

and broke out in red blotches and pustles, which, however, soon subsided.

It is worthy of remark that the hands, which, of course, would come into direct contact with the plant during the process of the work, did not appear to be affected in any way.

I have gone fully into the details of the case, as it is one of some interest, and one of rare occurrence out of North America, where the plant is indigenous; indeed, I am not aware of any similar case having occurred, more especially in the colonies. Therefore, as the facts connected with it are so clear, it is desirable that it should be placed on record.

I was present during the whole of the time occupied in taking up and burning the plant, passing to and fro between the plant and the fire, frequently handling portions of it as the work proceeded, without feeling its poisonous properties in any way, and at different times during the season I have handled it with impunity, especially in the autumn, when the falling leaves assume tints more effective than those of the Virginian creeper. At this season I have gathered the leaves by the handful without at any time being affected by it.

I need only add that if any of the medical men who may have attended the patients professionally will add their testimony, the case will be made more conclusive and interesting.

## HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY, II— TASMANIA AND NEW ZEALAND ON THE DAUPHIN AND OTHER MS. MAPS.

By J. R. McClymont, M.A., EDIN.

[The first of these papers appeared in the volume for 1885, p. 407, and should have been described "History of Australian Geography, I.—Edel's Land, De Witt's Land, and Carpentaria."]

On a recent occasion, when I had the honour of addressing this Society on the Portuguese Discovery of Australia, I anticipated the composition of this paper by stating that, in my opinion, no satisfactory explanation of the south-eastern portion of the Dauphin map (Add. MS. 5. 413. Brit. Museum) had been given. Mr. Major and Mr. Petherick have advanced conflicting opinions—a fact which may, perhaps, excuse my temerity in differing from so highly reputed an authority as theirs.

Mr. Major conjectures from the extreme length of the eastern coast line of Jave la Grande "that 'Baye Neufve'



represents Bass's Straits; that 'Gouffre' is Oyster Bay in Tasmania; and that the survey really ceased at the south of that island." Further, that the islands in the extreme east of his extract from the Dauphin map represent New Zealand. —*Early Voyages to Terra Australis*, Introduction, lviii.

Mr. Petherick's view is this:—"There is," he says, "at the north a 'grant baye' in the position of, and shaped like, the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Great Barrier Reef is also marked, and so are the mouths of the rivers on the coast of Queensland; further south, C. dlise, near what is intended for Great Sandy Island; then the coast-line, which I take to be that of New Zealand (being in the same latitude) trends south-east to a gulf and a 'R. longue,' with numerous islets (the Gulf of Hauraki); then eastward to a 'C. Fremose,' fair or beautiful cape (the East Cape of New Zealand); then south-west." *Mel. Rev.*, ix, 257. Again, after speaking more particularly of the map of Desliens, Mr. Petherick proceeds to say:—"Other MS. maps of the same period or earlier give the coast-line to the southern extremity of the Middle Island (of New Zealand), Cook's Straits being shown as a 'gulf.'" *Mel. Rev.*, viii, 376.

The difficulty lies in the identification of that portion of the coast-line extending from 'Baye Neufve' to 'C. de Fremose.' Mr. Major's explanation makes it identical with the North Coast of Tasmania or some part of that coast, Mr. Petherick's with the North Coast of New Zealand from Hauraki Gulf to the East Cape. If we accept Mr. Major's rendering, the draughtsman has made the north Tasmanian Coast 14deg. long from east to west instead of  $3\frac{1}{4}$ deg.; if Mr. Petherick's, he has made the space between Hauraki Gulf and East Cape 14deg. instead of 3deg.

A reference to other coasts of Jave la Grande, about which there is no dispute, and a deduction therefrom as to the reliance to be placed upon the accuracy of this map in respect of linear measurements<sup>1</sup> will assist us to determine the tenability of these hypotheses. I refer now, not to the geographical position of given points, as fixed by their latitude and longitude, but to the "stretch" east and west, or north and south, of coasts which extend in either of those directions.

