

Transcript of a diary of a man aboard HMS *Sulphur*
8 Feb – 11 Sep 1829

- 1 Left Plym^o Sound Sunday 8th February in C^o with the *Parmelia* Transport, on board which was Captⁿ Stirling, the newly app^d Gov^r to the Swan River Colony, and suite, with two or three settlers; arrived off Teneriffe Sunday 22nd ins^t without having experienced any bad weather or accident of any kind. the Isl^d of Teneriffe is situated in Lat 28° 26' N. Long 15° 13' W. it's appearance as we approached it was truly sublime, the Peak apparently bursting out from the centre of the Island was surrounded on all sides by frightful pyramidal rocks of a dingy color, & of a great height. The upper part of the Peak & continuity of rocks approaching nearest to it was covered with snow, which illumined by the brilliant Sun of a very fine
- 2 of a very fine day, gave it a lustre that it wou'd be difficult to describe, & the patches of occasional vegetation visible here & there, green as an emerald, made it somewhat resemble a well sugar'd Twelfth Cake. The day was unusually clear & about the Peak not a cloud obstructed our view which was an occurrence I learnt rare. Vera Cruz became visible (the place where our brave Nelson lost an Arm & rendered interesting to us from that circumstance more especially) very soon after rounding the Northern point of Land situated in a well indented Bay, & close to the Shore. Mountains of Rocks & some
- 3 little vegetation rising majestically in it's rear, & Cattle were observed feeding among it's frightful precipices. We were all much disappointed not calling here anticipating a rich treat from a visit in the interior. I understand the inhabitants of Vera Cruz are proud & rare in the extreme in possessing a flag of ours which they assert was taken from Nelson in his unfortunate attempt on the place, but which in fact came into their possession from the upsetting of a Boat in the Surf & drifting on shore was there picked up, however they keep it as a trophy & it is shewn to every visitor as such, being placed conspicuously in the principal Church. The opposite Isl^d distant about
- 4 28 miles called the Grand Canary has a similar volcanic appearance to Teneriffe the rocks were all pyramidal & of the same dark lava look, the highest point of land I sh^d imagine to be about 3 or 4 thousand feet above the level of the Sea, however, on the summit of the highest rock & perched like an Eagle's Nest is a Convent distinctly to be seen with a glass & a waterfall breaking over the rocks adjoining. These poor creatures cou'd here enjoy their feelings towards their Maker undisturbed by the busy buzzing of mortal men. The eye cou'd not see a thing but sun, & rocks, or sky, but if it requires this seclusion to make them think of
- 5 their God & this general air to make them love him, I envy them not their choice. We had now got the tail of the NE trade & made good use of it by making all sail, the run from Teneriffe to the De Verd Islands was as beautiful & smooth as the most timid lady cou'd desire. We made Buena Vista on Saturday 28th ins^t & had but a tolerable view of the land tho' within 5 miles of it. The atmosphere as it is generally among these Islands was very hazy & nothing distinctly was observed. We crossed the line with a light breeze & soon after caught the
- 6 S.E. trade which ran us to 30° of S. Latitude 31° of W Long^o standing W.SW. generally, our proper course SEbS we in this Lat caught the variable & then a fair wind. Sunday the 5th of April a noddy was caught on the whisker, where it had perched itself very unconcerned, by one of the Seamen, it is of course a web footed bird, of a dark brown color on the back and wings, the beak long & pointed, & the neck & back part of the head of a beautiful soft grey feather graduating from a light brown to a darker color. Saw three large Albitross's, I suppose they must be 10 feet from wing to wing and of a whitish grey color
