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APP. 1/2

1791

September 27. About three in the afternoon we passed a point with a small rocky islet off it & opened a large sandy bay in the west side of which we saw the appearance of a harbour -- This bay is easily known by a large patch of white sand upon the side of a hill to the Eastward of it, near we saw curious groups of large stones standing upright somewhat like the Druids places of worship still extant in many parts of Great Britain - From this to the next point the shore appeared very rocky forming perpendicular precipices of considerable height backed by hills apparently barren & naked, at least no trees or wood were to be seen on any part of them. We kept standing on with a light breeze till late in the evening when it fell calm & remained so during the night. Our soundings were regular & from forty to 50 fathoms.

28th. On the morning of the 28th of Sep^r the sun rose eclipsed which was distinctly visible to us. We had but a light breeze of northerly wind with which we made but slow progress. At noon we were about two leagues off a small cluster of islands bearing N 80 W when our Latitude was 35°, 22' South, behind those islands the Coast formed a deep bay with low land round the bottom of it, but the sides of it presented a rocky shore with bluff naked hills of a dark hue without the least appearance of trees or wood of any kind to enliven the prospect. We steered for a bluff point which bore N distant about five leagues as the land was broken in that part of the coast with the appearance of an opening which we entered about six in the evening & found it very capacious & tolerably well sheltered by some island situated in the entrance. As we hauled close round the bluff point the Water was observed so clear that we could see dark patches of sea weeds etc. on the bottom as we passed over them - these at first sight occasioned some alarm till it was found by the

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soundings that there was no danger to be apprehended - We soon after anchored in six fathoms over a fine sandy bottom.

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Sep. 29. Early on the morning of the 29th Mr. Paget was sent on shore with a party of men to haul the Seine & look for water & in the forenoon I accompanied Capt. Vancouver who with Lieut. Broughton & some of the Officers were going in two boats to examine the Sound. We first landed on the west side where we found the fishing party employed in hauling the Seine with little or no success, & walking a little way up the country we were soon impressed with a very different idea of its fertility from the richness and abundance of its vegetable productions. In ascending up the side of a hill we crossed a quagmire which shook as we passed over it for a considerable distance round us, & in returning again to the boat we found in the verge of a grove of trees a small hut somewhat in the form of a perpendicular section of an obtuse cone about three feet high & open to the South-West - It was not capable of admitting above two people at a time & was composed of small sticks & boughs of trees joined together with withies & carelessly thatched with grass - From the general appearance of this hut & the fire place before it we judged that it must have been very recently occupied by some of the natives, though we could find no remains or traces of what they fed upon any where about the place. We embarked in the boats & proceeded to the Northern parts of the Sound, where we found a small Inlet communicating with a large bason or harbour & landing on its West point of entrance we ascended a small eminence from which we had a full view of the Basin & a considerable tract of country beyond it the west side of it in particular was pleasantly diversified with groves of trees hills & valleys forming a rich & picturesque prospect boldly drawn by nature's manly pencil, but the inland country seemd coverd with one continued forest of

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trees.

Here we din'd - drank our most gracious Sovereign's health & took possession fo. of the country in his name, in consequence of which the place obtained the name of Point Possession.

I met here with the Gum Plant of Botany Bay - *Metrosidera* & a variety of other Plants in full bloom & found that the place had been recently burnt down here & there, particularly about the stems of the Gum Plant which bore its marks more than any other.

From this place we again embarked & coasted along shore in our boats to the North East side of the Sound, where we found another narrow inlet opening into a commodious harbour especially for small vessels - We landed on a small green island in the middle of it wholly covered with rank grass particularly a species of Bramus that reached up to our middles as we walkd through it, & no doubt owed its luxuriancy in a great measure to the rich manure left by Birds & marine Animals which frequent the Island.

We saw the appearance of a large rivulet on the north side of this harbour & went in the pinnace to explore the entrance of it but met a flat running a long way off shore on which we grounded & prevented our landing. This disappointment however was amply recompenced by its leading to the discovery of some fine Oysters which inducd us to examine other parts of the harbour & we found that the flat banks every where were coverd with long grass among which were oysters in abundance. The other Boat had rowed towards the east side of the harbour to obtain some idea of its termination & when she joined us we were

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upon one of these Oyster-banks where the men by wading up to their knees loaded both boats in a very short time & we afterwards returned on board where we arrived late in the evening with our Cargo & well pleasd with a discovery which offerd such regaling refreshment during our stay.

