

Excursion to Port Dacey &
Macquarie Harbour.

Dec. 1888

Excursion stopped at Research Bay

This excursion, or at least a visit to Port Dacey
was first suggested to me by hearing Capt
King say he wanted to go thither in search
of Huon Pine. To this was added another
motivation that of laying down S. W. Cape
whose precise position is disputed by
different navigators. In combination
with Mr. Gould I determined, if possible,
not only to go to ^{Port} Dacey but to visit Mac-
quarie Harbour on ^{the} Western coast, where
a penal settlement was made & after
some years abandoned in the time of
Col. Arthur. Since then it has been
occasionally visited, ^{by ships for wood} but its difficult
access, there being a bar across the entrance
of the harbour which in winter wea-
ther is sometimes impossible to enter for
days together, & its state of utter desolation
make always a matter of some little
risk & of diminished interest. As the only
harbour however on the Western coast,
I was very anxious to see it & Mr. Kelly
had been invited & engaged to accompany
us as our pilot. This was some weeks
ago when we had thoughts of embarking
but were prevented by the weather - on the
① Dacrydium Frankii

present occasion, he was prevented by business from accompanying us, but recommended Mr. Bruce of Research Bay, as a pilot quite as competent as himself to take us in - It was denied however that Mr. Lucas, a veteran pilot now residing on his farm near Melbourne should be the man - & a signal was made to him accordingly to hold himself in ^{readiness} ~~the~~ ^{readiness} -
11, Mr. Frankland, Miss Barnett & Mr. Lillie & Mr. Gould had all above time wished or intended to be of the party - Various causes prevented them, so that at last we were reduced to ~~four~~ 6 - myself & Shannon, Capt. & Mr. King, Mr. Gould & Mr. Gunn - To these were added, besides the Pilot, Mr. & 5 servants viz. the Sutcliffe & a baker from our home establishment, Mr. Gunn's assistant & a servant of Mr. Gunn's - We were in the 3^d quarter of the moon & ~~the~~ ^{the} weather after some rain which had succeeded several sultry days, was beautiful - The Tamar in which we were to enter Marguerite Harbour, (the Schooner drawing too much water for the purpose, had been already dispatched to Port Dessey, where we were to make the exchange, carrying the bulk of our provisions which was calculated for an emergency of 6 weeks, on board - see note.)
A light breeze brought us to the entrance of D'Entrecasteaux's channel about 9 o'clock on Tuesday morning the 11th - when Captain

Con. dasmod. spinosus/a in the Extreme S.E.

to the man who was making his way to Port Arthur with his bride in the Vansittart, came on board. Not being ready to see him I sent him a ~~post~~ message by Elleanor to beg him to get made for me at Port Arthur. Eight chain on poles such as we have been carried about in on Tasman's peninsula, with the idea that it might be useful to me in our contemplated journey to the New Country. I also wrote by the Vansittart a few lines to Sir John.

About 2 o'clock when within about 4 miles of Green island for which we were tacking, Mr. Gould went off in a boat with the hope of reaching it before us, & of finding some penguin's eggs which he is much in want of. He has landed on the island before & killed penguin quails, ducks &c. - On this occasion he did not succeed in finding any Penguin's Eggs, but came back with a live Penguin & with three eggs of various galls; some of these were too hard to be blown, in which case, he cut with the point of a penknife or of a small knife adapted for the purpose, an oval-shaped piece of the shell out of the side, emptied the egg & replaced the shell.

A fine breeze rising about 5 o'clock carried us past Southport, but died away at sunset. When it rose again, it was unfavorable from the S.W. - A bank of dark clouds over the land obscured the sight of it, but afterwards rose & spread over the sky. We had a great deal of frost ^{than the night} & at an early hour the following morning, Wednesday, much commotion took place

