
Sir,

On the 3rd Sept, Mr. Logan, Andrew Colbert (a black man) and myself departed from Hobart Town, and conformably to the instructions you supplied me with, we proceeded direct for Mr. Ross's Farm on the Shannon, where we arrived on the 6th. We found it totally impracticable to cross the river thereabout, so we were therefore obliged to move on to Mr. Ballerston's Farm 3 miles further up the river.

We had experienced nothing but bad weather and incessant rain, since our departure from Hobart Town, so we found it equally impossible to cross the river at Mr. Patterson's. We were informed that the river had never been known to be so high.
as during the present season. Finding all our attempts to effect a crossing ineffectual, we thought it most advisable to proceed to Patrick's Plains 16 miles farther up where we were told the Shannon was more shallow than lower down. After having pursued two dogs I filled our knapsacks with as much provisions as they would contain we set out on the 11th. The rain continued to pour down in torrents the whole of the day; having to walk over high marshes covered with water, over rocky hills it was late before we arrived at Patrick's plains where we found shelter in a stock keeper's hut. We soon discovered that the Shannon had risen to an unprecedented height; the weather was cold and the whole country around covered with snow.
I do not attempt here to supply a description of those parts we had already traversed, nor of the country adjacent to Patricks plains, as these are matters sufficiently known to many of the inhabitants of this colony. Having somewhat subsided, I determined if possible to cross on the 16th for that purpose, we left the hut in the morning with our knapsacks on our shoulders well stored with provisions. Owing to some erroneous information I had acquired, I was led to believe that the Shannon was deepest on that side where we were now; consequently more shallow in the middle & towards the opposite bank. I soon discovered my mistake; for I had scarcely reached the middle, before I got suddenly into deep water, & as the current ran with great impetuosity...
+being encumbered with a heavy knapsack on my back, I lost my equilibrium, and it was not without difficulty that I was extricated from my perilous situation. Feeling that for the present every attempt to cross would be in vain, I despatched my stock-keeper Andrew Martin, to Mr. Patterson’s, for a fresh supply of provisions, that we might keep up our stock, as I could obtain none at Pateman’s plains. On their return journey the following day, I learned that the river at Mr. Patterson’s was a complete sea, so that the intercourse between various parts of the country was at a stand. Even at the Clyde, which is generally fordable, the Government cart was detained, not being able to cross. We now proceeded about five miles higher up the river, to a place where we were informed that the Bushrangers
had fallen a few soneine previously, but when
arriving there, we observed that the rapacity of
the stream had given the tree a direction parallel
with the Eastern banks, we had to repeat our
steps a disappointed. On the 20th after having carefu-
ly examined the R. & remarking that it had
subsided about 9 miles, we came to a determined
to endeavour to cross it in a place which was
very wide, but appeared more free of stone
at the bottom, than lower down where I
had attempted it before. Thus, the 21st the
weather being fine, which I had observed to
be generally the case with the wind from
Southward & Easward, we proceeded on our
journey, & succeeded in crossing the Thames.
During the day we passed over some good land
marshes not more than ankle deep in water
& the country well wooded. The next super-
abundantly, the grass numerous Elder trees
which I was told afford an excellent
beverage in summer. While Gum, very tall
straight & of good size appeared here in
great quantity. Kangaroo were plentiful.
We killed some fowl for ourselves & the dogs. Towards evening we arrived at the South-west extremity of the Great Lake, where we constructed a hut for the night. The wind shortly veered round to the N.W. which as well as the wind from the S.W. invariably brings cold weather, frost, & ice or sleet; & there had been the prevailing winds since we left Nobat Town. Friday the 22nd in the morning we set out early in the direction pointed out in our instructions; & after having walked over 4 or 5 miles of marshes & seemingly good land, we were suddenly & unexpectedly stayed in our progress by a river, which divides some very extensive plains stretching in all directions farther than the eye can reach. We learned afterwards that this R. was the True, or more commonly termed the Big R. We followed its banks downstream for about one mile, & upwards for 3 miles,
but could find no place where to cross. We were therefore reluctantly compelled to take shelter in the bushes for the night, at some distance from the R. for we could observe neither trees nor wood near the banks. Saturday the 23rd the weather continued cold & wet; it was doubtful whether we would be able to cross the R. for some time to come, we put ourselves on a strict allowance of biscuits, & on the proviso we were supplied with. I sent Colbert to hunt kangaroos. Logan remained to guard the hut; whilst I proceeded along the banks of the R. Bendemeer to discover a place to cross. I found it everywhere deep & rapid, it took a serpent-like course & often ran in different & almost opposite directions. After tracing the R. upwards for about 7 miles I came towards the bottom of a mountain covered with snow, & I now perceived the R. journeyed an exact W.N.W. direction. This induced me to imagine that by following its course I should finally be enabled to proceed in my prescribed route without any material interruption, & I therefore returned.
To make preparation for setting out early in the morning, Sunday the 24th, we took advan-
tage of a clear morning, and proceeded at an early hour towards the mountain mentioned yesterday, but after having traversed the same ground I had done the previous day, I reached about 2 miles farther up, I observed the R. to take a direction towards the N. This again disappointed our hopes. I entertained some idea that as we had advanced nearly towards the source, for we saw two stupendous rocks, between which the water precipitated itself, with amazing impetuousity & great roaring, which led me to form that conclusion. The ascended a high hill & constructed a hut. I had no time in examining the country beyond the two high rocks alluded to. I now found that the R. flows in a direction from the North-north-west, as far as the eye can reach from the lofty summit whence I saw it, Sept. 25th we set out early in defiance of the worst storm weather & crossed the R. about 41/2 miles higher up, where I had observed a number of rocks above the water, & where I imagined we might be able to make our way from one rock.
to another, but after having reached one of considerable size, we found the current so rapid in the water so deep, that we were under the necessity of returning to our hut. I have rather refrained from giving any particular description of those parts of the country which I had lately traversed that I might avoid tedious repetitions. I shall now endeavour to furnish you with a general description. From the summit of a lofty eminence, I had found an opportunity, in very clear weather, to observe the whole of the surrounding country. I mean very near the two points mentioned under the 24th of Sept. Our distance from the middle part of the large lake was then 12 miles, and the exact bearing of it East. The country appeared to be vast plains, (certainly the most extensive in Van Diemen's Land) encompassed by ranges of mountains, divided by numerous ranges, those to the westward of the Cape abounding with lakes & lagoons. The large plain on the eastern side takes a range as far as the Great Lake to the eastward, & extends to the bottom of the Northern mountains.
Southward is again terminated by the Range, which here takes an Easterly direction. The extent of the plains may be more easily estimated when I mention the bearings & distances of all the places I marked down at the time. The Frenchman's Cap bore S.W. by W. 35 miles; Mt. Dundas, W. 36 miles; the Parson's Hood, W by N, 34 miles; other mountains apparently of the same range, from W by N to N W. Its course is without interruption, till they join one, the bearing of which was, where we stood, exactly N. about 7 miles distant. Thus to the eye it would appear nearly as if the great Western range of mountains situated to the Eastward of the Great Lake; the Northern mountains, the range marked on Scott's map adjacent to the Peak like a Volcano, taking a N. E. & S. W. direction till the same range joins the Frenchman's Cap, & other mountains all form a vast circular sweep. The plains I am describing, situated to the bases of all these mountains. But as the