1791

Sep. 30. On the morning of the 30th I landed at the watering place with two attendants intending to explore a mountainous ridge to the Southward of the Ship for plants & other productions. This was the spot on which we made our first landing on the preceeding day & as its vicinity & easy access rendered it exceeding commodious to carry on the business of wooding & watering without much fatiguing labor, parties from both vessels were now employed on these duties, but as the Water here did not run in any considerable stream it was necessary to dig pits near the sea side to collect it, & as it appeared of a dark brown tinge, somewhat like a strong infusion of Bokea tea, suspicions were at first entertained of its salubrity, but on examining the marsh & black mould through which it oozed, I was convinced that these were sufficient to tinge it without giving it any noxious quality, & my opinion being askd concerning it I freely declared it. I afterwards pursued my excursion up the mountains & by noon gaind the summit, where I had a fine prospect of the Sound, its islands, harbours & inlets, & to the northward of these a long extent of country coverd with verdant wood as far as the eye could reach. To a contemplative mind this prospect was by no means uninteresting for if we may judge of the fertility of the country in general from the luxuriantcy of vegetation in many places, we may pronounce the tract within our view capable with a little labor of sustaining thousands of inhabitants with the necessaries as well as the comforts of life, though at this time it appeared destitute of any. - I proceeded along the ridge till I came opposite to the

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ship where it becomes much narrower & here I found the Mountains entirely composd of Coral rocks consisting of large ramifications strewed about in all directions, some stood upright others reclined & they appeared to be made up of concentric crusts exposed to the southern storms & mouldering away by the busy hand of time forming no doubt in other places as well as here those extensive white sandy patches we observed on the sides & summits of the hills coming along the Coast. Here then we have a beautiful illustration of Mr. Dalrymple's theory of the formation of islands. fo./

From this place I descended to a small Bay on the opposite side of the ridge where I found the *Arpium antiscorbuticum* or wild celery & brought some of it on board to be used as Greens. On the sand along shore we saw the tread of an Animal as large as that of a Newfoundland dogs, but could form no conjecture what animal it was. In the evening I returnd on board with my attendants loaded with Plants of various kinds & well satisfied with the days excursion. There were but few places I travelled over this day but what bore evident marks of having been set on fire, especially round the stems of the Gum plants over all the low ground but those near the top of the hills had escapd the general conflagration.

Oct. 1. On the 1st of October I accompanied Lieutenant Broughton who with some of his officers were going to examine the eastern side of the Sound - We set out pretty early in his boat - passed the two Islands in the entrance of the Sound & arrived in a Bay near the outer point of the opposite shore where we landed & finding a delightful stream of fresh water we were inducd to stop & take some refreshment, & while the boats crew were getting it ready, we made a little excursion inland, and though this spot appears much exposed

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to the entrance of the Sound yet it was covered with a vast variety of Shrubs & other low plants, many of them in full bloom & entirely new. Of these there were several species of the genus Banksia & also of the genus Mimosa. We traced this brook some way up the valley from which it issued a task of no little labor on account of the density & luxuriance of its crop of brushwood & long grass which made it difficult to penetrate. There were also two kinds of low trees here the one a Banksia & the other a Myrtus - the latter regaled our nostrils with its diffusive aromatic fragrance.

In leaving this place it was agreed we should divide into two parties, one was to beat up along shore in the boat & ascertain the Soundings as far as Oyster harbour - the other was to endeavour to penetrate to the same place by land - Messrs. Johnstone & Walker with the boat's crew composed the former party & the latter consisted of Lieut Broughton myself & two servants, but in case we should find our route impracticable, a signal was agreed upon for the boat to land & take us in - Matters being thus settled we set out & first passed over a very arid tract of land which extended with an easy ascent a considerable way into the country - it was covered with a variety of low & shrubby vegetables but by no means so thick as made it any ways difficult to travel through. After this we came to some swampy ground with long grass but interspersed with scrubby trees much weather beat which obliged us to descend to the sea side & pursue our course for some time along the shore which was divided from the Swamp by a high bank of white sand seemingly reared up by stormy weather, & as frequent remains of these sandy inundations were seen round the sound & along the coast, it evidently shows that the southerly winds blow with much violence on the shores of this country.

