it impossible to catch cold.

“ The next morning we started again on our trip, and met the Governor and party about ten o'clock. Now my troubles commenced, as we all felt anxious to keep the Governor company, so that we reached the allotments about the same time. The Governor is a very great pedestrian, and can undergo the greatest fatigue. We passed through lagoons up to our waists in water, and but for the kindness of our Colonial Secretary, Mr. Brown, I must have been drowned, as I cannot swim, and was grasping a tree for support, when he most kindly came to my aid. One of our party was obliged to swim some distance to save his life, having all the time his gun under water. The Governor himself was up to his middle in water, and, when on the opposite side, encouraged me to cross. This I did to avoid the greater evil of being left behind. You may well suppose all my things were destroyed, excepting my watch, which I held over my head.

“ After walking some distance from this, we arrived at the source of the river, called Ellen’s Brook. Here the river is very narrow. The Governor next declared the land from this point for four miles down the river, to be appropriated to Mr. L——, one of our party, who had a preference, in consequence of having proceeded a month previously to explore the country.

“ The Governor made other grants, distinguishing each by marking the trees. The land I have chosen is for the most part very good, and has the advantage of a navigable river, which is a valuable consideration, should the place answer, of which I entertain very little doubt. Finer land than that we passed over is not to be found. In speaking thus, I give you the opinion of farming men, and not my own. This has put us all in spirits, and has repaid us for all the fatigue we have suffered.

“ We have had three arrivals since my last—a brig from Raffle’s Bay, for Cockburn Sound; a bark from Van Dieman’s Land, with troops for Bombay; and the *Lotus*, from London, by which we have received newspapers. This place begins to assume a business like appearance.

“ During my excursion, I forgot to mention that we met two of the natives, one aged about forty, and the other upwards of sixty. They were very much pleased with us, and laughed most heartily at us. I tied a silk pocket-handkerchief on the old man’s head. This pleased him much. I gave the other a pinch of snuff. They are by no means a fine race of people, nor do they resemble the African blacks. We have never met any of their females or children. These they keep out of the way; the former, no doubt, from feelings of jealousy.

“ Yesterday arrived the *Caroline*, from London; the *Aurelia*, from Van Dieman’s Land; and *Cumberland*, from Bombay. The *Ephemina* arrived on Sunday from Van Dieman’s Land. All these, excepting the *Cumberland*, have brought out settlers and stock for this place.”

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*Transport Ship Georgiana, Gage’s Roads, Swan River,  
October 18th, 1829.*

Sir,—I have the honour to acquaint your excellency, that we sailed from Partridge Island on the 2d of September, and after experiencing very heavy weather from the westward, came to anchor in these roads on Monday the 5th instant, to obtain a fresh supply of wood and water. Our only casualty on the passage was the death of one child, who came on board ill. The detachment hitherto has been very healthy, and I am in hopes we shall proceed on our voyage this evening or to-morrow morning, having, with great difficulty, obtained the required quantities of wood and water.

With regard to the anchorage, it is generally admitted to be decidedly unsafe, from its being exposed to the swell of the ocean from W.N.W. to nearly N.N.E. In a gale just before our arrival the *Marquis of Anglesea* was driven on shore, riding with three

anchors. The *Thompson*, a brig, had her anchors much bent, and had the gale continued, it is said, she also must have gone ashore.

There is a very bad bar at the entrance of the river, which is most dangerous, being studded with rocks, some of which appear above water, and extend nearly across, leaving a very narrow passage for small boats, and even these must be managed with great care to prevent them being thrown to either side, which would inevitably cause their immediate destruction, as the bar generally rises to a considerable height, and breaks in numerous and successive rollers, whenever it blows at all fresh from any sea quarter except the southward. Even within the bar, which has not more than four or five feet water in the deepest passable channel, the navigation, except for the flattest, light, empty boats, is interrupted by extensive shoals, stretching across the river for an extent of more than a mile and a half; after which a deep channel, taking a most zig zag course, may be traced for about six miles, till the scite intended for the future town of "Perth" comes in view, when it again becomes extremely difficult from extensive mud flats. The north and south heads of the river are two flat broken rocks, and round the S.E. of the southernmost is the only landing place for the cattle and stores brought to the station. This landing place is both inconvenient and unsafe. It is separated from Cockburn Sound (distant ten or twelve miles) by a reef and a shoal, upon which the sea breaks at times with great violence.

Cockburn Sound itself is said to be a safe anchorage, and it appears to be so, but the entrance between Garden Island and Pulo Carnoc is not quite so safe as was thought, the *Sulphur* and another vessel having touched on entering to form the establishment. However, the marine department are now sounding, and marking off the proper channel, which they consider to be sufficiently deep to admit vessels of any burden.