- 7 the noddy was killed & the skin preserved by Lieu^t Preston. Captⁿ Dance shot an Albitross this Eve^o measuring from wing to wing 9 feet 2 inches it was skinned by D^r Johnston who minutely examined the stomach & anatomy of the bird. The mouth & part of the body of a Devil fish was found in the Stomach in a perfect state, the mouth & particularly the size of this fish being deemed extremely curious was preserved in spirits by D^{rs} Collie & Johnston. The mouth is formed exactly resembling the Parrot's with a curved bill & the eye is in regular strata. Sunday the 26 ult^o arrived in Symons Bay after having experienced a heavy gale during the night from the N.W. we

- made Table land about 6 am Saturday, but cou'd not reach the anchorage until Sunday at 2 P.M. The appearance
- 8 the Country is perfectly wild & to me apparently incapable of producing any vegetables or fruit but I find when enquiring there every thing is got of the best quality – indeed the vegetables are remarkably fine & the fruit's pretty good , but wanting the flavor of the English fruit. The grapes however are delicious. I have twice been out on shooting excursions about 12 or 14 miles in land, & I found the Country just the same wild, inhospitable & rocky with long coarse grass & stunted bushes. I shot 23 very beautiful birds for stuffing. M^r Would's late Com^r of a Fur Trader at present in the occupation of a farm of 280 acres; shewed me much
- 9 civility; he was a very gentlemanly agreeable man, his account of the success of the farmers of this Colony was anything but flattering indeed I cannot see what advantage farming can be to him or others, if they select spots such as his, where a plough cou'd not be used. rode to Musenburgh on Wednesday 29th about 7 miles from this Town & there put up at a celebrated characters house in the Colony, Farmer Peck, who is fast accumulating a fortune by keeping a Half Way House to Cape Town & other stations. purchased some nautilus shells for dear Till. we lay here 11 days & drop't into the fair way today, having taken on board 4 Oxen for the use of the New Colony, three Horses
- 10 one Cow, & Forty Sheep & 5 or 6 goats & kids. private, but tho we are going to a place where provisions of no kind are to be procured, yet we were permitted to sail without any other live stock than a small Pig, an inconsiderateness that I little expected from any Officer in this Ship, but so it is, & whether the blame is more to be attached to our own Caterer than to any one else is a query which I sh^d be glad so to decide, however we have the very agreeable prospect before us of being on Salt provisions for some months to come. thanks to the dear good Col he has provided me with the means of procuring, by his handsome present of a gun, some relief to a salt dinner. We stood to sea, at 1 P.M. Friday, & stood with a fair wind to 39° of S Lat: & then shaped our Course
- 11 due East, that is E.S.E by compass which, corrected with 2 points variation to the Westw^d gave us a true East course. The weather extremely cold, & a continual Gale of wind from NW. to SW with tremendous heavy squalls. It Thunders & Lightens nearly every night, the latter vivid in the extreme. The little Ship seems to have taken a new lease of good qualities, for no vessel cou'd behave better than she has done during the continuance of bad weather & tremendous heavy seas. she sails also better, having got so much as 11 knots out of her. This morning 27th May: 29 at 10 made the Isl^d of S^t Pauls & Amsterdam
- 12 in 37°. 20' S Lat 77°. 30' E Long.
[drawing of an island]
 view of the Isl^d of Amsterdam bearing E.S.E dis^t 12 miles
[drawing of an island]
 South view
- 13 Amsterdam is the Southernmost Isl^d lying 46 miles to the S. of S^t Pauls. was soon close by it & it plainly appeared to be a barren spot the only vegetation a coarse grass & that burnt up. It is the resort in the Season of vessels employed in the Seal Fishery, who leave men on the Island for the purpose of taking these animals which are found here in vast numbers. The men are supplied with Provisions for some months & at the expiration of a fix'd period the vessels again call for their hands & Cargo. The Island is curious from the number of hot water Springs which are met with on the beach of a natural Basin of two or three miles in circumference, & so hot that