We again resumed our inland route & travelled over many spots of rich pasture abundantly cropped with excellent grass & a variety of herbaceous plants, & finding that the boat was making but slow progress along shore, we ascended to the summit of a small eminence where we put off some time waiting for her. From hence we were not a little surprised to see smoke issuing from a place inland which we had but recently travelled over, & at first imagined it was made by some of the natives, but we soon perceived by the help of our glasses that it was Messrs Johnstone & Walker who being tired of their situation in the boat had landed, kindled a fire to attract our attention & were following us. We left one of our Servants here to conduct them after us while we continued our route, & soon after came in sight of some small Lakes on which we saw some curious ducks - I shot one of a dark grey colour with a wattle pendulous from the under side of its bill which induced me to name it Anas carunculata. At this place we were joined by the rest of the party & as it was pretty late in the afternoon, it was agreed we should stop here for the night, the signal was therefore made for the boat to come into a small cove where we kindled a fire among the drift wood & with what game we picked up in our way we were enabled to prepare a very comfortable meal after which we reclined ourselves on the beach sheltered under the boat's sails in the form of a Tent, before which a fire was kept burning the whole night by a centinel who had orders to alarm us in case of necessity, but we remained undisturbed in our repose & the fire helped to keep off the bad effects of a heavy dew that fell.

2d. Early next morning we left this place which obtained the name of Quail Cove & embarked in the boat with a light fair breeze for Oyster harbour, for

travelling now appeared more difficult if not wholly impracticable, for the country along shore being so thickly covered with brushwood & scattered over with low Trees which as the view extended inland seemed to increase in number & size so as to form a delightful continued forest of ever greens to the verge of the farthest hill. - About one mile from the entrance of Oyster harbour we landed & while Lieut. Broughton & Mr. Johnstone were engaged in taking angles to continue their survey of the Sound, I had sufficient employment in the verge of the wood collecting the produce of the shore for here were such variety of plants & shrubs in full bloom & entirely new to me, that I could not help leaving the spot with much reluctance - and if an estimate of the soil may be made from the variety & luxuriance of its productions I would say that here it must be very rich - It consisted of a mixture of reddish & black mould of some depth well watered by several rilllets. When I was called to the party I found the boat was sent into the harbour on purpose to collect Oysters & that it was intended we should follow along shore. At first I was well pleased with this scheme as it offered so fair an opportunity of enriching my collection as we went along, but the difficulties we encountered in penetrating the woods in many places on account of their density & in clambering over Rocks & precipices along shore were so fatiguing & full of danger in this short distance that I was frequently very near losing all I had collected, for the rest of the party had made the base of their way & I was left behind, often enticed into dangerous situations by the variety of Plants with rich flowered & beautiful foliage which adorned the cliffs & precipices there, made one often regret the shortness of my stay amongst them, which suffered me only to view as it were their great outlines & be a mere collector, without being able to

acquire a more thorough knowledge of each individual species. The wood here mostly consisted of the Melaleuca. - I met also with several species of Banksia I had not seen before & two beautiful species of Calcolaria.

When I arrived at the entrance of the Harbour I found the party collected on the point & a fire kindled to prepare some refreshment which we now stood much in need of - One boat also returned with Oysters which as it was low water they collected in abundance & with great facility on the dried banks. On this point we found the remains of where the Natives recently had a fire fo. 50 but saw neither shells nor bones or any other traces of their food about the place.

After having refreshed ourselves our object was to proceed by land & trace as far as we could the course of the rivulet which we had failed in our attempt to explore the last time we were here - This did not seem to be a difficult task as the country before us was low & nearly level for a considerable extent, & though trees & bushes were scattered over it, yet they were not apparently so thick as to form any obstruction to our investigation. As we walked along the beach towards it we saw some rude fish wares which did not bespeak much ingenuity in the contrivers. - They consisted of a row of small boughs of Trees stuck close together in the sand about two or three feet & kept close at the top by cross sticks along both sides fastened together with small withies & along their bottom some stones sand & gravel was raised up behind to prevent the fish escaping.

When we came to the entrance of the Rivulet it was found but a very

inconsiderable run which we were able to cross in several places on the trees that lay athwart it without wetting ourselves. We traced it but a little way up when it divided into two branches - the largest of which took an inland direction & entered a very thick wood not easily penetrated - the other fertilized part of the plain already mentioned with its subdivided meandering branches. In crossing over this plain to the end of the beach in the Sound where the Boat was ordered to wait for us, we met with different situations that afforded a charming variety to my botanic collection, for sometimes we wandered over Meadows & pastures whose crop of grass reached up to our middles & afforded at least a presumptive proof of the capacity of the soil by the luxuriancy of its produce. At other times we waded through swamps & pools of water which produced a number of Aquatic plants, and in this vivifying climate the arid sand hills along shore gave nourishment & suitable situation to those of a different nature the litoral plants. fo.5

Having arrived on the Beach we again embarked in the Boat & returned to the Vessels with a collection of plants that engaged me the following day on board examining & arranging.