In regard to the soil, the lands upon the Swan River, commencing about four miles above the township of Perth, appear very fine, especially well-watered flats along both banks of the river, the ground rising from and behind which is quite open, and though not thickly covered with grass, is considered by country-bred people to be very good, and is certainly very superior to any that I have seen in New South Wales. The flats before referred to are extremely rich, look most beautiful, and are covered with a most luxuriant and wild vetch, upon which cattle improve and fatten most rapidly, as was exemplified in the sleek condition of some government cattle that were said to have been landed in a most wretched state. The open country (that is most thinly timbered without underwood) extends to the foot of a tier, or rather ridge, of rising ground, called Darling's Range, which is covered with timber to its summit, but quite open, and said to be an excellent run for sheep. Altogether the appearance of the land is highly favourable to the purposes of colonization, being apparently well watered; but the difficulty of water navigation seems to be a decided drawback upon the advantages.

There are now seven vessels at anchor in these Roads, viz. brig

Thomson, the *Lotus*, *Orelia*, *Ephemina*, *Caroline*, *Cumberland*, from Bombay, proceeding to Sydney with wheat; several others are expected from London.

The *Orelia* came to anchor here on the 12th inst., and it does not appear that Mr. Gillibrand can dispose of any part of his cargo, he is therefore about to proceed with it to the Isle of France. I write this in the hope of affording your Excellency some information respecting this station, and I have the honour to remain,

Your Excellency's very obedient servant,  
 W. BUTLER,  
 Captain 40th Regiment.

Extract from a Letter written by Mr. Alfred H. Stone, of Tunbridge Wells, who left England in May last, for the New Settlement at the Swan River.

“ *Fremantle, Western Australia, Nov. 1, 1829.*

“ The appearance of the settlement on first landing is most forbidding. The soil is entirely sand, which produces a great variety of plants and herbs, very curious to the eye of the naturalist, but of little use to the agriculturist. This poor land extends inland to the distance of twelve or fifteen miles, and then the country assumes a totally different appearance, and extends into a fine undulating plain, capable of being turned to the greatest advantage, with a rich alluvial mould and plenty of red loam. The grass grows every where in great abundance, standing, at places, nearly two feet high, and even the first crop will make very tolerable hay; but when properly cultivated, there is little doubt that the crops will be very abundant.

“ The climate is delightfully mild and serene, so that you may live entirely out of doors, without danger of colds or rheumatism. I have slept several nights upon the grass, with nothing over me but my ordinary clothes and the blue canopy of heaven. The thermometer has averaged from sixty-five to seventy degrees in the shade since our arrival, but as the season advances we shall have the weather considerably warmer. I cannot bear any thing upon my head but a cloth *cap à l'Écossaise*; my hands and face, being all day exposed to the sun, are somewhat tanned, and fast approximating to the colour of my mahogany writing-desk.

“ Last week I joined the Governor in an exploring party up the Canning River, and we met with some very good land. We walked for three days right across the country, exposed to a broiling sun, over hill and dale, and once or twice we found ourselves knee-deep in swamps of mud and water. I was half melted with the heat. The Governor and all the party slept in the open air every night, wrapped in cloaks, quite in the gypsy fashion, without any inconvenience from the weather. The Governor is a very pleasant man, and extremely active and robust; he headed us during the whole march, and walked so fast that several of the party lagged behind very much; I however managed to keep up by the Governor's side. We found plenty of birds in every

direction, and killed nearly enough for our subsistence. I one day shot a fine quail, which on roasting proved to be delicious eating. I am sorry I did not bring my pointer instead of the lurcher; he would have been much more useful. We ascended to the top of the mountains which skirt the plain of the Swan River, and found them to be covered with stones, and a considerable quantity of granite. All the birds here are very good eating. Camfield shot a black swan the other day, and we made a capital stew of him; the men liked the broth very well, but the flesh ate rather fishy. There are great varieties of parrots, cockatoos, &c. and a numerous assortment of small birds, some of which sing delightfully; the note of one is somewhat similar to that of the nightingale, and another to that of the thrush. There is also an abundance of golden-winged pigeons, beautiful birds, and very dainty eating.

"My men have behaved very well, and have worked like horses to get my things up from the ship. I have pitched my tents for the present about a mile from the landing-place, to be out of the way of a horrid set of thieves, who lurk about the shore, composed of sailors and others, who have nothing to do but to get drunk. The natives happily have hitherto kept quite aloof. The only mode of conveyance which we shall have to our locations for some time is by water, and a boat is therefore an indispensable thing. They make a charge here of three guineas a-day for the use of a large boat. It requires some little skill to navigate a boat up the River; one boat full of goods was swamped the other day, and some men nearly drowned. I have, however, been very fortunate hitherto in piloting amongst the breakers. On one occasion I brought the boat loaded with goods, over the bar of the river, into Melville Water, although the harbour-master said it could not be done without a pilot. The breakers and shoaly rocks were, indeed, most tremendous, and we had some hair-breadth escapes.

"I brought several plants from Rio, which are in the ground, and thriving very fast, such as bananas, orange, citron, lemon, lime, guava, and many other delicious fruits; and a large quantity of useful seeds, some of which are already three inches above the ground.

"Cabbages and radishes grow famously in the sand near our tents. There is a great deal of sowthistle growing wild, which the men eat by way of greens.