distance, at which we were placed from the ranges in the West, rendered it impossible for us to ascertain with precision, whether there might not be at the bottom of them, and to some extent from them, lower ridges and forest land, we could not calculate with accuracy the limits of the plains to the Westward of the once in Scott's map, no notice is taken of the mountains which form a junction between the range in the N.W. of the Frenchmans Cap, the most conspicuous of those are, one of great height, for loftier than any I have yet seen in this country, which we named Mt. Dundas, and we named Parson's Hood, from the same experience whence I took my observations, I found the bearing and distance of Table Mt by the S.S.W. 12 miles. This mountain which is situated not far distant from Lake Ferguson must ever afford an excellent guide to vessels coming from the N.W. part of the Island. Our greatest distance from Hobart Town was at this time about 100 miles. The country we had traversed exhibited a variety of soils, on the
On the plains we found rich red clay, partly overlaid with small stones, producing feed for sheep. These were dry in all sorts of weather. On the banks of the R., but not farther than a mile from it in any place, we observed some fine black and deep soil, well adapted for cultivation. Closer to the woods, in a manner sheltered by them, we found quantities of food marsh land and surrounding hills covered with trees, but of no very large dimensions, offering a good shelter for sheep and cattle. Could we form an estimate of the goodness of the feed from the amazing flocks of Kangaroos, which are here where swarming about, here I might feel inclined to pronounce this part of the country well calculated for the purpose of farming. The extent, including the marshes and good land we had traversed, from Patrice's plains to the extreme limits of our present excursion cannot be estimated at less than 200,000 acres. Yet I feel diffident in pronouncing absolutely on a point which more competent judges might decide differently upon.
Signs of wild cattle, a number of native huts, but deserted at this season of the year. We could not trace any, even the slightest indication of those parks having ever been visited by white men before. Had they been so, the nature of the country the numerous rivers, a great number of lakes, lagoons in the Western plains, could not have escaped notice. But all these cannot be seen from the high plains, nor from any other part of the Great Lake; it is only by ascending high summits must farther to the N. that a perfect view of them can be obtained. Any one travelling some small distance to the Southward of the plains, lives somewhat N of Lake Tanganyika, will completely lose sight of them. The climate is generally cold, and the mornings are attended with frost; but, when the sun occasionally breaks out, the weather becomes mild and warm. The range of high mountains in the N.W. which partly encompass the plains are covered with deep snow, and there, thus the winds from those quarters are accompanied with cold rain & sleet
But the Table Mt. though lofty is free of snow from the heights it very clearly appeared that there existed a practical opening into the exclave "West-country" immediately to the Southward of Mt Dundas; if we intended could we succeed in crossing the R to shape our course directly for that place. My examination pointed out a route - a little farther to the Northward - but the impracticable character of the country in that direction left us little room to hope that we should find a road by following that track. So far as we had hitherto proceeded, for 20 mls further, a cart and oxen may be drawn without much difficulty. During my continuance in Stone Park, I once day straggled over towards the Second Lake, I proceeded a considerable way to the Northward, and to me it seems not improbable that an opening might be found to the Northward of the Red Mountains, leading into the N. E. country.
What is here meant by the western range of mountains, is that range stretching N. & S. situated immediately to the Eastward of the Lagen Lake. The weather had from the commencement of our journey proved highly unfavourable to our views, scarcely a day passed without heavy rain or snow, but on occasion, winds; tho' the sun would sometimes appear for a few hrs or minutes there a clear sky, the made every attempt in our powers to cross the R. in various spots, but no human aid or continuing could assist us. The depth of the R. the impetuous rapidity of the stream, proved unsurmountable obstacles in our way & frustrated all our endeavours, finding it useless to waste more done in an impracticable pursuit, I judged it might be of some service to convey to you, as fully as possible the information I had acquired (as I had reason to believe that I had in part crossed Mr Kelly's intended trail) I was induced to fall back on the Shannon, & to despatch one of my
companions to yours, for the two-fold
object of transmitting you an account of my
proceedings, & procuring a supply of provisions.
On Thursday the 25th we left our station for
Patrick's Plains & on our return took more par-
ticular notice of the country between the Larghe
& the Plains than we had done on our return on
the five masses I have formerly mentioned may
be said to continue in an almost uninterupted
succession for 10 or 12 miles stretching to the
left, & are well sheltered with trees & woods.
We saw large quantities of Strongy bark for
building, some 80 & 90 feet in height, &
3 to 4 ft in diameter. When we arrived at
that part of the Shannon where we had on a
former occasion crossed over, we found
the river so high that we could not
venture into it. But this caused no less regret
as we could make for Dr Ross's farm, where
we arrived on the evening of the 29th. On our
arrival here we found the country in a state of
alarm, the Natives & many the bushrangers
having lately committed depredations in
the neighbourhood. I have omitted mentioning
that as it was not improbable Mr Hellyer
might descend into the plains during my return to the Shannon. I addressed the gentlemen a letter secured from me in a proper manner, to be delivered in a conspicuous place, acquainting him with my late movements, supplying such information as I thought might be of use to him, should he find it necessary to visit the inhabited parts in the vicinity of the Shannon. The evening morning the 30th March Logan proceeded to Hobart Town, crossed the Shannon on a tree which had been fallen, not far from Mr. Patterson's farm, where our last departure, the messenger having returned from town with new instruction for me, & being supplied with a proper quantity of provisions & other necessary articles, we again set out from Mr. Patterson's on the 1st of Oct., with a view to cross the branch either at Thomson's or Pitearn's about 3 miles distant, so as to penetrate into the large plains by the way of Lake Fergus; but all our attempts for success days proved abortive. We therefore finally left on the 15th, with an intention to keep a more
We took a more southerly course than we had done on our late journey, to shorten our distance if possible, to observe the nature of the country, the travelling over high, stony, and unprofitable ridges, impracticable for cattle. On the 15th, we proceeded in our journey and traversed the country in different directions; both on the sides of the Shannon and the Erne, as well as in the middle; we saw nothing but stony hills and scrub, intermingled with large quantities of black-wattle trees. On the morning of the 18th we arrived at that part of the Erne which we had first seen after leaving the Great Lake on our former journey. We deposited our knapsacks in a safe place amongst some rocks, and immediately set about measuring the depth of the river. We also traced it down to several miles, then upwards for a place to cross at, but to no purpose; we again resumed our knapsacks and set out for the hut we had constructed on the 24th last, where our former care had terminated. After several fruitless attempts...
To cross the river in a number of places, we departed on the 20th, with an intention of tracing it along its banks to its source. The weather was stormy, cloudy, and rainy, so that we could see but a little distance before us.