4th. On the 4th of October I again set out with Lieut. Broughton & some of the Officers of both vessels in the Chatham's cutter to examine the harbour on the northern side of the Sound near Point Possession. In our way thither we landed on a small Island which had obtained the name of Curlew Island & observed the Interior part of it had been lately burnt down but the skirts of it were covered with a luxuriant crop of grass consisting of two kinds & the soil appeared in general very rich - The shore was

composed of rocks arranged in vertical strata in the direction of West North West & East South East & we found that its insularity did not prevent its being inhabited by Lizards of which we saw several, & a kind of small Penguin with two kinds of Oyster-catchers & some Gulls & Terns were at this time its only visitors of the feathered tribe, indeed we observed but a very scanty variety of birds any where about the Sound. After leaving this place we soon passed Point Possession & entered the opening leading to the Harbour, where we had to beat against a very fresh breeze of wind which retarded us much & considerably lessened our expected pleasures in this Days excursion, and what added to our general chagrin after getting into the harbour we stood over for the western side where (sic) we saw a fire fresh kindled, but it was found every where so shallow that the boat could not get within a quarter of a mile of the Beach. We however waded ashore nearly opposite to the fire in expectation of finding some of the natives, but to our no small surprise found it had been made by some of our own gentlemen who had left the ship in the morning & were now taking some refreshment after their journey by land under the shade of a grove of large trees. We walked along shore to a point about 3 or 4 miles further on where we found the wretched remains of a deserted village scattered about in the skirts of a small wood - some of the huts had been occupied not many months back, but the greatest part of them appeared old & dismantled.

fo. 5.

These huts were about six & twenty in number separated a little distance from one another & formed somewhat like bee-hives with a large opening on one side which faced to the south west in all of them - they were between 3 & 4 feet high & about the same in Diameter at the bottom & in two

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instances we observd double ones, that is, two huts joint together with one opening or door common to both - these we conceivd might be intended for larger families or perhaps as a distinction for the chiefs of the tribe - They were all built in the same manner as the hut we saw near the ship on our first landing & consisted of a number of slender rods stuck in the ground in a circular form & drawn together into a round obtuse top with cross ones fastend in all directions with small withies & slightly thatchd over with boughs & long grass. There was a fire place near each of them, but what was very remarkable no remnants or offals of any kind could be seen about them that might lead to a knowledge of the food on which the Natives subsisted, fo.5 we even made diligent search everywhere about the village but no fish or animal bones, no shells or any other traces could be found to assist us in forming any rational conjecture on this subject. Many of the stems of the trees bore evident marks of fire, some were even hollowd out by it, but for what purpose we could not determine, for none of those cavities were so large as to lead us to suppose that they were intended for habitations. Others had alternate notches hackd on their outside as if intended for climbing, -perhaps for the purpose of collecting the gum which might have exuded from them by the heat of the fire made round their stems. We left looking glasses beads fish-hooks & other trinkets in some of the best huts that in case any of the natives came here before our departure these little things might impress them with a favorable idea of us & induce them to visit the vessels, and after taking some refreshment we went back to the place where we landed & waded again up to our middles to get to our boat in which we returnd to the vessels where we arrivd late in the evening very

wet & uncomfortable, but the gentlemen who composd the land party were benighted in their journey & obligd to stay on shore till next day.

In the morning the Chatham's launch with our launch pinnace & jolly boat were sent over to Oyster harbour with a large party of officers & men to haul the Seines, cut grass for the Stock & bring a quantity of Oysters for both vessels but the weather was so unsettled & stormy in the afternoon, that they were obligd to remain there all night & came on board on the following day with plenty of Oysters, but their Seines were torn up & renderd so useless with the stumps of old trees that they had little or no success in fishing.

On the 7th of October I accompanied Capt. Vancouver & Lieut. Broughton fo. 5/4 with some of the Officers in two boats to examine the termination of Oyster harbour. We set out in the morning & towards noon arrivd at the further end of it where we found a large rivulet emptyd itself & winded back into a delightful country which afforded a most charming prospect diversified with pastures & woodlands & little eminences rising with a very gentle ascent to the verge of very distant hills. The valley through which the rivulet winded appeard exceeding pleasant & inviting, for its banks were here & there borderd with extensive plains & meadows which seemd to afford an easy access into the country for a considerable way. Allured therefore by such rural scenes & a fine day, we set out after taking some refreshment to trace the course of this enchanting stream - curiosity first led us a little off from the rivulet into a thick wood chiefly composd of the Eucalyotus obliqua a beautiful evergreen whose