Buckin

in my cabin, owing to my heavy table ~~being~~
away from its lashings & the falling machine
on the drawers coming down & pouring its contents
on all the books & other matters on the floor.
Shackleton came to my assistance, but much out
of sorts, ~~declining~~ ^{saying} she would ~~never~~ come again.
We anchored about 7 in the morning in Re-
search Bay - I was not very well & suffered
slightly from the toothache. The Tamar had
come in the evening before, the weather
being equally unfavorable for her proceeding
to Port Dany. Mr Gould went off in the
morning to the Acton islands, which are ab-
out a mile distant from each other & at the
distance of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ & $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Re-
search Bay. The soil of them is really a
much covered with scrub. ~~the~~ ^{he} procured there
2 species of Pterods he had not yet taken,
in Albatross, teal, gulls & the eggs of the
latter. Mr Gunn & Capt King went up
the northern division of the bay called by
the French, its first discoverers Port du Nord.
& ascended a little way the river which
enters it ^{some} called D'Entrecasteaux's river. After
dinner ~ Mrs King, Shannon & I were rowed
to the same point under the direction of
Capt King & Mr Gunn. I was much struck
with the bold & singularly-shaped mountains
which rise above the dense woods on the W.
side of the bay. Between them & the water
there appears to be a level belt of forest.
On the N. side of the bay, a promontory forms
a sort of inner bay which is familiarly known

by the name of the Pigeon. On this point, a
whale-boat going down to Port Henry had bivouac-
ed the night before & was now away fishing,
being detained by the same cause as ourselves.

There is some shoal water in this "pigeon," but
which may be avoided by keeping in the
channel - The mouth of St. Lawrence's river
is divided by a flat woody island, like that in
Flamion river at Port Cygnat - The paper
which prevented itself on the 7. seemed the
only one fitted for the boat - We landed on its
bank & collect the beautiful *Blanfordia* *re-*
-bilis whose branches of scarlet tubes lined
at their scalloped edges with yellow, shew
magnificently amongst the more delicate plants
generally white ones which conceal the
poverty of this white clayey soil - There is
but this single species in N. Br. but in
N. S. W. is another, double the size, called
Grandiflora - While thus engaged, Captain King
was in chase of a poor, solitary Duck, which
dived at the moment when believing it to
be the same as one he had wounded in the
morning, he thought to have caught it. Mrs.
Gould, hearing the circumstances, thought she
was more cunning than her pursuer - was
luring him away from her nest.

We were informed that a barge supposed
to be from England was seen going up St. Lawrence
Bay to day towards Stobarton -

The next day, Thursday, the 13th, 2 other vessels
were reported as having been seen on their
paper to Stobarton. It made me almost regret
our own absence. The *Prof. Gould* a launch set off
to day to the head of the Bay to a plain, which
appears to run up many miles into the country,

the hill called South Cape, which presents towards
the bay, a steep, ^{partially} denuded surface - Mr. Gunn
ascended this hill which he thinks is about 800
ft high. It ^{contains} has some veins of coal, but of a very
indifferent kind - he saw a considerable extent
of coast - the Mewstone rock from its summit.
Mr. Gann captured a rich harvest from
the appearance of the plain, both as respects
quadrupeds & birds, but it was remarkably
deserted - he brought back however the nest
of an Ima Weir, & a parrot which he had not
killed before. The plain was as poor in shrubs
as in living creatures - the soil was wet, poor
& boggy, the plants were of stunted growth &
there was no scrub. Mr. Gann however
found in some more favored spots 2 plants
which were new to him - ^{both} were of the
Proteace family - the one, a beautiful shrub
about 5 ft. high growing very erect with clus-
ters of white flowers, the other of the genus
Lomaxia, which is common next to the Warrata
in that family - All the Proteace, Mr. G. told
me have no properties whatever - & make us
but bad fire-wood.

Recherche Bay has a peculiar interest as
being the first harbour in which D'Entrecasteaux
landed nearly 50 years ago - The
French are said to have planted a garden
here, & to have left inscriptions engraved
on copper on some of the trees - Lucas, to
whom we referred for local information,
knew nothing of the garden, but ^{his} tree, he
said, blown down by the wind, or uprooted
by the breaking away of the bank, was
lying on the beach on the S. which still

to be the marks of the places where the
plates had been inscribed, tho' they themselves
had been removed - We landed on the S. shore
guided by Lucas in search of these trees, & after
passing a little way along a footpath in
the fern which the whalers have traced from
one station to another, came down on the
white sandy shore & walked on till the 2
dried & ash-col^d old gum trees in question,
lay across our path side by side, presenting
their decaying ^{roots} to the bank from which by
violence they had been long divided - Lucas
saw them in this state 6 or 7 or 20 years ago,
when he first visited this spot - at that time
one of the trees retained a portion of the
upper plate inscription which has since
disappeared, probably after the rest carried
off by the natives - The other tree contains
an oblong hollowed space, about 3 fingers
long & somewhat less broad, & of sufficient
depth to have contained papers which it
is supposed were inscribed in it & closed
down by the plate - the ^{iron} nails which fastened
down the plate remain round the outer
edge of the excavation -, worn away &
rusted - I carried off one of them, as well
as one of two circular knobs carved in
a lower part of the trunk near the root -
some ^{more} pieces were afterwards subtracted
from the decaying trunks by the gentlemen
on a subsequent visit, the excavated box
being left in all uninjured -