The ground we passed over might probably be deemed a tolerably good run for cattle; but the absence of food and shelter would render it useless for any other purpose; yet we saw great numbers of kangaroos. I counted 15 or 16 creek some of considerable size emptying themselves into the Buse. I was now interrupted in my project by a riv; it also falling into the Buse, running in a N by E and S by W direction, apparently taking its source in that range of mountains which is marked "supposed" ridge on the map you furnished me with. A little farther upon the opposite side, a riv; it also emptied itself into the Buse, deriving its waters from a lake in the Western plains. We crossed the Little River (7 mls from our last night-station) which was
sufficiently deep & rapid, & then proceeded 4
miles higher up, in a NW direction, examining
the 1315 River with great care as we passed
along. The river then took a WSW direction
for about a mile. Here to our immense pleasure
satisfaction we observed a place which might
be forded without some little exertion. We
waded over it far above middle deep. We
now proceeded in a direct Western course
ascended stony hills of large height, fixed
our abode for the night amongst some rocks
from hence we perceived the river to run
in a North-North-west direction. Till we
lost sight of it in the mountains. I lost
no time in taking a view of the country, making
various bearings. I stood on a lofty, rocky
eminence, & to my surprise perceived when
placing the compass on a rock, that its
variation was so quick, that I could make no
observation by it. Most probably iron ore
may be found here in abundance. I had
to descend on lower ground & hence
observed M1. Sunday leaving S W. the Paroos Hood S W by S W. the Peak like a Volcano NW S W. Table S N. S by E. The Great Lake about S E. We had been forced a great way further to the Northward than was consistent with our views. Then we now observed the plains so covered with water that the only practicable route for us to follow would be that marked on the instructions for our first journey. The country presented nothing of service to man; it was rocky & thinly wooded. Kangaroo Searce. Sunday the 21st October; in the morning the weather was gloomy & Lany; but as I had yesterday after- noon taken a view of the country I found no difficulty in shaping our route which we pursued in the direction of W by N. A river about 4 mls from our last sleeping place presently interrupted our progress & empties itself into one of the lakes in the plains. & we found it so deep & so rapid that we
were again forced into a northern course along the banks, we were every hour impeded by rapoons, & large masses of ice, which caused much delay, as we were obliged to walk round them. After proceeding 7 miles upwards, we at length observed a place where to cross, with the aid of a stout line, which we carried with us to assist us in our operations. Two of our dogs had nearly perished, as they were driven by the current into a fall, about 2 or 3 fathoms below the place where we crossed. Our route now lay thro’ that scrub & over high rocks & stony valleys. The country assumed a sterile & desolate appearance & supplies not to be obtained, so that we were obliged to subsist entirely on the provisions in our knapsacks. We now began to see some pine trees but of small dimensions, we were all this time steering for the mountain marked Pecos like a volcano. The weather being very lazy I seized every opportunity to take
the bearing of such points as were known to
we found it difficult to flee or some place
among the rocks for shelter during the night.
We saw few trees here about, those we saw
were chiefly red & white Gum but of diminu-
tutive sizes. Our firewood was wet & burned
badly. Sunday the 22nd after a dark rainy
night the sun came out clear in the morn-
ning, we proceeded towards the Peak, but keep-
ing in a course a little to the Southward
of its summit. It was so deeply covered
with snow that it would have been impru-
dent to have attempted to ascend the top of
it. As I concluded that we were in a
direct line with Reiman's River, I at no
very great distance from it. I was sanguine
in my hopes that we should in a few
days be able to reach it. But difficulties of the
ordinary description now began to thicken
fast upon us. The snow in some places lay
5 feet deep, we had to step from rock to rock
where the least false step would have
proved fatal to us. We made little progress. Many times we walked quietly, having so many
winding courses to take, to avoid the higher cliffs, rocky summits, and deep gullies.

