

Welvedon 29<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>mo</sup> 1868

Respected Friend

Ferdinand Mueller

I have no doubt  
thou art wondering at my  
long delay in answering thy  
letters of 18/11/67 & 3/12/67. The  
latter arrived in due course but  
the former was misdirected to Hobart  
Town instead of Swansea & from  
thence I suppose forwarded to  
Oyster Cove on the Derwent there  
it must have laid some time as  
it was only the other day that  
I received it. I hope thy trip to  
Western Australia has renewed thy  
health, I should have considered  
Tasmania a better climate for an

Suvelid; it was perhaps too early  
in the Spring for this Climate,  
If it is thy intention to write a paper  
on the Botany of this District for the  
R. S. of Tasm<sup>a</sup> - woud it not be as well  
to wait until I have sent the whole  
of my specimens. I regret to say  
that I go on very slowly with them  
having many interruptions, one  
month passes after another & little  
progress is made, but the collecting  
& drying the specimens takes much  
time - The names I give to the plants  
must in most cases be altogether  
wrong, & besides not having looked at  
Botany for a long period I have for-  
gotten a great deal of what I then  
knew & therefore feel much obliged  
by having the correct names &  
which I register in my collection  
The first mentioned are the Acacia  
I have a few more species to send  
2<sup>d</sup> *Bacchia diffusa*?

Having finished the first case only on this day - although I have devoted as much spare time to it as possible reminds me that it will be some time before a second case is ready, in the mean time I shall hear from thee whether the first case is of any use & worth being sent - Of all that are sent many more remain, some of the Clapes are not even represented & few genera contain all the species found in the District.

As to the District it is a tract of Coast extending from Cape Bednier on the South to Doctors Creek or Seymour Mines on the North it was formerly known as the District of Oyster Bay, from that Bay occupying a considerable portion of the coast line now the South part is in the County of Pembroke the north part in that of Glamorgan - the whole forming a Coast line of 30 Miles A strip of land for cultivation extends along the Coast & is backed by Tiers of hills that extend westward to the Midland Districts of Tasmania, The Tiers are formed of Basalt (Greenstone) with in some cases Sandstone & the Coal formation, but this latter is seldom met with except on the Coast line

Sandy Swamps replete with plants occur at intervals along the Coast line Oyster Bay is about 20 or 30 miles long & 15 to 20 broad Maria Island lies at its mouth the Schouten Island & Freycinet's Peninsula form the eastern side, - Swansea lies at the head of the west side of the Bay. Helvedon (where I reside) is 6 miles South of Swansea - The Schouten Island & Peninsula, have a strip of Porphyritic Granite on their Eastern side, extending up to Bicheno - The Rivers beginning South are Sandspit, Professors, Little Swan, Dot (which forms a large Port or Lagoon previous to entering the Sea, then several small ones (Bonington's Meredith's ~~Lyones~~ ~~Lyones~~) & ~~the~~ ~~the~~ than the Swan, Arisley & Douglass - The Swan & Arisley enter the head of Oyster Bay close to Freycinet's Peninsula by one mouth but previously forming an extensive Port 12 miles long by 5 or 6 broad - I have never collected plants beyond the Douglass River it is likely as remarked in the description of Calystegia that numerous plants allied to those of Lippis Land would be found farther to the North of Douglass, I should like much to visit that part - Our climate is dry & warm perhaps the best of any district for salubrity. Rain in 1864 31.76 Inches in 1865 19.66 In. in 1866 24.99 In. average for the 34<sup>th</sup> 25.27 In. - The Rivers of the District are swollen Torrents in heavy Rains & dry beds in summer, which are well filled with a variety of Shrubs