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Proceeding from hence along the shore towards
the head of the bay, ~~our~~ our olfactory nerves
were sorely disturbed by the effluvia from
some putrid whale carcasses which were
lying on the sand & which were borne
by the wind right against us. - Overcoming
part these naivances, we reflected that
for the comfort of future generations,
the carcass of the whales would probably
have decorated these shores before Mr.
Frankland's bathing place of Ramsate
shall have built its lodging houses & bathing
machines. - This curved township is at
the head of the bay on the plain before
mentioned, & on the bank of a small
fresh water stream, which comes down
above side of it. - Our walk extended as
farther than the right bank of the stream
which we could not cross without wetting
our feet, tho' it is much obstructed by sand
& not navigable at least in its present
state by boats. - A fine lofty hedge of
the Babiille whose berries & seeds were
crushed & eaten by the natives, borders the
white shore in an even line for some
distance eastward of the river, its rich &
glowing coloring, tho' nothin forming
a beautiful contrast to the duller hue
of the forest the trees behind whose trunk
it concealed. - Returning to our boat, we

capt, along the other or northern side of the bay, where the sandy beach presents itself only in small patches slightly embayed between ^{the} loose ^{dark} rocks which form the general outline & from which the forest immediately rises. This side of the bay is more indented than the opposite one, & presents a double cover divided by a point which has a melancholy interest as being the spot on which the convict-mutineers of the Cyprus going to Macquarie Harbour landed Lieut. Crowe who had the military command of them, with his wife, who ^{must} perished in the woods, before assistance came to them. ^x The first of these covers which we came to, on the most western is much obstructed at its entrance along the W. side by sea-weed - A fine streamlet of water is seen on the beach, pointed out to us by Lucas - I asked him if the Cove had any name, & being answered in the negative, observed to Capt'n King that I thought it deserved one, & that it could hardly have a better than Lucas; Capt'n King in consequence communicated to him my wish that it might henceforth be called Lucas Cove, upon which the old Pilot raised his ^{cap} from his head & looked infinitely pleased. He merited this compliment from me as having when a boy, a few years younger I believe than Sir John suffered shipwreck

x On reconsideration, I believe the landing place in question, was the W. point of the most western of the ~~bay~~ ^{cove} which I have called Lucas Cove. -

with him in the Porpoise on the Coral Reef.
 Poor Lucas is rather an interesting person
 when once one can succeed in overcoming
 the disgust which his first appearance
 excites. His face has been shattered & gored,
 disfigured by the contents of a pistol with
 which in a moment of passionate despair,
 being disappointed in love, he endeavored
 to blow out his brains. — His father was
 an officer in the 108th N. S. W. regiment
 stationed in Norfolk island, where Lucas
 was born.

I was speaking of the covers on the N. side
of the bay - The 2^d contains a whaling
station of Messrs Kerr & Alexander -
The steams at the farther end of against
which the carcass of the whale is cued
to be cut up in pieces, indicates that
there is deep water along the edges -

We returned on board the schooner for
dinner - as we were sitting round
the table afterwards, a squall was wafted
in which convinced Capt. King & myself
who observed it at the same moment &
that some change must have taken
place in the wind, & immediately all
hands were about on deck to enable
us to get under weigh - The Tamar not
waiting for our signal, was already
making similar preparation - The breeze
was from the Northward; Lucas seemed
doubtful ~~by~~ about it, the setting sun
^{being the help} the not so red as when he had called our
attention to it before as a sign of unfa-
vorable weather, was not propitious,
but he did not oppose our ~~probable~~ start;
since we could easily return if the wind
did not hold. - As we passed Bruce's
pilot station, he came off to us in a
boat, remained a short time with us
& gave us more hopes than Lucas of
the weather improving - one of his boatsmen
was called on deck by Capt. King to be exam-
ined as

