

May 25th 1844
 Moorway
 on Lake Leake

My dear father

I am now 300 miles from the place
 I first wrote you and about four leagues
 South - we are now safe at the country
 I now occupy the country is good but rather
 too thick of trees - I am about 80 miles
 from Fort Land Bay & 60 miles from Rivoli Bay
 Fort Land Bay will be my shipping port

we had a weary country to travel through
 near 140 miles of Desert & scrub having
 to dig for water every night for 14 men &
 32 head of cattle and sheep took water
 we started with 1200 sheep and lost 20 -
 had some spears by blacks on the road

We remained at two of the old stations
 with 2000 waddies - we left for the
 Adelaide harbor - he will clear us
 off and join me - I think I wrote to
 you to permit the advance on the wool
 to him - the extra expense of our moving
 will be about £800 - I pay very
 high wages £35 of annum to shepherds
 the expense of getting up supplies will
 be much greater than it was near
 Adelaide - I shall send them back
 next year - Charles was saying he
 wished to come over if you want an
 outlet for some of your sons.

instead of paying high prices for
Lead in U.S. I should strongly
recommend their coming to West
Lead by following her as - we can
can have quantity and the sooner we
take up a large part of country the
better I have taken up 6 stations
for 12000 sheep - all we want is cheap
labour they would have much greater
advantage, than I had - I expect to
clip next clip 40,000 lb of washed wool
and about 4000 in Australia -
June 1st however with the advantage of
having plenty of country I have it probable
for some the first part of my letter was with
one of my out stations has been attacked
three times by blacks - twice they succeeded
in spearing sheep and carrying them off
the third time we were their wounded and
killed them off - we shot one and wounded
others but one man speared in the arm
it is certainly a desperate spirit a little
on one occasion their were 40 or 50 fighting men
yelling around us and we were not prepared
for them one man only being armed
I shot in Gore, we were compelled to keep our
property ~~from~~ from the sweeps I master 40 head
of cows which very valuable, and pistols
I have a few head of quays, the blacks have
good shelter - but as ~~and~~ ^{the} shot I am on
is the best I have seen in a journey
of 300 miles it is certainly a splendid
piece of country for grass but steeper

of wood. Then like we are lumbering away fast
just now 200 p day when it is snowed thick
endeavour to find a clearer country to put
the sheep stations on - though it should
not be quite so good

I have no assistance now, two small parties
at a distance of 25 miles towards Fortland
and towns as Melville 250 miles

It is quite a venture taking up a new
country I thought at one time we were
going to Colombe rock in N. but losing
my gun as shown us back a great
deal ~~left~~ ^{gone} and was obliged or have
paid a debt of more than the sheep
would have paid - but however if we
can succeed in keeping the blacks off so may
do very well, if anything is to be done
with our stock - as yet a living one
hardly had for we have suffered much and
it appears to me a great deal more to suffer
if I ever get settled It will be the last settle-
ment I will make for I am getting worn out
for this kind of work - I suffer much
from rheumatism - and this climate
is much better than the white hills
I have plant with me who is now laid up
and as run for the last weeks with
rheumatism -

Jan 4 - we have not had the blacks since
we beat them off - but we still keep a
good look out before them, I am short of
ammunition I want some muskets or carbines
could you not get me 12 or 15 they are to be
got for about 10/6 a pair in N.S.W.

My kind love to my Mother hoping
you and her enjoy good health
My love also to my Brothers and sisters
I remain your son
R. H. Cook

You will have to direct me Port
 Land Bay Australia Felix to the care
 of the Post Master - or I suppose one
 of the Hunters - who resides at Port
 Land - Charles making a trip over
 to Port Land would be very little expense
 it would only be the passage. Summer
 is the time to come I may be over
 next summer if I can get things well
 settled
 R.R.L.

John Frederick Cooper
 From the
 East-Campbell Street
 Van Diemen's Land

I have no money left but I will send you a few lines
 if I can - I am very well
 R.R.L.

I saw Mr & Mrs Lewis yesterday before I left & that their
 prospects are improved if the year is like the one
 just past that is enough I do not think I could
 live in N.W. now I began to like the climate
 of La the summer is rather hot but the
 winters are as good as any I do not like
 the climate of the Cape I have so much work