stems were naked & streight for some way up & without any Underwood to obstruct our progress - The thickest of these trees did not exceed 9 or 10 feet in the circumference of their stems & many of them had the marks of fire round their bottoms with notches in their bark as already described, & as we conceive it probable that the natives are at this trouble for the purpose of collecting a kind of redish gum which this tree produces, is it not probable that this substance many in its milder state form a part of their food, as it seemd to be so much in general request, that we seldom met with these trees or the other gum plants anywhere about the Sound without observing their stems burnt or scorched with fire, on purpose no doubt of causing a quicker exudation of these concretions by the means of heat. We here also met with several Ant hillocks of an obtuse conic form somewhat like the habitations of the natives but infinitely more curious in their structure & formation - They were made of a kind of tenacious mud or clay which had acquired such a degree of hardness by exposure to the weather that it was a very difficult task to break any of them down. And we saw Parrots Parroquets & a few smaller Birds but by no means a numerous variety.

fo.55

From this wood we descended again to the banks of the rivulet which we now more closely pursued, & found the bed of it for some way composd of soft mud with here & there a kind of soft Magnesian earth as white as chalk, in which we sunk so deep as sometimes to endanger the loss of our shoes. At first I thought this earth might by the residue of rotten shells etc. but on trying it with the different acids it produced no kind of effervescence. On looking into Cronsted's Mineralogy I find Magellan

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in his note to page 21 mentioned a similar kind of earth found in Sweden whose properties he thinks has not been sufficiently ascertained & on that account I regretted on my return to the ship not having brought a larger quantity of it for a more particular trial. - On the deeper pools in this rivulet we saw a number of very large black swans but they were so wild & shy that we could not get within shot of them.

We crossed a considerable plain cropd with long grass, a large part of which appeared to be sometimes over flowd by the rivulet & after going about 3 or 4 miles, it was agreed to return back to the boats, & I must say that I felt some disappointment in relinquishing our examination so soon, as the further we went inland the more favorable the country appeared, the soil was in general deep & free of stones & not only rich fo.56 in appearance but in the variety & luxuriance of its productions. The tide flowd up the rivulet as far as we went, yet it was forded by some of the party in several places.

On our way back we found in the skirt of the wood the remains of an old hut which together with the fire places already mentioned were the only traces of the natives we saw in this days excursion. After embarking in our boats we visited the oyster-banks & brought a quantity with us on board the vessel where we arrivd late in the evening.

8th. On the Morning of the 8th, I joind with Lt. Broughton & some officers from both vessels in a party with an intent to travel to the old village on the west side of the northern harbour which was at least

ten miles off. We landed at the watering place with some servants to carry provisions & ascended a rugged hilly ridge leading to the northward, for the advantage of having a more extensive prospect of the country in our journey, this route we found rocky & destitute of trees of any size for a considerable way, but it was strewd over with scrubby bushes & small shrubs which however were not so thick as to impede us much in our progress. The soil consisted of dry black mould intermixd with white sand & particles of quartz & it produced a number of new plants which I had not before met with.

When we reachd nearly opposite to the place where we formerly landed from our boat we advanced nearer the beach & in a small wood not far from the shore found another village consisting nearly of the same number of huts & differing no wise in their structure formation & arrangement from those we have already described in the other village, fo.57 only the huts here seemd to be in general much fresher & apparently later occupied. We found several slender rough sticks about 8 or 9 feet long & pointed at one end which we supposd to be their spears - A small wooden sword or dagger was also pickd up & near one of the huts a dead Kangeroo was seen in a putrid state, it seemd from a fracture in its skull to have been killd by a blow on the head, but no part of it had been used.

Several places about this village seemd to have been very recently burnt down & destroyed by fire, many of the larger trees had been scorcd by it & deep cuts made in their bark as has been already mentioned in other places - but no residue of the food of the natives could be seen anywhere.

The country here rises with a gentle & easy ascent from the shore towards the Mountains & is interspersed with fertile valleys & beautiful groves of evergreens, affording a delightful prospect, not a little heightened & varied by a distant ridge of naked rugged & romantic mountains.

We saw some pretty large eagles hovering over our heads Owls in the trees about the village & Ducks & plovers back in the fields, but they were all so shy that we had but very little sport with our guns.

After a very pleasant days jaunt we returned in the evening back to the vessels by a different route nearly along shore & it was pretty late before we got on board.