"I find that all those persons who have brought stock from England have committed a great mistake; as it can be bought here much cheaper than in England; and the serious expense of freightage and the anxiety and chance of the voyage are to be considered. Excellent sheep are to be bought at the Cape from 5*s.* to 15*s.* each; capital cows and bullocks from 3*l.* to 8*l.* each; and very good horses from 15*l.* down to 5*l.* Fresh beef here is 1*s.* per pound; I find, however, that my salt provisions are so good, that I shall not think of buying any fresh; and as to fish and fowl, my gun and net will produce abundance at any moment.

"There is a kind of kangaroo rat very common here, in size

and appearance similar to the hare, but the head is like that of a common rat; they are very good eating and easily taken. There are numerous sharks, and very large ones, both in Gage's Roads and the river, which make it dangerous to bathe in deep water.

"We came to anchor in Gage's Roads, opposite the entrance of the Swan River, on the 12th October last; two other ships anchored at the same time. The roads are said to be too open and exposed during bad weather for the shipping; and they are consequently obliged to go to Cockburn Sound, and I should think eventually that will be the chief harbour, and that the proposed town of Fremantle will be given up, and a new site chosen near the Sound.

"Perth is about ten miles up the river, at the top of Melville Water, where the Governor at present holds his court, in a tolerably capacious tent. All the great officers of state live in huts of as rude a structure as you can well imagine; merely branches of trees stuck into the ground and covered with canvass. The Governor, however, has a wooden house nearly built, of which he will soon take possession, with his lady, who is a very affable and pleasant woman, and makes herself quite at home. The climate, as I before remarked, is delightful, just according to my fancy. I was never in better health in my life; I work hard (as all must do who come here), and I find it agrees with me very well. The vagrant life we lead is a very healthy one; I am up at five in the morning, breakfast at eight, dine at one, and tea at five. We shall not be able to manage without a store of salt provisions for the first two or three years.

"Near my tent is a spring of saline water, something similar to that at Cheltenham, and the ground is covered with a curious kind of plant, which I have frequently seen in English hot-houses; my men eat it by way of vegetable, and like it very much; they tell me it is a very fine anti-scorbutic. We have had some squally showers since we have been ashore; several tents near the landing-place have been blown down. You would laugh to see the holes which some of the people live in, and the farcical specimens of cookery which present themselves.

"Melville Water is covered with black swans, which go in flights of nearly a hundred together. Ducks are also very plentiful; a man shot six at once yesterday in the Canning River."

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Extract of a letter from Mr. James Henty, commenced at sea 20th August, 1829, and finished at Fremantle, Swan River, November 6, 1829.

*Ship Caroline, at Sea, August 20, 1829.*

"We left Rio on 2d August to proceed towards the south, with a fair wind; we had not been away many days before the black cart colt showed symptoms of disease about the lungs; we tried the usual remedies recommended by White, but all would not do, and he died in two days after the bad symptoms appeared. On opening him his lungs were found in a dreadful state of decay, and without doubt must have been so long before he was shipped.

Soon after his death we met with a gale from the N.N.E., which worried the stock exceedingly, and before the sea had gone down to its usual level, another from the S.E. sprang up, and before many days (August 16) a most terrific storm from the east, accompanied with an almost overwhelming sea breaking frequently alongside as high as her main top: it lasted thirty-six hours, and the consequences have been deplorable. The small milch cow in the boat died first, and the other is so seriously bruised that I fear she will never rise again. One of the Devons below had both her hind legs broken, which obliged us to kill her. Ten sheep have died in all, and many others are very much injured. The large cart mare is dead, actually beaten to death. Foot and Jewell are very much bruised, and also Wanderer, and several other of the horses and mules are very seriously injured, notwithstanding all our persevering attention. The rushing of the wind, screaming of the women, suffering of the animals, and torrents of water poured in occasionally on deck, made altogether a scene which beggars description. I hope it will be the last of the kind which we shall have to witness.

“ Thank God our lives are all safe, and, considering all things, we have less loss than could have been expected; had one of the heavy seas come on board every thing on her deck must have gone. I kept S—— and J—— off the deck as much as possible, and to this day I believe they do not know the extent of our danger. The wind was due east directly against us; all that could be attempted was to steer to avoid the sea, with only a close-reefed main topsail set. The ship is remarkably tight and strong or she never could have stood so many shocks of the sea. Be very particular in the selection of a strong ship.

“ Easterly gales in these latitudes are unusual, and we might go round twenty times without meeting with them. North westers are much more common, so says our Captain, who I believe to be an excellent navigator and a good seaman. The gale was accompanied the whole time with heavy rain and sleet, being the winter season; the cold was severe. I am of opinion that early in the month of September is by far the best time for leaving England; you get well away before the equinoctial gales commence, and by the time you arrive to the south you have spring and summer. The navigation here is to be dreaded quite as much as the coast of England in winter; and it must be remembered, by the time you get to the south the stock are much weakened, and not so well able to contend against bad weather. I decidedly prefer touching at the Cape rather than at Rio; my reasons are, first, that it will take a ship a fortnight out of her course to go into Rio and get back again to her track; allowing a week for stoppage, it makes altogether three weeks. Secondly, the Cape (Simon's Bay is much better than Table Bay) is but two days out of the track of vessels to Swan River; this, with a week's stay, makes nine days lost; a balance in favour of the Cape of twelve days. It is desirable in taking stock these long voyages that the passage should be made as short as possible. Flour, corn, and tea I found dearer