We observed from a lofty eminence, that the peak only communicated with the range
of mountains before us, by means of unwise ridges of rocks. At the same time, we beheld
a frightful chain of many miles in width, to the west, a bottomless gulf. To avoid these
impracticable places, we proceeded a little more to the westward, but were again obstruc-
ted by a river, which we found means to cross on a pine tree. This river runs in a N-S
direction, and issues from a large and magnificent sheet of water, which is formed between the
peak and the large range of mountains already
described. The dreary and barren country around
us supplies nothing for food; even the cows,
had deserted this inhospitable region; our
dogs were in danger of starvation, but we
Faced them what little we could out of our stock. During the night our hut afforded but a slight defence against the inclemency of the weather, and we were distress'd for fuel. Monday the 23rd October, the weather continued stormy, wet, & cold. We pursued our route in the morning, imagining we might make our way round the S. part of the Range Batin; but after some painful walking thro' exceedingly thick scrub, we observed, that this lake is the source of at least 2 rivers; the one is that I have just noticed; the other is broad & gradual, flowing toward the S.S.W., along the range of mountains & afterwards courses a S.S.W. course. No carts can ever cross in the direction neither can sheep or cattle be driven across even in the summer season. The snow was falling in a dense shower, our clothes down to barley we therefore returned over the river with the intention of seeking a less uncom-
fortable place for shelter, than the previous
night. We were about 21 miles distant from
the mouth of Renman's R. & 46 from
Circular Head. During the night a gale
blew hard from the Westward, the snow
fell without intermission, & the frost was
so severe that the snow on the two ends of the
log of wood which was burning in the
middle would not melt. Indeed the 21st
the dawn of the morning presented a scene
of desolation & terror, the snow had
tallen 2 feet during the night, & the weather
was so fogy that we could only see a
short distance before us. It now became
a matter of prudence, & of absolute
necesity to descend into the lower country
without delay. Every moment would increase
our danger, But Andrew Colbert (the
black man) seemed to be seized with a specie
of lethargy & would willingly have remained
in the mountain, supposing the weather
might clear up. This our provisions ran
very short. I was obliged to cut up what flannel I had with me to provide my companions with pieces to cover their feet which were burned with cold. Unwilling to relinquish the object of our expedition & being desirous of information I kept to the westward in my descent, so as to pass the gap between the large plains & mountains to take a nearer view of the passage I supposed to exist immediately to the southward of Mt. Sundal's. Although the weather continued rainy & the snow fell incessantly, we proceeded onwards with great alacrity.