9th. 10th. The two following days were spent in examining & arranging my different collections of Plants & as both vessels had now completed their wood & water, preparations were made for our departure.

fo.58

There is a small conspicuous island in the Sound covered with verdure which obtained the name of Seal Island on account of a number of these animals frequenting it. On the top of this Island a bottle was left sealed up & enclosing the date of our arrival departure etc. and another of the same kind was left at a conspicuous place near the watering place, where there were also some garden seeds scattered about, but we fear the luxuriancy of the native productions will soon choke them up & prevent their ever coming to any perfection or useful purpose.

Before we leave this place I will subjoin the following cursory

observations. This Sound which obtained the name of King George's Sound is situated about thirty three leagues to the eastward of the South West Cape of New Holland, in the Latitude of $35^{\circ} 5'$ South & in Longitude $118^{\circ} 16'$ East - the compass showd about $5\frac{1}{2}$ west variation. It is very spacious & easy of access for vessels of any burthen, but does not afford eligible shelter on account of the width of its entrance which in tempestuous weather allows a considerable surf & sea to roll into it excepting for vessels of small draught which may be able to go into either of the harbours off it, & indeed these on account of the number & extent of their Shoals which we believe have not been sufficiently ascertained & would therefore require a more articular examination with respect to their Soundings before we can venture to recommend them, but with respect to their shelter they are perfect basins. The entrance of Oyster Harbour is narrow & intricate with a bar on the outside of it of fifteen feet at low water spring tides, but the entrance of the other is of a more easy access with four five or six fathoms water the whole way in. fo.5

The Sound is every where pretty well waterd with small rills besides the two large rivulets we have already mentioned in Oyster harbour.

The country round it is hilly & of a very moderate height, those near the sea side appear naked & bleak being chiefly coverd with scrubby bushes & low shrubs, excepting here & there where a hollow or valley is formd, which affords shelter to a small grove of trees. The Soil on these is a mixture of light black mould white sand & particles of Quartz not unlike that which is found upon the mountains about the southern

promontory of Africa, & also similar in affording nourishment to a vast variety of new & uncommon vegetables.

But the further we penetrated inland the more favorable the country appeared diversified with hills & dales plains meadows & woodlands capable of affording an excellent range & good feeding to domestic animals of every denomination, tho' not a single quadruped was seen to enjoy it. The soil too was deeper & varied with richer moulds of different colors, favorable for cultivation & producing I am certain with moderate labor any of the European grains esculent roots or fruits in perfection & abundance, as well as Indian corn & many of the fruits & other productions of warmer climates.

In short the inland country of this part of New Holland has a very delightful & promising appearance & we therefore conceive it an object well worth the attention of government in a more particular investigation of it, as it offers fair to afford an eligible situation for a settlement fo.60 which on account of its nearness & easy access to our settlements in India possesses peculiar advantages not to be derived from the opposite shore, - but of these hereafter.

The weather during our stay was mild & pleasant, sometimes indeed we had flying squalls with showers of rain from the westward but never very severe or of long continuance. Vegetation the best criterion in these cases made rapid & luxuriant progress every where, & thereby evinced the vivifying power of the climate, as well as the richness & capability of the Soil.

Some of the people were daily employd in collecting wild Celery for the use of the ship's company, & the Seine was hauled in every situation about the sound where it was likely to procure most fish, but those on board were frequently more successfull with their hooks & lines, & I believe in general the refreshing powers of the Climate & soil were more favorable to the recovery of our convalescents & to the invigorating of our people in general from the baneful effects of the flux which prevaild amongst them than any other refreshment which the Country at this time afforded.

As we saw none of the natives of this part of New Holland we can say nothing of them excepting what may be advanced from vague & hypothetical reasoning. It is probable however that they are not very numerous, else during our stay in the Sound we should have seen some of them or more frequent traces of their habitations & places of encampment. If we consider them as a migrating race (which we may with some reason) & depending for their subsistance on the roots of the fields the fruits of the forest or the productions of the different lakes & harbors, wandering about to satisfy the cravings of hunger without any fixed residence or shelter from the inclemency of the weather but what is reard by the impulse of the moment, it will I think fully explain the negligent appearance we observed in the structure & formation of their huts & perhaps in some measure the general conflagration of the country. In the few places of their encampment we met with our not being able to find out any traces of their food was a matter of no little astonishment & enquiry, for we examined with the greatest care round their huts & fire places & could find no vestiges of the bones of

fo.6'

birds animals or fish, no Shells or any remnant whatever that might enable us to form a criterion of their means of subsistence. This leads me to suppose that they live in a great measure on the vegetable kingdom & perhaps at particular seasons not a little on the different gums in their bland state with which the country every where abounds, otherwise why should we meet so frequently the Gum plant & Eucalyptus obliqua with the appearance of fire round their stems to extract this substance. The latter being a large tree we often observed the stem of it notched alternately so as to enable them to climb up for the purpose no doubt of collecting these concretions, & as they are in this manner at such great trouble in procuring these gums, if they do not use them as food I am greatly at a loss to conceive what other use they apply them to, especially as their demand for them seems to be so considerable.