than in England; sugar, coffee, and tobacco cheaper; and in the whole, all I purchased at Rio might have been bought in England for nearly the same price; with the exception of the last named article all might have been had cheaper at the Cape. Our sheep died from exhaustion and wet; ten that were nearly gone I sent below, and drenched with a small quantity of rum and water (a very good thing in these cases); they are all better, and with care may come round; we have lost four pigs and two dozen poultry, which will make us short of fresh provisions before we reach our destination, which cannot be before the middle of October. Fortunately we have a tolerable supply of Cooper's preserved soups; they are really excellent, and I would recommend your having some by all means.

"September 3, 1829—latitude 36. 17., south; longitude 6. 48., east. Since writing the former part of this letter, the weather has continued dreadfully severe; within a week after the severe storm, we experienced two more heavy gales, from which we lost several more of our stock. I have now had considerable experience in the management of cattle on board of ship, and my opinion is confirmed by all on board, both horses and cows should have their stalls made athwart ships, far enough from the sides of the vessel to admit a person behind them easily, and so contrived that the whole can be shifted head to windward. I should at the same time have one, or even two, spare stalls fore and aft, in case any horse should be uneasy. Six oak battens, of one and half inch thick, should be nailed at equal distances in every stall, and four of half the substance in every cow pen; the latter require full as long or a little longer than the horse stalls, as they will lie down, and the horses ought not to be allowed to do so; three feet ten inches is wide enough for the cows, and three feet for the horses; mats for the horses, to be used in case of necessity, but if used constantly they will not last a month. Mr. Dawson's plan for sheep is very good, with two or three trifling exceptions; I prefer their being let out to drink, it stretches their legs, and as every one is handled, you see if they are doing well. The feeding trough should be placed inside, eighteen inches from the bottom, and well fastened up; ten in a pen is enough, and two small battens of three quarters of an inch thick should be nailed fore and aft to steady them when the ship rolls. I prefer heavy cattle below rather than on deck.

"October 4. We have continued to have gales of wind and rough weather; our loss has been proportionate; in all, up to this date, we have lost three cart mares, one cart colt, four Devonshire cows, fourteen sheep (two of which are Mr. C——'s), eight or nine pigs, besides a very large quantity of poultry. The longitude today is 93. 1., latitude 37. 4. 9., with a fair wind right aft, driving us along three and half degrees a day. I have spoken to many of the seamen about the weather, and they all say they never knew it so bad. One old man had passed the Cape seven times, and had never met such weather. The actual duration of many gales was not more than ten or twelve hours, yet the continued agitation of

the sea lasted a week, and before the cattle had in the least degree recovered, another came on, and so it has been the whole way.

“ The after cabins, which, during the hot weather were so light, airy, and pleasant, have, since leaving Rio, had all their dead lights put in, which renders them perfectly dark. One morning, about six, as I lay in my cot, I was alarmed by a terrific crash, followed by a quantity of water and a bright light. I immediately jumped up, and found that a heavy sea had struck the ship right a stern, and carried away one of the dead lights; another would have been attended with serious consequences, and perhaps have shipped twenty tons of water; the same sea broke the taffrail all to pieces, washed off her hen coops, and did considerable damage.

“ We made the land on the morning of the 12th of October, 1829, and in the evening anchored in Gage’s Roads, much to our joy. Two ships were in sight on our making the land, which afterwards proved to be the *Cumberland*, from Bombay, with one settler and his family, for this place, and a cargo of wheat for Sydney; the other, the *Orelia*, Captain Hudson, chartered from Van Dieman’s Land, by Mr. Gillebrand, who was on board, with a cargo of stock and sundries for this place and the Isle of France. We found lying in the Roads the *Lotus*, which arrived a week before us only; the *Ephemina*, Mr. Lord supercargo, with sundries, for this place and the Isle of France; the *Georgiana*, with troops from Van Dieman’s Land to Bombay, put in for water; the brig *Thomson*, with part of the establishment from Raffles Bay removed here; and the *Marquis of Anglesea* from shore, a wreck; the latter arrived here in the winter, got into bad anchorage, and drove during a tremendous gale. She has been bought by Mr. L—— for 170*l.* sterling, and let to the Governor for 100*l.* a year as a storehouse, for which she is well adapted, as she lays near the water’s edge, and is dry between decks.