- 14 the Fish taken in this Basin are boiled in them. We made sail & soon lost sight of this barren spot. The other Island was visible directly N of Amsterdam. Nothing but dreadful squalls of wind, rain hail & Lightning, which last danced about the Decks like wildfire. The Seas awfully grand & terrific, indeed these Seas are worse than any I remember to have seen off the Cape. this morning Sat: 30th May was reading to M^r Holden dear Charley's letter from Swan River in Captⁿ Irwins Cabin when the Captain's voice was heard above the usual tone & cadence & a great stir on Deck I soon ascertained that a Heavy
- 15 Sea had struck us on the Quarter carrying away in its vengeance the Colonial Whale Boat (which was beat to pieces) from the Davitts & stove the Quarter Gallery Dead Lights. The vessel shook as if she had struck violently on a Rock, cleared the wreck, & immediately bore away farther to the Northw^d in search of finer weather. Saturday night June 6th being by our reckoning but a few

- miles from Land, shorten'd sail & stove the Ship to till daylight. Sunday morning observed land right a head bearing E by N. Stood on & of for some hours looking for the entrance, which was not observable & it being evident that we had made land to the Southward of our
- 16 Port, & confirmed by observation of Lat at noon, we worked along a shore, but it blowing a Gale of wind off the Shore we were obliged to stand again to Sea for the night. it was a most interesting time for all of us being off a place scarcely known to anyone & quite so to everybody on board the Sulphur going by charts which have proved most imperfect. we after considerable time made out the land we made to be the Isl^d of Buache or Garden Island & Rottenest the Isl^d worked for to be 12 miles to the Northward. Stood off for the night which was a trying one
 - 17 for the poor fellows on deck & indeed to all, it blowing almost a Hurricane during the whole night. We however weathered Rottenest & in the mo⁹ bore up for the entrance between that Island & Buache, sounding the whole way in both chains. We touched on a coral reef twice just abreast of the N point of Buache or between there & Pulo Carnac a small island a league from it. it did us no damage & thank God at 1 PM we dropt our Anchors under the lee of the former Isl^d we found lying here the Challenger & Parmelia the latter of which arrived but five days before us, she struck on a coral reef entering the channel & lay thus
 - 18 three days & wou'd not in all probability have got off but for the assistance of the Challenger as it was she knocked off her rudder & false keel & otherwise damaged her bottom so much so that she will be condemned & made I am told a hulk for the reception of Stores for the Colony. The Challenger also grounded on coming in but lay only 10 hours. The Master of this Ship has surveyed the Coast & from him we learnt that it was truly surprizing we escaped so well from following Captⁿ S: charts which are worthless things.
 - 19 [drawing of a coast and 2 ships]
Buache from Main Anchorage
 - 20 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, commenced on the former day sending stores ashore to the settlement forming at Buache for as the anchorage is close off this Island it will be necessary to form a depot or store for the reception of the Cargoes of such as may anchor; & the Island being granted to the Gov^r as his own, himself & the Government Servants will have Cottages built on it. Tuesday went ashore in Comm^d of a working Party the first from our Ship, having offered my services for any active employ^mt M^r Preston immediately gave me the first party
 - 21 sent ashore. We were very busy cutting down Trees & burning them to clear the land which is from one end to the other entirely cover'd with wood. Cleared away a space for a Garden & fenced it in. Disney & I very busily employed upon it but the soil is so sandy I fear it will grow nothing. Went along the beach this day (Wednesday) as far as Mangles Bay to the Southward about 5 miles in search of shells, found none worth selecting being all dead. This day an unfortunate Seaman of the Challenger was killed by a Tree falling on his temple which he had [???