Take, for instance, the west Coast of Jave la Grande from 'Baye Bassa,' which will be admitted to correspond roughly in position with our Cape Londonderry, to the southern limit of definite outline, regarded as approximate to our Cape Leeuwin. The actual difference between these points is  $20\frac{1}{2}$ deg.; the Dauphin map makes it 22deg. It is unfortunate that no similar terminal points, admitted by all authorities to

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Major appears not to have observed the scale of latitude on this map.



be such, can be chosen on the east side of the map. Let us, however, take the points C. de Fremose and the extreme south point of definite outline on the same side of the map, and let us assume for a moment with Mr. Petherick that these represent the East Cape of New Zealand and the southern extremity of the Middle Island. On a modern map that coast extends for 9deg.; on the Dauphin map for 10deg.; and Mr. Petherick would have us believe that this singular agreement between ancient and modern geographers is nullified by the enormous error of 11deg. in the total distance of 3deg. from Hauraki Gulf to East Cape. I think it will be admitted at least that analogy does not support either of these hypotheses.

To aid us to a conclusion, I will assume that the indented line from 'Baye Neuve' to 'C. de Fremose' does not correspond with any actual coast-line. This assumption cannot be rated as unwarrantable when regard is had to certain other portions of the map. On the north side, Java, Sumbava, Flores, and a multitude of other islands are brought into close proximity or actually joined to Jave la Grande by means of lines which we know to have no real existence. They are so united to Australia in obedience to a pre-conceived theory of the unbroken continuity of all austral land. Similarly, on the south, the coasts are prolonged far beyond their actual limits. If the assumption of such another theoretical line in the part of the map under consideration will explain all discrepancies not otherwise explicable, except by hypotheses which do violence to the unity of the map, such an assumption is, I hold, worthy of serious attention. What do we find, then, if the line in question be left out? First, that the east coast of Jave la Grande now terminates in about 44deg. S., and that the last three or four degrees of its outline bear a resemblance to the east and south-east coasts of Tasmania, with the islands adjacent, almost as great as that borne by Tasman's map (1644), and greater than that borne by the chart of Furneaux (1773). Secondly, that the coast-line from 'C. de Fremose' to the southern limit of definite outline on the same side of the map corresponds in length with the east coasts of New Zealand from East Cape to the south of Stewart's Island. There is a great error in the latitude, but, as Mr. Major reminds us, "for the Portuguese this was the remotest point for investigation, and, consequently, the least likely to be definite." The errors in longitude, which Mr. Petherick would explain by a reference to the supposed narrowness of the Pacific Ocean, are in reality less than those perpetrated on the other coasts of Jave la Grande, and amount to about 8deg. at the southern, and 5deg. at the



northern, part of this coast-line. Thirdly, the relation of the islands named "Ysles de Magna" and "y<sup>e</sup> de Saill" to the remainder of the map is now explained. Let the coast-line from 'C. de Fremose' southwards be moved into its true position, and the islands in question will correspond roughly with the peninsula from Auckland to the North Cape.

The name 'Fremose,' fair or beautiful, as applied to the East Cape, may have a special significance. Voyagers well know the difference between the rough water south of that cape and the calm water of the Bay of Plenty.

A legend on Mercator's map (1569), to the effect that the Cape of Terra Australis lay in 42deg. S.,<sup>2</sup> appears to confirm our conclusion as to the south terminal point of the eastern coast-line of Jave la Grande, exclusive of the south-eastern extension, for it is much more probable that the latitude of the first or last seen point of the new continent would be thus noted and commemorated than that of any intermediate one.

To sum up, I submit that the assumption of the theoretical character of the line from 'Baye Neufve' to 'C. de Fremose' is justified by the analogy of other such lines on the same map, and reconciles a greater number of discrepancies than any other assumption.

The outline map, which accompanies this paper was drawn by Mr. John McCance, F.R.A.S., to whom I gratefully acknowledge my obligation. The thick outline is that of the modern maps, and represents so much of Australia as was known to certain French map-makers of the 16th century; the thin outline is that of those map-makers, and is added for the purpose of comparison. The whole may be regarded as a key to the views expressed in this paper.

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2 "Hic in latitudine 42gr.; distancia 450 leucarum a capite Bonæ Spei, et 600 a promontorio S. Augustini inventum est promontorium Terræ australis, ut annotavit Martinus Fernandus Denciso in sua Summa Geographia."