“ In consequence of the government establishment having been at first formed on Garden Island, and since removed to Perth, about two miles above Melville Water, and thirteen from this place, Freemantle, nothing was prepared for our arrival, and there has been much difficulty in landing and taking charge of our stock. Freemantle is situated on the left of Arthur’s Head, about 500 yards over from which, to the inside of the river, is about the same distance; the bar across the mouth is at times very dangerous, and even a boat not larger than a ship’s long boat, can with difficulty get over. I have landed all the blood horses, one cart mare, two mules (one of which is since dead), two Alderney cows, the bull, the Devon calf, one hundred and thirty-two Merino ewes, six rams, five South Down ewes and one ram, eight pigs, seven dogs, and about two dozen poultry; one ewe has since died, and six were killed by the native dogs one night last week, having no place to fence them in. I have since built a shed about half a mile from Freemantle, where they are housed with the horses every night. The land in the neighbourhood of this place is wretched in the extreme; in fact, nothing but a bare white sand, producing but a

small quantity of coarse heath and plants, very few of which the cattle will touch. I have taken a town allotment and run up a place long enough to hold all, or nearly all, our goods; and, at present, I live in one end of it. The property, however, at present lays about in a most exposed manner, and the people live about in tents and huts of their own putting up, in the best manner they can; as yet only one house is built, that of a Mr. Lamb, who brought it from England. The Governor himself lives in a tent at Perth, and fares as hard as most of us. Three ships having arrived before us, the *Calista*, the *Lotus*, and *Anglesea*, all the land on the banks of the Swan is granted, some of which is said to be very good. I have explored with the Governor and a large party the Canning to its source; here and there a small quantity of alluvial land exists close to the river, but in no case where I have been does it extend more than a quarter, or at most, half a mile back. The Governor has advised me to take a small grant of three or four thousand acres about forty miles up, the necessary application for which I intend to make to-morrow. The country altogether has been much over-rated. I went up the Canning forty miles in the ship's jolly boat, and in some places it is fine, but in hardly any instances are you gratified with the sight of good land. The Governor strongly recommends my going to the south, and I intend to start as soon as the ship is discharged. My intention was to have got a grant of one or two thousand acres of land as near to the town as possible; but no land is to be had within fifteen miles worth one farthing. The anchorage, too, in Gage's Roads is considered so insecure, that great doubt exists whether this place will be the principal rendezvous for ships; many people recommend ships to go into Cockburn Sound, and discharge their cargoes at Woodman's Point, to the south, where an excellent anchorage has been found, five fathom water, close to the shore. Between Gage's Roads, Garden Island, and Woodman's Point, numerous shoals exist; and from the circumstance of one ship having got ashore, others losing their anchors, &c. a prejudice will be formed highly detrimental to the interests of the place. At present, from the short time we had to survey the country, it is hardly fair to judge altogether of the capabilities of the place.

"The navigation of the Swan and Canning Rivers is very much impeded by shoals and banks, which will be the work of ages to remove, and nothing but a very light flat will ever be able to carry goods or cattle up. With respect to the cut across the arm to avoid the bar, it is perfectly impracticable, and I have no hesitation in saying will never be attempted; the distance is about a mile, and the soil consists of sandstone and coral rock; that point, therefore, must be put out of the question.

"For miles on the coast, and near the Town (of tents), is a ridge of hills, consisting of a hard stone, something like limestone (but certainly not), all of which are covered with large broken fragments, so that even if there was any thing to eat, neither cattle nor sheep could ever go up them; the vallies are composed, instead of loam, of a hard red sand, and quite unfit for cultivation. I have not had

time to go up the Swan River, nor is it necessary, as the whole is granted in lots of from 15,000 to 2,000 acres. Mr. — has the largest quantity at Ellen's Brook. C. L. — 10,000 acres, the latter not very good; he has about sixty labourers. I intend to go to the southward on Sunday to see if there is a possibility of obtaining a grant of good land. The terms on which land is granted are, that no luxuries are admitted in the scale, and you must bind yourself not to sell any part of the property on which you claim land for three years. I shall, therefore, take care to claim only on such articles as I do not intend to sell. The manner in which it is done is, by a board of council and audit, consisting of two individuals, Captain Stirling's cousin, W. Stirling, and Captain Currie—they give you a form, which you are required to fill up, specifying the nature of the property you intend to claim land for, to which you are sworn, and you are then required to send in your invoices, and they allow whatever they think proper upon them; upon cattle they allow rather a liberal scale, but on the generality of property they cut it down below the actual cost by the invoices. I am not quite certain whether the Governor does not intend to make every one take the whole of his grant in one square lump. A quantity of salt has been discovered near Melville Water, and the person who found it has had a grant made to him of the district. There is more to be done in the whale fishery than any thing else at present, and already arrangements are making to commence. I have been offered a share in the concern, but at present I do not know enough of the plan to give any decided encouragement to it.

“ Every body is now anxiously looking forward for news from the south. An exploring party is to be dispatched from the *Sulphur* next week, in order to ascertain precisely the situation and extent of the New river, and the quality of the land adjoining. I am very anxious to get as far as Port Leschenault before making my selection, but the difficulty of navigating boats on these coasts is sometimes great, and the Governor thinks the season is hardly far enough advanced for the purpose. The Governor is daily expecting the charter for the colony from England; we are quite in a lawless state at present, having not even a constable; he has only one punishment for all sorts of crimes, that of sending the culprit over to the island of Pulo Carnac for a month, supplying him with bread alone. No example has yet been made, and I fear the Governor feels his hands are tied until the new charter comes. Mr. Peel's grant is open for location to-morrow; the land, however, is so indifferent that I am not at all anxious to take up any portion of it. The natives have been seen during the last week in many places, and they are getting now quite familiar, and in many places too much so. C. — L. —'s men have written down for arms and ammunition to defend themselves from them. I have great fears that the native dog will be very troublesome; they are numerous, and so daring that even here we are obliged to keep a strict watch, and up the country I expect greater annoyances.