 - 22 burnt half thro' & the wind blowing squally it was thrown down by its force before he was aware of it, & killed on the spot. Since we have been here we have experienced the most blowing & rainy weather blowing in squalls harder than I ever remember witnessing, & the rain very heavy. from all I have noticed relative to the success of this Colony, the only drawback or hindrance to it, is the badness of its access from Sea but if from the Survey about to be commenced a good channel is found
 - 23 its prosperity may be sealed otherwise I think it never can be anything great as a commercial Port. Met the Gov^r this morning (Thursday) for the first time he was very civil. Friday went as usual with the working Party, & disembarked Pedder & a detachment of the 63 Reg^t who are to be employed on the Island, pitched seven Tents for their accommodation. This day struck topmasts & got the Ship snug, got our lower yards down & unbent sails. dined ashore as usual in our little Tent with Pedder, the weather so very squally with such heavy showers of rain cou'd
 - 24 do nothing to the Garden. The Settlers have commenced building Huts & the Gov^r & Captⁿ Dance have theirs in a partly forward state Houses I cannot call them. Gave Captⁿ Stirling Captⁿ Irwin's letter, he was particularly kind & offer'd his services to promote my wishes as much as he cou'd. he asked very kindly for poor dear Charley & where he was. I do now most sincerely hope that I may be able to do something for my dear brothers & if it pleases God to assist me, I fear not that

- good will come of my trip here. (Thursday) 17th June Breakfasted with Pedder at his Tent took as usual with me my own whock, the Captains House makes here
- 25 a slow progress from the want of hands, indeed, if he had many at his command, I think he has planned it much too large, being 30 feet by 25. rambled about till I found myself at the Gov^{rs} Garden which is a very well planned one & is in a great state of forwardness, the marks of a Kangaroo Rat was observed there this morning. (Friday 18 June) This morning at 8 started in the Cutter with L^t Sicklemore for Swan River with Provisions for the Settlers &c. we experienced some heavy squalls of wind & rain & a heavy swell rolling in, we took in three heavy seas which nearly filled the boat, & we were within an ace of throwing the provisions overboard
- 26 however, at 11 oclock we safely arrived at the River, we found our old shipmates as comfortable & as happy as possible, & in good feeling with the place. I like the appearance of the main much, the soil is deep, of a dark black mould & sand & I think will produce any kind of grain or vegetable. The River bore a delightful appearance, both banks being cover'd with wood to its edge, & composed of Trees of a variety of hues & sizes & shapes it is very serpentine and averages from ½ mile wide
- 27 to a mile. The entrance to it is between two limestone rocks of 15 or 20 feet high from the waters edge, and the points of entrance bearing S.S.E & NW of each other, then extends for 100 yards or more, till they unite with the main Land & are lost in vegetation a bar extends across the entrance which the Sea continually breaks over, & there is scarcely a passage for about at low water & with a smooth sea: over the bar it is deep water of some fathoms. From my observations of today I fear no Ship will be able to come nearer to Swan River, with safety, than Gage's Roads which are abreast of its entrance
- 28 & distant from it two miles. This anchorage is much exposed to a S.W. & N. wind & tho' the rocks and reefs may in some degree break the force of the Sea yet a great swell sets in there with a gale from either of these quarters. The Natives had not been near the Settlement for some time & it is supposed the bad weather has kept them in the interior, I was shewn one of their knives today by L^t Henry of the Challenger who commands a party from that Ship there, it was the
- 29 merest apology for that article I ever witnessed, & yet some idea of one is displayed in the thing shewn me today it consists of a rounded bit of some hard wood of about a foot in length, at one end is secured to it be means of gum, a piece of white flint which is taper'd to an edge; & with this crude utensil they cut up fish, holding the animal by the tail in their mouths, & cutting, or rather sawing it into pieces: I picked up some shells in the sands, one of which is peculiar to New Holland being unknown in any other part
- 30 of the world. at 3. we thought we observed a vessel under Sail in the offing & immediately put off to render any assistance she may need. but the wind being dead on and it was quite dark before we got outside the N point of Garden Isl^d & there no Ship was visible. steered for the Parmelia & reported it to the Gov^r & thence to our own Ship & acquainted Captⁿ D of it also who dispatched an officer with the information to the Challenger. Saturday 19th June, No news of the Ship today & where she can have got to God only knows. I trust
- 31 safe. Went ashore with the working Party as usual & breakfasted with Pedder to whom I carried some things, from Captⁿ Irwin, for his mess. Went to the top of the hill with Pedder & M^r W^m Stirling to look out for the vessel. Cou'd see nothing of her, which is unaccountable for the weather, since she was seen, has been fine in the extreme & a fair wind into the anchorage. Came on board at 5. Sunday. Went on shore after dinner with Disney & Cudlip for a ramble. A Servant of Comm^r Currie's shewed us a Diamond snake he had shot