The frequent marks of fire & general burnt state of the country every where round the Sound was a subject of much conversation amongst us. Some attributed its frequency to something of a combustible quality in the earth or its productions which at particular seasons were acted upon by the solar rays. Others ascribed it to elementary fire and averred that its general devastation could not be explained upon any other principle - while others imputed it entirely to the busy & capricious disposition of the Natives who are fond of kindling frequent fires round their huts & habitations wherever they make any encampments, as we saw evident proofs of in the vicinity of the two deserted villages we visited in the back parts of the Sound, and in Philip's Voyage to Botany Bay a similar instance is mentioned where they had occular

fo.6

demonstration of the officiousness of the Natives in making frequent fires about the trees near their huts. In Captain Cooks first Voyage too have we not a glaring instance of their malicious disposition in setting the Country on fire in several places to molest the Endeavour's Crew whilst they were refitting in Endeavour River. This also shows that they sometimes make use of this method to intimidate their enemies, and is it not probable that the natives here are actuated by similar principles as those on the opposite shore - Besides we have already advanced our reasons for supposing that here the natives collect the different Gums with which the Country abounds in considerable quantities either for food or some other purpose, & to occasion a quicker flow of these concretions that they make frequent fires round the plants & trees which produce them, & when these happen to be kindled any wise among rank grass & bushes in a dry season it is easy to conceive in a climate like this with what rapidity & devastation it spreads over fo.6 a considerable tract, until its progress is interrupted by some intervening cause. In this manner we conceive this general conflagration⁹ may be accounted for in a more satisfactory way than by the aid of any supernatural cause.

It was a favourite topic on board that the Natives of this country could have no means of embarkation, if so, how could the different Islands in the Sound be set on fire which they all bore evident marks of - but this was alledged in favor of supernatural cause - as we saw none of the Natives themselves how can we form such conjecture? They have canoes at Van Diemen's Land Botany Bay & even on this side where

Dampier saw natives a few degrees to the Northward of this place & why not here? There is no doubt but that like all others of the human species that have been met with by Voyagers & travellers inhabiting a sea shore but that they draw a considerable part of their subsistence from that element, & the fish-wares which we saw in Oyster-harbor is some proof in favor of this assertion. Therefore whatever state of rudeness or animality we may assign to them from what we may have observed of their huts, no rational conjecture can be formed of their having no means of embarkation. On the contrary as they appear to be a migrating tribe moving from place to place in quest of subsistence, we think it most probable that they may have some means of transporting themselves across rivers & arms of the sea let the contrivance be ever so rudely formed.

We saw no land animals except the dead Kangaroo already mentioned & the only Aquatic Animals which frequented the Sound during our stay were Whales Porpusses & Seals - Several of the latter were killed on a small island close by us & on examining their stomachs we only found them to contain Mucus & several roundish stones of the size of pullets eggs. They were all of one kind the Phoca Ursina a species very common in the high southern Latitudes, & it has lately been found that their Pelts are of considerable value as an article of Commerce at the Chinese market. The fur on them though short is at the bottom very dense exceeding fine & of a silky gloss, on which account they are known by the name of Fur Seal among the Traders. fo.61

Of Reptiles we saw but very few, so that the country does not seem to be much infested with them. They consisted only of two kinds of Snakes & three species of the Lizard tribe. The largest species we saw of the latter (vic Lacerta) was about 34 inches long from the head to the end of the tail, that is the Body 14 inches the Tail 20, it was of a dark sooty color, the general color of the back is continued on the tail which is markd with alternate bars of dirty yellow. The legs & toes are strong & of a sooty color, the latter are five in number to each foot & markd with small yellow spots & each Toe is supplied with a strong black claw. The tail is taper & together with the body is coverd with annulated scales of a streakd appearance. These were often seen basking on the rocks near the sea side but on the least alarm they immediately retir'd into holes & crevices.

One of the other two species we saw of this extensive genus was small fo.6 & of a light brown color with yellow streaks, & the other was of a dark brown with very large scales & short blunt tail.