The country from Holark down to the peak is on perpetual ascent, & therefore more difficult to travel than when returning. Used the 26th we continued our course in a S. direction inclining from the lay of the country a little to the E.
...we hailed with satisfaction the appearance of Kangaroos, which relieved us from anxiety on the score of wanting provisions. The land now began to assume a more favourable aspect, being in some places well adapted for grazing and cultivation, abounding in wood such as Stringy Bark and Gum, both for building and fuel, affording shelter for sheep and cattle. After having passed a river we encamped on its banks for the night. Thursday the 26th Oct., we proceeded on our journey early in the morning. The wind was high, and the rain poured down in torrents. Since leaving the Point the weather had been so hazy, we could not discern any object we were acquainted with, we therefore travelled solely by the compass. We now enjoyed the gratification of traversing for many miles a country which presented...
much level found excellent for pasture. The luxuriance of the vegetation; the size and strength of the trees (Stringy Bark & Gum) innumerable herds of wild cattle; swarms of Brunks & Forest Kangaroos; all supplied indication of a good country & a milder climate than we had hitherto visited. We made several attempts to turn more towards the W. but the nature of the country compelled us towards the E. After passing a river or two we arrived in the evening on the borders of a capacious lake, which, according to my computation ought to be Lake Tergoo, but I could scarcely flatter myself, that after having observed no marks to steer by for 4 days past, my reckoning should be so correct. What rendered me more dubious was, the sheet of water I saw was entirely inferior in dimensions to the Great Lake, whereas Lake Tergoo is marked in the
Chart as of very minor extent. We remained here for the night. Friday the 29th the weather being fine & clear we had a fine opportunity to take a good view of the country. Everywhere about the lake we observed land, which elevated itself in a species of amphitheatre all around it. The sand and many tracks of wild cattle, many native flocks, we killed a bison which must have weighed not less than 1500 pounds, this the night had been very windy. We felt little or cold. The lofty forests, the ridges which run NNW. S.S.E. in a sloping direction for a great distance back, covering others again of less height gradually form a fence against the northern and western blasts. After walking for several miles over a fine tract of sand, we explored the lake land near the Clyde & the two sugars.
loaves not far distant from the Shaver point; this convinced me it was the Lake Fergus we had left in the morning. Reflecting that we were not more than 140 mts from some inhabited place, that the large river I have particularly noticed on the 23rd, and which I suppose to be the Derwent could not be forded for the present, nor for some length of time to come; being short of provisions: our clothes & boots worn out, & considering that a knowledge of the rich country that I had lately traversed ought to be communicated to Jon. without delay, I determined to return to Hobart Town; there to convey to Jon. my firm conviction, that at a more favourable season of the year, a road for sheep & cattle, & perhaps also for carts, may certainly be traced immediately to the Southward of Mt. Dundas; & thence to
Renman's river & Cape Grinnin. During our journey, we had taken a circuitous route; approached the Frenchman's Cap within 15 miles, & explored the whole of that part of the country which is marked "unknown" on Scott's map, & situated to the backward of that range of mountains mentioned under date of the 23rd inst.