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to a tale he had told the day before of
a boat capsizing as it rounded I. Cape;
he was on the look out station near this
spot when he saw the accident, he saw
one man go over into the boat to leeward,
& another jump out to windward - he climbed
a tree to see better, but when he looked again
could find no trace of what had happened -
He ran along the shore to his Master's
Boat, where he arrived apparently much
alarmed & said he had been pursued in
his way by a black snake - Bruce & Lucas
walked along the shore in search of an
oar or some indication of the accident,
but nothing was to be found, & this si-
gature circumstance, together with the
man jumping to windward & even the
black snake convinced Captain King it
was all a story of his own invention -
I was present when the man was ques-
tioned - he was minute in his details
& never contradicted himself, but the
former property of Lucas amongst his
claps is I am told a fact of notorious
generality. -

I was struck as we moved along with
the dense gloom & blackness of the woods
as they rose immediately from the shore
on an outer base of dark - lined rocks - over
these the mountains behind Recherche Bay
presented a noble & singular outline -

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I thought the French writers who expatiated
so much on the terrible & severe aspect
of nature in these Austral regions were
not so much in the wrong. - We came
along the headland called S. Cape or which
rather I believe has no name at all
tho' it is the most S. point of the island
& had an extent out of sight before
us extending to the promontory called the
Whaler's Head - We were not destined how-
ever to make any further progress - the
sails began to shake - the wind had veered
round again to the S.W. & about 9 o'clock,
it was determined to turn about & resume
our former anchorage - a gun was fired
to direct the Tamar also, & after a very
rough passage we took up our anchorage
again in Research Bay about midnight. -
The weather was so bad the next day,
Friday 14th, that even the gentlemen
could not go on shore, it not being deemed
prudent to take out a boat - to me it
was a matter of indifference, for I was
suffering much from toothache & kept
my cabin & almost my bed the whole day.
On Saturday, I suffered still more in the
head & under these circumstances could
scarcely help rejoicing that there was nothing
to do or to see from the enjoyment of which
I should have been excluded - In the forenoon
I heard ^{within} a strange noise on deck, but took
no notice of it as the vessel was full of noise.

Presently however, Captain King, desired to
see me - I was in bed, but admitted him.
He was to tell me we had broken our win-
dows, & that we could neither lie here in
safety, nor proceed on our voyage - At first
he seemed to think of returning to Hobartton,
but presently resolved to go to Port Arthur
where we should arrive in 4 hours driven
at the rate of 40 miles an hour before
the gale - at last, however, & much more
to my satisfaction, I found that the Tinner
& carpenter in addition to a single one of
our own could repair the mischief for us
on the spot in 2 days time. There being
good, seasoned timber at hand which would
answer the purpose - This being decided upon
Bruce volunteered to go up in his boat to
Hobartton, (where his wife is now staying)
& to take letters to Sir John - I rejoiced
in the opportunity & a packet consisting
of a letter from me, one from Eleanor to
Sophy, & one from Mr. Gould to his wife
were soon dispatched - It was calculated
that Bruce would return before we should
be ready to start & that if any vessel
wanting to enter the channel in his ab-
sence, should be seen, Lucas would take his
place as Pilot. - ^{The gentⁿ went on shore at night with a}
I was obliged to keep my room the whole
of this day & the whole of the next also.
The next was Sunday & Captain King read
prayer & a sermon in the cabin to the
whim party.

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We were at this time again in motion for Port Dacey, a light favorable breeze having sprung up about 10 o'clock, which Capt. King thought it well to take advantage of, leaving the Tamar behind to bring on the letters which Bruce might be entrusted with. Our attempt this time was of shorter duration than before - a calom came on, then the wind returned to its old quarter & by 1 or 2 we had returned to our former last anchorage which since ^{the accident} the wind laid, was in a more inland & sheltered position. I received a second visit from Capt. King in bed, to inform myself of all these movements, & was again not sorry that we were abreast.