The largest we saw of the Snakes was about eight feet long & of a brown color irregularly clouded with darker spots & intersected with pale yellow streaks which on the belly are lighter & more frequent where the dark spots too are much smaller & gives it a beautiful speckled appearance. Not being able to procure this reptile compleat I could not enumerate the Scutae. The scales on the back were small & obtuse, those on the belly large & round. The tail appeard to me to have no Scutae.

The other was small not exceeding 14 inches long & appeared to be a species of Boa of a dirty glaucous color without any spots & covered on the back with small imbricated scales, but on the belly & under the tail with broad scutae - Scutis 148. - scutellis 42. - The top of the head over the eyes was also covered with two broad Scutae.

1791

Oct. 11. In the forenoon of the 11th of Octr. we both weighed & began working out of the Sound with the wind right against us, in our different traverses we had regular sounding gradually decreasing as we approachd either shore, so that there is no danger but what may be avoided by keeping the lead line continually going, & as the Sound is 5 or 6 miles wide, there is room & water sufficient for working in or out with a vessel of considerable burthen. In the afternoon we gained so far that we were able to lay out clear of the two Islands in the entrance. The innermost of these is covered with low scrubby trees & shwood up to its summit, though in some places it apparently bore the marks of the general conflagration of the country, but the outermost Island is so exposed to the southern blasts & the heavy sea rolling against it, that it presents dreary barren rocks with very little soil or verdure.

By 6 in the evening we had gained an offing of ten Miles from the shore. At this time-I took a sketch of the land about the entrance of the Sound, which with a few general directions may enable any future navigator to find out its place on the coast, & these may be necessary as the trending of the Coast here is nearly East & West so that the Latitude can be of little assistance.

On the West side of the Sound appears a cluster of Islands in Latitude 35°10' South which are the southernmost land on this part of the Coast, & nearly in a North East direction from these is the entrance of the Sound which may be known by a high dark bluff with patches of white sand on it that forms its west point & which has obtained the name of Cape Princess Royal it being discovered on her Royal highnesses birthday : fo.7. but the most conspicuous is a high conic mountain about four leagues to the eastward which was named Mount Gardner in honor of one of the Lords of the Admiralty. In coming from the westward this mountain is the first that is met with near the shore of its form & magnitude for it may be seen in clear weather 18 or 20 leagues off. Keeping this then on the right hand & the cluster of islands on the left there will be no difficulty in entering the Sound by steering for the bluff above mentioned.

We continued close to the wind all night & was enabled to make nearly a south west course good with a moderate breeze & cloudy weather.

12th. The 12th. we had it mostly calm & clear weather Lieutenant Broughton being this day on board the Discovery with the assistance of his little boat I shot a kind of Petrel which flew about the Vessels & which I had not before examined. It was the Procellarea melanopus of Linnaeus - and whilst I was absent from the Discovery they caught a large Shark, which I regretted much in not being on board to examine it more particularly as it had 42 young ones alive in its belly - which on being set at liberty were able to swim about with agility, each of them were about 14 inches long, & proves that this which appeared to be the

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Squalus glaucus is very prolific. As I knew this species to be viviparous I was anxious on this occasion to learn whether these young were in utero, or whether to shun some danger they had swam down the fishes throat to take shelter in its Maw as some authors relate of it.

We saw the land at noon bearing North West which was supposed to be about Mount Garden & according to our run from it since last night must be near 20 leagues off. In the evening a favorable breeze sprang up with which we kept standing in for the land all night. fo.7.

13th. Early next morning we again made the land the Western extreme of which appeared low & rocky & is about 12 leagues distant from the easternmost land we saw on the evening of the 11th, so that we know nothing of that intervening part of the coast. About 8 in the morning we were close in with it & bore up coasting along low land with a rocky indented shore till ten when we were abreast of a large island off the eastern point of which appeared some barren rocks or islets, these formed the south west point of a considerable bay the shore of which appeared low & sandy covered with trees to the sea side. We continued crossing this large Bay & at noon observed in the Latitude of $34^{\circ}18'$ South when the extremes of the Land bore from N 24 E to S 73 W. We were then nearly abreast of four Mountains of a moderate height separated by intervening low land - Two of them rose steep & rugged from the sea side, the others were removed a little inland & appeared covered with wood some way up their sides, excepting those inequalities the whole country in this part of the Coast appeared low & level, seemingly well wooded and forming an

extensive prospect without any interruption to our view as far as we could discern from the Mast head. The South West side of this Bay appeared favorably situated for shelter & anchorage if not a harbour, on which account I could not help lamenting that our time did not allow us to examine this part of the Coast more particular as it had such a favorable & pleasant appearance.

In the afternoon we continued coasting along.