- 32 of about 5 feet in length, it appearing large, Disney cut it open & we found in it an entire Kangaroo Rat of some days old. Met the Gov^r. Tuesday & Wed: 23rd & 24th June, went shooting on the Island, took with me M^{rs} Daley's pointer Bitch. Killed a golden wing Pidgeon a Kingfisher, & small Paraquet The former is a beautiful bird the head & back of a chocolate color the wings of a golden or bright yellow, legs red, & bill also, eye lids the same, also, two black plover. Thursday 25th June. Having been asked if I would like to join a party under the orders of Captain Curry
- 33 on an expedition up the Country I volunteered & at 7 in the morning proceeded with five of our men, placed under my command, to the Challenger each having a blanket slung to his back, five days provisions in a haver=sack & a canteen of water. On getting to the Challenger found Captain Curry, M^r Griffin the Lieu^t of Marines, M^r Morrett Mate, D^r Simmonds of the Colony & M^r Hornsby Mid: ready for a start with five Marines armed as a guard, & five Seamen. Captⁿ

- Fremantle having mustered us all we got into the pinnacle & proceeded to the Brown hill on the main there being the best landing at the foot of it. at ¼ past 10 AM landed &
- 34 having accoutred ourselves commenced our march steering E.S.E.: the object of this Expedition was to ascertain the spot where the fresh water met the Salt in the Canning River & to try the qualities of the Soil on its banks, to mark the production of the Country & make general observations upon it. We soon commenced shooting & I killed a paroquet & Captⁿ Curry a brown snake. My next shot was at a large kangaroo which got off much wounded. it had been our system, I laid down by the Officers, to shoot on an extended
- 35 Line in front = two Marines was on my left, Captⁿ Curry on my right & two marines on his right. a quail having risen I fired at it & it fell & at the same moment I heard an exclamation of my God!, & to my horror I beheld Captⁿ C. lying on the Ground bleeding from his Temple, & supported by M^r Morrett & D^r Simmonds my first idea was that he was dead from the ghastliness of his Countenance but D^r Simmonds soon assured me that wound was slight indeed on examination three shot only were found to have enter'd the skin & then but slightly, which almost convinces me that they must have glanced from a branch of a bush in my front. I thank
- 36 God however that such was the case & that no more injury was done we of course returned & made the sign (two fires 12 yards apart) & at 5.30 P.M. our pinnacle brought us of. The Gov^r wou'd not permit the expedition to be delayed & appointed M^r Henry the 2nd Lieu^t of the Challenger to command it, & sent me a message to be ready, if I still wished to go., by 7 the next morning & accordingly on Friday at 7.35 AM I was alongside the Challenger, & the same party 21 in number landed at 9.35 AM. & commenced our march taking better precautions against accident from firing. We steer'd EbS. & arrived at 2.25 P.M on the banks of an
- 37 extensive lagoon, say 7 or 8 miles in circumference, we had observed two other lagoons in our progress but small compared with this, the first about 2 miles from our landing place bearing E½S was salt water, the second about 5½ miles distant fresh water; & the third, on the banks of which we bivouack'd for the night, good fresh water we made a comfortable hut in the native fashion thus
- [drawing of a hut with smoke rising from a hole at the top]
- with a fire within to dry the grass & trees; which were dripping with rain it having poured from 12.30 PM until our arrival. We were well soaked & provisions particularly bread spoilt. We soon had three roaring fires & with forked stakes driven into the earth & cross pieces
- 38 upon them we hung our clothes to dry. We cook'd a Tea which we enjoyed much & then drank a glass of Grog to the King, our friends to the North of the Line, & success to the expedition & finished with songs. The Officers were divided into 4 watches, the men into five, Griffin, Morrett Hornsby & myself keeping them. had the morning watch from 5, got breakfast prepared by 7, & cook'd a black Cockatoo which I had shot Yesterday & which we found excellent. We commenced our progress at 8 racing very fast halted at 12 for half an hour & every half hour to try the
- 39 soil which had invariably been sandy. Came to an extensive marsh which we forded sometimes up to our knees in water. (I omitted to mention yesterday that we found a bottle which had been left by the Natives close to their wigwams that had been given them by some one at the Swan River Settlement: we observed there black Swans but out of reach of our guns). a plain of two or three miles in extent followed the marsh the soil of which was of a yellow loam or clayish & I think wou'd make excellent bricks & wou'd be very good for some purposes of agriculture. The Country hitherto
- 40 had been very tame & monotonous varying little in appearance, with little hill or dale. at 3.30 PM Sat we made the range of hills called the Darling Range without finding any appearance of a River which surprised & puzzled us all we ascended a Hill on the N side of a valley & descended it again to ascend a higher to the Southward, when I thought I heard the roar of waters & reported it to M^r Henry, & which to our joy proved to be a rapid Stream of fresh water racing amongst rocks at the rate of five miles per hour.