Monday the 17th it blew very hard, but not so much so as to prevent Messrs Gould & Gunn going on shore - they visited the stream called Cabamaron river in the "Patda Nord" - I felt better to day & spent some time in the cabin, but was not able to eat there. - Had the weather been fair to day, Bruce might have returned by night, but it blew so directly in his teeth that no hope of his arrival existed while the wind lasted with this violence. We had a new moon on Sunday last, & Lucas said the present bad weather might still last several days. We swam about at anchor during the night & woke to the tune of the same piping wind on Tuesday the 18th. The gentlemen visited the

Catmona river round Rocky point in the west of the 3 divisions into which Research Bay may be said to be divided - It is the most considerable stream which enters the bay being ^{much} wider than D'Entrecasteaux river - at the entrance on the r. is a heap of rocks isolated at high tide with an old gum tree growing on the summit - It being now unfortunately low water, & the boat such a very light one we made but little way & after grounding several times turned about again. The river was about 120 yards wide at this spot. Mr. Gunn who had been some way further landed on the l. bank of the stream & found a rich soil, likely however from its lowness, to be overflowed. -

Mr. Franklin in his map has given the name of Catmona river to a small creek considerably further to the north or rather has marked it in a place where no river exists at all - There can be no doubt, however, that ^{he} meant the stream at the locality I am now speaking of. - The greater part of the W. shore of this division of Research Bay was not submerged by the breach, probably on account of the shall water under the banks on that side - As we looked at the beautiful range of mountains on this side we thought it was a pity they bore no name & determined to call them the Research Range, & as one of them stands out isolated from the rest & has a striking & noble appearance we on this account & in compliment to Captain Wm. King, declared it should be King Mountain or Mount King. -

Our next object was, to land on Observatory Point
on the E. side of the entrance to the Port du
Nord, (D'Entrecasteaux's anchorage) & where
the Astronomers of the expedition made their
observations. By the ^{emptied oyster shells, the} cleared & heaped up
the remains of cinders, & matted wind screen,
it appears to be now used to as a place
for birchbark, as was lately the case with
a boat going to Port Deney. - Having remained
a short time here, we re-embarked, & coasted
along a little further till we came to a beach
which is covered with petrifications of wood
many of which we collected. - The rocks along
this bay are covered with murels - There
are also oysters but less numerous. - A dish
of murels had been much admired to day,
at the breakfast table & a few oysters were
discovered here, opened & eaten on this spot.
We now directed our course to the sup-
posed locality of the garden planted by
La Haje, botanical gardener to the French
expedition. - On looking at the map, I find
it cannot be far beyond the beach of petri-
fications, but overshooting our mark, we turned
a point which embays this part of the shore
& proceeded to within a little distance of
the mouth of a creek in a nook formed by
another projection which is at the entrance
of D'Entrecasteaux's river. - Crossing this creek,
we were led by Mr. Juan this some thick cutting
grass to a small ascent where under the shade
of 2 gum trees, a semicircular patch of sloping
ground appears to have been entrenched from the

(We landed but found that)

cutting grass between a Mr. Jann there to have been once dry - The soil was of the most wretched description, white clay mixed with shales & produced nothing but a little stunted & scanty fern & some few flowers, among which was the beautiful *Blondfordia* which seems to flourish in worthless soils. Nothing like an European plant or vegetable was to be seen - we were not at all satisfied with the French garden, but till we examined Mr. Bontemps' Beech chart, did not question its identity, finding it no better place to select - on looking again at the chart however, we saw we had gone too much to the North & that it was in another place we ought to have sought for it. Mr. Jann accordingly consented to start the following morning at 6, in a second search for it.

As we returned to our anchorage this evening, we saw a schooner called the *Prince of Denmark* which had been lying here since Sunday last, with her sails filled coming out of the bay in order to go up to Hoboken. (She is a vessel belonging to Messrs Kelly & Hewitt, & hired on the present occasion by Mr. treaty of Lancaster to bring away some oil which had been deposited here & which is going to England in the "Argentine Jessoie.") We had informed ourselves of the probable hour of her departure before we set off on our afternoon's excursion, & felt afraid we should have the whole evening to wait at the wharf in vain for Hoboken. Mr. Gould was on board the *Riza* on our return, had

(X Mr. Jann found an orange variety of it, equally as beautiful with the scarlet. -

witnessed her preparations for departure & made an ineffectual effort to detain her help on board - As he could not prevail, he refrained from sending any letter himself to Mr. Gould out of kindness & delicacy to one who could not do the same by ^{to} his John - Mr. Gunn's ready written letter to his brother was also left behind - The weather was much calmer this evening, but no Bruce arrived - Captain King called out to the Master of the vessel as we passed under her stern to direct him to let the Lt Gov^t know he was not yet returned.