The passed the whole of the afternoon over fine green hills, producing excellent feed for sheep. As the country between where we remained during the night & the Shannon point had been partially explored by others, I as imagine no portion of it could be granted to the Company.

I refrain from dwelling on narrative with a description of it. On our return we avoided the Shannon, & proceeded to town.
by the way, New Norfolk. We
arrived at Hobart Town on the
1st of November.

(Signed) Jørgen Jørgensen
M.11/3  Jorgen Jorgensen

(1) Correspondence relating to Jorgen Jorgensen.

(2) Copies of diaries of J. Jorgensen, including Journey to Ouse Plateau, Repat of Jorgensen to V.D.L. Co. on route between Hobart and Circular Head, and Journal kept while exploring from Circular Head to the Pieman River, 1826-7.

(3) Two articles by A.L. Meston on Jorgensen.


M.11/5  Cradle Mountain:

(1) Ms "Cradle Mountain" by R.E. Smith, with notes on wild life and climate by Gustav Weindorfer. 7 Aug. 1937. (Typescript, bound).

(2) Miscellaneous papers re Cradle Mountain comprising correspondence re Franz Malcher, translation from Malcher's account of his trip to Tasmania, March 1914, notes on wild animals by G. Weindorfer and copy of his birth certificate, and copy of "Trip to the Summit of Cradle Mountain" by W.D. Weston, published in Examiner, Feb-March 1891 and miscellaneous notes.

M.11/6  Notes on place names of Tasmania

M.11/7  Notes on William Clark

M.11/8  Inscriptions on some graves in Richmond Anglican cemetery copies by A.L. Meston. n.d.

M.11/9  Notes on stone age man and aborigines. (Notebook).