“ We have all been remarkably well since landing; in no case

have we had any sickness. The climate is certainly very fine, although the heat at this place in the middle of the day is great, arising from its sandy soil; yet the mornings and evenings are cool, some call them quite cold. We have not had the experience of a summer over our heads yet, but if the heat is not much greater than it is at present, nothing is to be feared from it. The country in the neighbourhood of this place is so barren that little or no fresh meat is to be got. I saw four or five kangaroos one day, but Fly did not catch a sight of them or we might have had a mess of fresh meat; we are of course all upon the salt meat system here, excepting now and then a duck, parrot, or cockatoo should be killed, all of which we eat, as well as the crow, kangaroo rat, and paroquets, they are considered great delicacies by us. I have borrowed Mr. W——'s fishing net once or twice, and caught about two bushels of fish, they are a great treat to the men. I am anxiously looking for the *Wanstead's* arrival, having all our fishing gear on board her. Our consumption of beef and pork is very considerable, and unless we find a substitute shortly, I shall be obliged to purchase. We shall require a supply of salt beef and pork for some years to come to feed the labourers on. Our tents and wood house leak very much in wet weather, but we suffer no inconvenience, never taking cold after it; the climate is decidedly fine, and by far the best part of the advantage here that has come within my observation. Boats here are indispensable; I consider myself fortunate in having purchased the jolly boat.

"I have just received an answer to my application for a small grant of land on the Canning, and I am rather glad to say that some person having a prior claim, is allotted the same land. Mr. Roe recommends to my attention a small allotment on the Swan, which is open this day.

"I have no doubt there are many handsome shells to be procured on this coast if a person had time to attend to the collection of them. The parrots are very handsome, black and white cockatoos are very numerous, but rather wary; there are a variety of singing birds, ducks, teal, &c.; few quails and fewer snipes; black swans are almost always to be seen on Melville Water, also pelicans and other water fowls. Fish abound both in the river and sea, though it is difficult to the hook them. The sea, in fact, is a mine which will produce, with proper attention, not only a living but a fortune.

"I have to-day applied for 2,000 acres on the Swan, which has been reserved by Government. Mr. Brown, the Secretary, tells me I shall probably be successful. I hope so, as the stock must be sent somewhere.

[The statement which has appeared of Mr. Henty's having suffered from an injury in his back is greatly exaggerated; he had a fall on board the ship whilst pulling at a rope, but was quite recovered on his arrival at Swan River.]

“ *Perth, Western Australia, November 22, 1829.*

“ Since the departure of the *St. Leonard*, several vessels have reached this from Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales, in addition to those from England; by them a considerable quantity of sheep and cows have been imported, as well as of plank, bricks, &c.

“ This live stock has not realized prices equal to what might have been expected had our settlers been longer in the colony, and overcome the inconveniences and difficulties inseparable from landing their property, and conveying it to their locations in a new country. Hitherto few have been sufficiently forward to allow of the additional incumbrance of stock.

“ Single cows have fetched about 30*l.* to 35*l.*; but a parcel of twelve were sold in one lot, at 20*l.* per head.

“ A lot of sheep, say 340, of mixed breeds, were sold at 47*s.* per head. Bullocks may be valued at 25*l.*, fit for the butcher. Live stock appears to be so low at Van Dieman's Land and New South Wales, that at present the Cape will hardly be able to compete with those colonies. The horses and sheep which have arrived from England are of the best quality; but considerable time must elapse before their produce will interfere with importations from either your colony or those above-mentioned. The *Parmelia* is daily expected, on her return from Java, with bullocks and ponies; and the brig *Thomson* has sailed for Hobart Town, with an engagement with Government to land bullocks here at 16*l.* per head, for freight and forage. These bullocks will be obtained from the Government herds, at an average of 2*l.* each, thus standing, on delivery, 18*l.* per head.

“ The insecurity of the anchorage in Gage's Roads during the winter months may probably increase the premiums of insurance, until the channel in Cockburn Sound is properly buoyed off, and regular pilots be established. Since the equinox we have not experienced any gales, and the masters of ships have to complain only of the inconvenience of discharging cargo on an open beach, where no erections have yet been made for the protection of boats, &c.

“ Some stir has been made for the establishment of a whale fishery, very many whales having been seen along the coast; also the establishment of a company to cure fish. These arrangements have received additional vigour from the discovery, on the banks of the Swan, of veins of salt of excellent quality; but in what quantity cannot of course be ascertained until worked. This article may hereafter form an advantageous export to the Cape, as well as lime stone and bricks, both of which we shall in time be enabled to send to the Cape.

“ Beer is an article that will probably meet a ready sale in this climate. Porter has been selling occasionally at 7*l.* 10*s.* and 8*l.* per hogshead, and has been bought largely by the working people, in consequence of the impediments to the sale of spirits, necessarily thrown in the way by government.