- 41 of course we concluded this to be the Canning, & that we had made it near the source instead of, as was fully expected by the Gov^r, the point where the fresh & salt water unite We crossed it by a fallen tree & while the party were bivouacking M^r Henry D^r Simmonds & myself ascended the valley to trace its source & discovered that it takes its rise in another range of mountains beyond the Darling. This valley was beautifully romantic each side being covered with trees to the highest

summit & wild rocks of granite appearing here & there forming a bed for the roaring torrent. The distant range of mountains formed a curtain to the scene which

- 42 amply gratified us for our trouble. Made three wigwams & lit three fires & soon got ourselves as comfortable as the nature of things would permit. Cook'd a Paroquet which was excellent eating. Took the usual watch & at 7.35 breakfasted on some rice & tea & bread & beef, and at 8 recommenced our march down the stream & soon discover'd that the banks of this river would be the spot for the Settlers the soil being excellent & the land clear, the Country bearing more the appearance of a gentlemans park grass good & fresh water plenty, & the river must abound with fish. The
- 43 Natives having weirs across the river for the purpose of taking them. Came to several traces of the Natives but strange to say met with none of them, tho' I feel satisfied they must have seen or heard us, & perhaps the appearance of so strong a party alarmed them Killed a brace of wild duck which one of our men swam in after. The River literally abounds with them. pick'd up a curious animal of the Lizard kind which I took care of for D^r Colly. This river must be a favorite spot of the natives their Wigwams being numerous on its banks. bivouacked after a hard days fag marching sometimes up to our knees in water &
- 44 rushes, & enjoyed a cup of tea & a glass of grog, keeping our spirits up by singing & telling stories The men began to shew signs of fatigue & their provisions nearly expended, made M^r H. determine to hurry to the Settlements as fast as possible. Most of the poor fellows shoes were destroyed & my boots were worse than any beggar in England would be seen with. We started at 8 AM Monday & crossed the river which began to assume a beautiful appearance being here nearly half a mile wide & Islands prettily dispersed upon it. The water was also rather brackish
- 45 however we slept on its banks this night & the next morning at 8 broke ground & followed the river to Melville water where it unites with the Swan & being then 10 miles from the Settlement crossed the country & made the Swan River about 6 miles from it, followed its course & arrived at the Settlement at 4 P.M fatigued & much injured in the feet, but a kind & hospitable reception from Captⁿ Irwin & the officers particularly Dale who was very attentive to me. Since my return from the expedition I have been employed making a Garden at the extremity of the Island, for the Gun Room. Conellan, a good hard working man (termed my man Friday)
- 46 with me, the soil here is entirely composed of decayed vegetables, very light & I think excellent for potatoes. We are clearing about ½ an acre. One entire day devoted to shooting with Pedder did not shoot anything. Parties as usual go on shore to work for the Colony, Cudlip in my lieu. The Gov^r was so pleased with the report of our expedition that in a few days he goes himself for a week.