Thursday the 20th / We again entered the

Catamaran river, & pursued it for about a quarter of a mile up at high tide when our further progress was arrested by fallen trees or snags - Landing here on the left bank of the stream, we carried away by the rocks some retortive laurel, fern trees & ferns & gathered heaps of the beautiful native myrtle which abounds here, of the eleg-^{ant}-topped pine,

Podocarpus asplenifolium, (from its fruit ^{being} sessile, having a small-footstalk) -

"We have not observed any wattler trees in the environs of Research Bay - The myrtle & the ferns indicate a moist & good soil - As we returned to the schooner after this short excursion, we saw the Porpoise coming in to bring the monthly stores to Bruce's station as well as to Brany lighthouse. & really a bush *Lagus Cunninghamii* 21

On waking in the morning, I had found a
 packet of letters & newspapers from Sir John
 brought by Bruce, who reached town last Saturday.
 My packet was taken up to Sir John at 11 o'clock,
 straight when he was asleep, but he was
 waked to read them, & Bruce ^{schaff} on his
 return the next day at 12. - ^{7 minutes} The return of
 the Vansittart enabled me to return my
 prompt answers to Sir John's letters - I
 was glad to find that he expressed no impa-
 tient nor uneasy apprehensions about us -
 one of the ships which had been seen going
 up Storm Bay, was the Ute from London,
 which brought no letters, except the Duplicate
 from the wine-merchant with the wine
 itself. The news sent me by Sir John is
 noted elsewhere. I wrote him a long letter
 of suggestions & recommendations in reply
 to his letter, endeavored ^{by strong ad. & long wind} to make the
 best of our unfortunate ^{detention} & to
 give every hope I could of the future.
 I did not tell him that Mr. Gould was worn
 out by our reverses, squelched the top of
 his time, & this very afternoon had been
 declaring with many apologies that he
 must go back in the Vansittart - His good
 humor under his prolonged disappointment
 had nearly failed, but his time was precious
 to him - When he came to S.D. he intended

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to stop only a month. How should he get through
his work, if he went on in this way? -

Mr. Gould was to my very great regret in
this disposition when Mr. Jann, ^{today about} I ~~embarked~~ again in the evening to
visit the shores of that portion of the
northern part of Resolute Bay, where
la Haye's garden was planted, & where
Capt King had discovered signs of coal -
a specimen of this, taken from the bank,
together with our petrifications, some of
which were of a large size & other roots
were denuded to town & the Transient.
Mr. Jann's researches for the garden
(which he had made in the morning)
were entirely without success, & he did
not recommend us to go to the same loca-
lity on account of the difficulty of
getting through the thick cutting-grass which
was 6 feet high. I took the opportunity,
being alone with him, of consulting him
on some points in his John's letter & of
asking his opinion of several individuals
& he answered me with his accustomed
caution. On our return to the schooner,
we found Mr. Gould no longer firm in
his former determination to depart imme-
diately, & on my telling him he must give

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me his hand in pledge that he would stay here
a week longer if necessary, he, after a little
hesitation, consented. - As a little compensation
I begged of Capt. King to let us ^{move to New ground} ~~remain~~
either to Brung, or to Muscle Bay which
would make any little distance difference
when once the wind set in fair. It was
accordingly settled that at day-light we
shd sail for Muscle Bay.

We anchored here about 7 o'clock on Friday
morning the 21st, ^{the best} midsummer or longest
day of this country - The same S. W. wind
- cold & cloudy and then continued. Mr.
Smith came on board to breakfast, after
which, he & Mr. Guld went off to pursue
the inlet at the upper end of the bay to its
extremity. The rest of us followed some
time after in another boat, & passing
Pelican ^{island}, on which Henry, the boat
had been previously landed for gunpowder &
exercise, we advanced towards the point
which at the farther end of the bay narrows
the entrance to the inner waters. Widening
immediately after the passage of this narrow
point, the inlet presents a fine basin
bordered with rather steep but not lofty banks
with trees of moderate size & density. It was
in this basin & not 200 yards from the
shore on the right hand, that poor Burnett's
boat capsized & himself smothered with a watery
grave - It happened singularly enough that