"All the bullocks landed from the *St. Leonard* have thriven remarkably, since they have been placed on the luxuriant pasturage up the river; they were landed in good order by Captain Rutherford, who, considering the length of his voyage, performed his contract as well as could be required.

"Looking at the average passage from the Cape as not exceeding a month, and as more favourable for the conveyance of stock than that from Van Dieman's Land, the Government here is said to be of opinion that bullocks ought to be brought from Algoa Bay at a less price than from the former settlement; and that but little time will elapse before the supply of this place will be drawn from that source. However, experiments are now making by means of the *Parmelia* and *Thomson*, and on the return of these vessels, one will be able to judge whether constant supplies can be drawn cheaper from the Cape, Java, or Van Dieman's Land.

"The highly wrought expectations which the people in England have formed of Western Australia, have, I regret to say, caused disappointment in some quarters as to the quality of the soil here. Still the settlement has advanced at a most rapid rate. Of the interior of the country our knowledge is most imperfect, and the mountains still remain to be explored and crossed. The banks of the rivers up to these mountains afford the richest soil and most luxuriant vegetation, and about 500,000 acres are already apportioned. Another river, of considerable size, has been discovered twenty-five miles to the southward of Cockburn Sound, and a party is now on its way to explore it."

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Copy of a letter from one of Mr. H——'s men.

"*Freemantle, Swan River, Sunday, November 1, 1829.*

"DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER,

"I take the first opportunity of writing to you, informing you of our safe arrival at Swan River, after a long and troublesome voyage of 134 days; but, thank God, we are in as good state of health as we were when we left you all in England. We had, as I informed you in my letter from Rio Janeiro, as fine weather as a ship could have; but from Rio to Swan River, altogether contrary, for we were ten weeks on our passage from Rio to Swan River, out of that we were in gales of wind for seven weeks continually, save two or three calm days. The most dreadful hurricane ever beheld by the oldest sailor in our ship, being continually under close reef main topsails, and very often under our bare poles, scudding before the wind, and we were battened down in darkness day and night together; and as for our cattle in those distressing times, as I may call them, for so they were, as we were losing our stock daily, for our ship was continually on her beam ends, particularly so when we were running before the wind; we had horses, mules, and cows down all at one time, and could not get them up, our ship being in such continual motion for a long time, and the sea ran mountains high; and we were also obliged to pump the ship ourselves, as our sailors were almost exhausted through so

much tremendous weather. We lost, I am sorry to say, four cart horses, seven cows, fourteen sheep, and poultry, pigs, and rabbits in abundance; but we landed all our blood horses safe, one cart mare, one mule, and lost one, and landed safe 147 sheep, which was very well for sheep, considering so much bad weather; but they had good looking after, and so had our cattle in general; to see our poor horses and cows lying knocking about the ship, and the state they were in was most heart-rending, and the sea ran mountains high; to see our ship at times when we were at the pumps, covered with beds of water, and washed us from one side of the ship to the other. I'll say as I have heard my uncle George B—— say, I would not advise a dog to go to sea, much more a brother or a friend, after witnessing the usage a poor boy had on board, knocked and kicked from one end of the ship to the other, and dare not open his mouth in his own defence, through dread of the rope's end.

“ In respect to our passage, in living, we can find no fault, for we had what was necessary for us; but we were all glad enough to set our foot on shore, employers as well as the employed. We arrived at Swan River on Monday night, at eight o'clock, the 12th October, but with you in England it was twelve at noon, as we are about eight hours before you in the time, and anchored in Gage's Roads. I cannot inform you much of our habitation at present, as we are not yet settled on our grant of land; I expect we shall be obliged to go upwards of forty miles up the country before we shall find good land, for by the seaside where we are at present, it is nothing but sand and rocks; the sand runs down as far as we have dug, four feet. There is not a stone to be seen anywhere, but there are most beautiful flower plants for pots, of every description, handsomer than ever I saw any in England. There are sea plants which we boil for sauce, which in taste resemble the French bean; it grows with a leaf as long as your finger, and the size of a French bean, only three-square. Nothing will grow on this sandy land, at least no sort of grain, for it has been tried; the sun shines very hot indeed here in the summer, and in the middle of the day now it is hotter than ever I felt it in England, but it appears to be a most beautiful country, and very woody. There are no natives to be seen within thirty or forty miles from the sea, and what have been seen (about forty) are very civil, but great thieves. Mr. H—— went up the country about forty miles, and there found some excellent land, and that is where I expect we shall take up our habitation after a time; but at present we are very unsettled, for we are very busy getting our cargo out of the ship. We have built two store-houses, one sixty feet long and seventeen wide; I live in one end and Mr. H—— in the other, but I cannot tell how long I shall stop here; but master told me he should want me to stay here some little time with my wife to do for him, which she does at present. We are close to the water's edge now, but one of our store-houses is half a mile over the hill; both our houses are weather boarded up the sides and roof; we had six of our sheep killed one night, which we expect was done