Friday 10th June. This day employed decorating the larboard side of the Qu^r Deck with flags, for the dinner to be given at 5 o'clock to the Gov^r & all the principal persons in the Colony, & the Officers of the Challenger completed it conjointly with Disney
- 47 at 3 o'clock when it made a very pretty appearance the ceiling of the Deck was covered with two white ensigns, S^t George's Cross running amidships, the side of the Ship & the screen hung with flags, 3 Jacks at the head of the Table where the Gov^r sits, over this was suspended a black Swan with wings extended his mouth holding a billet, on which was printed 'Success to the Colony'. at the other extremity of the table 'Success to the Colony' as large letters hung as a transparency The room was festoon'd with pendants & the side board & pillars supporting the same at 5 the Gov^r & his lady arrived with the whole population of the place Captⁿ Freemantle & his 1st Lieu^t, & Purser. When seated at dinner
- 48 Coup d'eoul was beautiful & it appear'd to give the Gov^r & the whole party great pleasure. After the Cloth was removed & the usual toasts had been given the Gov^r's Health & 'Success to the Colony' was given by Preston who acted President. The Gov^r replied in a neat speech, "That he had no doubt of the future success of the Colony, from the hearty co-operation he had met with from those who were connected directly and indirectly with the Colony, & begged to assure those present that he sh^d at any time feel most happy to forward their private interests to the best of his ability, & concluded by thanking them for the honor done him"
- 49 Three cheers were given. I left the Table at 10 o'clock my feet giving me so much pain as to make it irksome to remain dancing commenced soon after my departure & the curtain did not fall on the scene till 4 o'clock in the morning Saturday 18 July 1829. Until to day I have scarcely been

- on shore for the last week partly owing to my feet continuing bad, & partly to a press of duty supposing the Challenger to be on the eve of departure. To day Captⁿ D asked me if I wou'd like to accompany him over the Island shooting & at 9.30 AM we started, & having called for Pedder on our route, & begged the loan of M^{rs} Daley's pointer Bitch Juno we crossed the Island without seeing anything, until Pedder firing at a Paroquet two Kangaroo got up & after four shot from him
- 50 & his man, Elmore, at them, I killed it, a female, with a young one in her pouch with N^o 4 shot at about 45 or 50 paces distant. Ben (Captⁿ D: terrier dog) pinned it & we took the young one on board alive. After this we came suddenly upon two Seals which we killed, Captⁿ Dance & I shooting together at a very large one, nearly the Size of a large Calf, & I killed the other. We fell in with but one quail which I shot. Pedder & Capⁿ D: were both unfortunately unable to shoot anything. rejoined Perrison & Sholl who had also gone the other side of the Island with two men to boil the blubber of some Seals which had been killed by a party the day previous
- 51 we returned to Pedder's tent at 7 P.M much tired & enjoyed a glass of ale with him: Monday 20th July. This was quite a gala day with the worthy folks of Garden Island, there being a race between Preston's Poney & the Gov^{'s}, which was won by the latter Preston's poney being lame. & a Ham given by Pedder fix'd on the top of greased pole to be climed for by anyone. it was won after a good piece of fun by boy Reddington of our Ship. I paid Siklemore off to his hearts content for cutting me down the other night, by giving him a somerset at a game of leap frog, which I believe amused everyone who saw it. Pedder gave a dejeuner a là fourchette to which all hands were invited, & after the ladies had retired a raffle for Sicklemores Gun took place which was won by Captⁿ Curry, it was raffled a
- 52 a second time & won by Cudlip for Dawson & sold to Preston for 12 pounds. Tuesday 21st Tried the Gun for Preston it shoots strong, but it is a Birmingham thing & not to be trusted too much. Monday 25th went to Swan River in the Cutter with Preston. Captⁿ Irwin & all the officers gone up the river for 3 or 4 days, their present encampment on the banks of the Swan & about a mile from its mouth is much more comfortable than the one they have just quitted & has a very pretty effect from the approach. The Garden is in very good order & the vegetables look very green & well but I fear a powerful Sun will burn them up the soil being sandy. enjoyed our lunch of Beef Pork & some mustard & Cress under a Shed built as a mess place for the officers of the Challenger & returned
- 53 to the Ship after landing on a reef that was from the main about half a mile, abreast of Carnac Isl^d & visiting Woodman's point about 4.35 P.M. Thursday 30 July. Went on a shooting excursion with Brown-the Sect^y to the Gov['], over the Island, upon his invitation, we saw nothing to shoot except a a quail & what I supposed to be a partridge which dropt to my shot but did not find it. Killed two beautiful species of gannet, the breasts of which I mean to preserve for my dear Sister. Preston is very anxious to be gone on our excursion up the Swan, & is getting the Dingy repaired for the purpose Captⁿ Curry went this morning with a party of six to try & fall in with the river or stream