young Harbidge, Burnett's companion & then
master of the Viceroy, was now steering
our boat, having been removed into the
command of the Eliza in the room of his
elder brother who is going to England on
2 years leave of absence, & in command of
the Wallaby. (a colonial built vessel, orig-
inally called the Henry, built at Port Arthur
& purchased on speculation by Messrs.
Willitt & Gamett, for sale in England) Proceeding
a little further, rounding a small point on
the r. we passed ⁱⁿ ~~over~~ ^{under} some low mountains which
then appeared to receive any
fresh water - on the l. a projecting head-
land appeared to us to be an island &
to have a passage on the other or l. side
as well as on this - but this we were
mistaken - ^{the water passing from a bay or inlet underneath.} The banks were of a moderate height,
rather scantily wooded, so that the sky
& the back snow mountains were seen thro
them. If similar in soil as we suspected
it to be to the banks on the r. the land
is of a very poor description - The beautiful
Blandford which we were near enough
to admire on our right bank sufficiently
indicated the poverty of the soil. A 3rd
deep cone or bay succeeds to the former
ones, & here the promontory ^{ends} on the l. -
a broad & deep inlet is seen on that l. side
admitting a stream which appears to come
down from the noble group of snow mountains

24
at the back. Mt King & Snowridge were the
highest of them & tho' seen in an altered position
were easily recognisable - Snowridge we thought de-
served its name from its prevailing patches of snow
on this the longest summer's day - The inlet on
the E. is the most extensive body of water & re-
ceives as we were afterwards informed by Mr. Smith
& Mr. Gunn the a very pretty fresh water stream.

We however continued our course in a direct line
towards the head of the water before us, & which
terminates in a rounded beach bordered by a
hedge of flowering heath with a wall of leafy
foliage behind, leaving a dark gap however
in the middle where a small creek enters the
bay. the hills rising behind this foreground complete
a picture of great beauty. ^{where was the beach} ~~It was low water~~ ^{the beach} ~~the boat~~ ^{could not get up to the creek & so} ~~was~~ ^{was} able to frighten away the swarms of sea
fool which thickly studded the wet sands left
by the retiring tide - We saw 4 pelicans standing
in a procession line, & looking like caribou
of something I know not what, innumerable
gulls, ^{Ducks} - jacks &c - We had peeped several
black swans which suffered us to approach
so close that they were taken for moulters,
which losing their feathers at midsummer,
cannot fly & are easily taken without firing a shot.
This was not the case however, for the birds
hearing them a little noise, they rose heavily
in the air & moved off.

On our return to the schooner, we were landed
on Pelican island where we found Nanay & Mr.
Smith's 4 sheep, the remains of the 12 which
I think were here when we visited Maudslayi Bay before.

7. soil of the little island is sandy but rather
black looking - It contains probably 3 or 4 acres of
land - some old gum-trees almost denuded of foliage
rise to a considerable height. Mr. Smith placed
2 pair of rabbits on it which have multiplied to
about 25 - We started several of the young ones
& it was a ridiculous thing to see. Captain King
amongst the rest hallooing & skipping after them.
One poor young thing was caught, but the Mr.
Smith had begged the gentlemen to kill some
if they pleased, it was released - a minor islet
called little Pelian is scarcely separated from
the other at low tide -

We had to wait till a late hour for dinner
not wishing to sit down without Mr. Gould
& Mr. Smith. I found the latter grown fatter
since I saw him last, & equally amiable &
contented. He seems satisfied with his position
& so does his wife who occupies herself with
darning, or abstract with collecting & preserving
flowers. He had about 8 or 9 police cases
brought before him this last Whaling season.
The punishment is chiefly fines - extending
from a sum not less than 2 sh. nor above 20 sh.
Their employers are subject to fines not less
than 10 nor above 100 sh. - He mentioned that
one case brought up to him was an headman
or manager who brought up 2 men to be
punished because they were cowards - when
the whale was seen, they refused to row up
to it - Mr. Smith could not enter into such a
charge as this - He believes the existence of
a police station here, has diminished as it would
be expected it might have done, the number of
offences committed - They are sent up to Hobart for

punishment on the Ford wheel when required.
It was suggested that if there were a whalebone
breaking establishment here, the men under
punishment might be ^{made use of by} ~~employed~~ employed.