by the native dogs; we have kept a look out every night since, but could see no signs of any such thing. The cows that we lost were five Devonshire and two Alderney, which were both milch cows, and both were drowned in the long boat, which was placed in the midship. The cows that we saved were two small Alderney, one was that which Sarah —— brought up by hand. We also saved the bull, one Devon cow calved about a month before we got to Swan River, but she was so bruised that she died the second day we arrived there. The calf is doing pretty well. I have kept a regular journal of our passage from the day we sailed to the day we anchored in Gage's Roads, and I shall send it to you the first opportunity, and I have no doubt you will find it very interesting, as I can vouch for its veracity every word. I am as happy and as well, thank God, as ever I was in my life; we have plenty to eat and drink, and the Messrs. H—— behave, as far as we have seen at present, like gentlemen. I cannot say a word against them; but our women are not so well satisfied, not being used to live in tents, but the tents cover as large a piece of ground as all Worthing. The town that is to be built here is to be called Freemantle, and there is another town to be built thirteen miles up the country, by the name of Perth, which is where the Governor resides, at present in his tent; but my wife is now much more comfortable than when we first landed, and she likes the country very well, but concerning that I cannot say much at present, but when I write again I hope to be able to give you a more satisfactory account of the nature of the soil and the produce of our agriculture; before you receive this letter I expect we shall have an increase in family if Mary proves lucky, for she is in a thriving way, which I see is quite the fashion in this country, as well as in England, for there are a great many more people here than I expected to see. There is also plenty of black swans and ducks, cockatoos and parrots, and several sorts of small birds very much like English birds, and fish in abundance; very good water is to be obtained by digging three or four feet; the timber in general is seasoned, being burnt and killed by the natives; there are some very large trees, called the redgums, very hard wood indeed. The anchorage for shipping here is none of the best, for the *Marquis of Anglesea* drove on shore here, all hands and cargo were saved. she sold for 170*l.* as she stands, no doubt a 1000*l.* if she was in England; she is made a store ship of close off the shore where she drove.

“ If Mr. H—— is not come away I would thank you to send my bench screw, small table, and cradle, if you can, as you will not get so good an opportunity again. I hope my brother Charles will come out with Mr. H——, but I would advise him to get married before hand, for I have seen enough of being single in this country, we have not one bachelor with us but who wishes himself married. Wm. D—— and myself are about to build a flat bottomed boat to convey our goods up the country. We have potatoes here 2*d.* per lb. from Van Dieman's Land, and very good porter at 1*s.* per pot, which we consider cheap here, as it comes

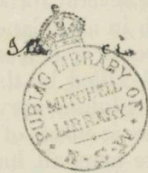
from England. We can get many things quite as cheap as in England. Tell Frank ——— I like Swan River quite as well as England, for I have plenty of work, and am never afraid of a job. A journeyman carpenter here gets 8s. or 10s. a day; we have one that came out with us free, who is at work under Government. Sawyers are very much wanted here. Joe ——— and young ——— are about forty miles up the country; I have not seen either of them, but have heard from some of their mechanics that their living is very bad.

“ I must conclude with my best wishes to you, father and mother, and brothers, and likewise Mary’s father, mother, and brothers, and all inquiring friends, if you please. Mother, I will thank you to tell Mrs. ——— that the books she made me a present of I have not yet had time to peruse, except a little on Sundays, but what I have seen of them I like very much, and hope I shall soon have more time. Father, give my love to Sarah ———, and tell her we all drank her health on the 5th November, and had a glorious bonfire (for we cut wood where we like). You may show this letter to whom you please, for in it is nothing but the plain truth. Send me all the news you possibly can. Good by, God bless you.

“ From your loving son and daughter,

“ GEORGE and MARY B.

“ P.S. Father, give my love to my brother Charles, and tell him I should very much like for him to come out here with Mr. ———, for here is plenty of shooting, which would just suit him. Give my love to my brother Eli, and tell him I hope he will be a good boy and mind his business. Give my best respects to Mr. ———, and tell him I have not seen any black fellows yet.”



Just published, price Six Shillings,

A

# LETTER FROM SYDNEY,

THE

PRINCIPAL TOWN OF AUSTRALIA.

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EDITED BY ROBERT GOUGER.

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### *Reviewers' Remarks on "The Letter from Sydney."*

"Most of our readers must have perused, with both pleasure and improvement, a series of able communications, under the head of "A Letter from Sydney," of which the last appeared in *The Chronicle* of Monday last. The truth of the facts on which the speculations in these papers are founded will be readily allowed by those who are at all acquainted with the state of our Australian Colonies."—*Morning Chronicle*, Oct. 8, 1829.

"This Letter from Sydney is a well-written and useful book; it contains a large number of facts, collected with much industry and intelligence, and arranged with equal judgment and taste."—*The World*, Nov. 11, 1829.

"A little book has been put into our hands, bearing the title of a "Letter from Sydney, the principal Town of Australasia," which we recommend to the perusal of those who feel any interest in the questions of emigration and colonization. They will find it very amusing, and very instructive."—*Farmer's Journal*, Oct. 26, 1829.

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