- 54 which we crossed about 10 miles to the Westward of the Darling's & running to the Southward. he asked me to accompany him but I declined from a feeling of repugnance to go with a person whom I had once shot under similar circumstances. The weather generally since we have been here has been fine, but frequently with the wind at West & NW heavy squalls of wind & rain lasting some days. With the wind at East the weather fine but windy, at South particularly delightful & at N generally fair & the average thermometer for the two months 60° of Farenheits The Expedition under Captⁿ Curry consisting of 11 persons, being all the volunteers he cou'd muster,
- 55 returned from exploring on Sunday morning the 2nd Augst. They discovered the River, to find which was the principal object of their going, about 10 or 11 miles SbE course and running parralel to the Sea perfectly fresh deep & about ½ a mile wide, the fish leaping in it in all directions the soil but indifferent. They observed a number of Kangaroo but shot none. The party seem to have done nothing but fight & quarrel the two days they were away, & Captⁿ Curry to his shame left a party of 3 astern who had deviated from the line to shoot but luckily they had provisions with them & observing the Sun had not much difficulty in making the Sound. Wednesday August 5th. This mor^o
- 56 Parmelia came alongside to be hove down under the superintendence of Lieu^t Henry. at 9 AM. Captⁿ Dance sent Cudlip, Madden & myself to the Gov['] with the Cutter & wait his orders. I reported the boat to him & ascertained we were destined for a trip to the main, & soon left the

Island with the Gov^r & his lady, Roe & his wife, the Ass^t Surveyor, the botanist & Colonial Surgeon, for woodman's point, which we reached at 11 AM. on our passage across the Calista was observed standing for the Sound thro' the passage between Rottenest & the main, & fortunately for her, were boarded by Dawson in the Jolly Boat in time to save her grounding, & he in compliance with his orders anchored

- 57 her in Gage's Roads. We walked about a mile in land & fell in with a lagoon about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile in length & $\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth on the banks of which we had the honor to partake of a repast with the first ladies ever known to have trod the soil of Western Australia it was provided by the Gov^r & we did it justice. The soil salaceous & calcareous, & of little service to the farmer. Saw several extraordinary species of wild duck with our glasses none of which was within shot. returned to the beach at 4 P.M. & walked along it to Woodman's Point & picked up several handsome Shells, many of which I gave M^r Stirling We had a squally, nasty way to return, but at 7 the wind died away & we pulled
- 58 across, the Gov^r sometimes pulling an oar. we had a very agreeable day & M^{rs} Stirling is a ladylike woman & very pleasant. Thursday August 6th This morning M^r S^t Leonard arrived from the Cape after a tedious passage of 2 months with Cattle upon Gov^r account, & we again hove the Parmelia down upon her starboard side there appears little the matter with the exception of some Copper rubbed off. Sicklemore was this day invalided & tho' sometimes a pleasant fellow enough, yet I am persuaded for the comfort & happiness & peace of the Ship generally it is the best thing that he c^d do. Morrett succeeds him at which I am truly rejoiced &
- 59 trust he will not be superseded by the Admiral. The Calista has brought out 60 Settlers, with their Stock & the bad news of the Catholics having been as they ridiculously misname it, emancipated, I trust in God this emancipation will not be the enslaving of Protestants & the ruin of our Constitution. The S^t Leonard has brought the Cattle 35 in n^o on Gov^r Acc^t 30 head died on the passage. Friday & Saturday. The former day went shooting with Preston to Woodmans Reef, & shelling, got several Venus's & Mactra's. Johnson & Disney accompanied us. beat back to the Ship, with it blowing a tremendous gale, in the Cutter with all reefs out got a fine soaking. The following day accompanied
- 60 Captⁿ & M^{rs} Dance in the Gig to Mangles Bay, shooting. Killed a Plover, two Shags & a Sandling returned at 6.30 P.M. Cudlip took the S^t Leonard across to the anchorage at Woodmans Point to land the Cattle on the Main which will be escorted to the banks of the Canning by Pedder & his party of Soldiers, who will there take up a position. Preston, Sholl, went to the Swan this morn^g in the Dingy on a four days trip up that River. Disney goes with them as Cook. Wednesday 12 Augst. This being the Anniversary of His Majesty's birthday, it was determined upon by the Gov^r that the foundation of the Town of Perth sh^d be laid on this day, and accordingly every preparation was made
- 61 to celebrate the event. all the Officers of the different departments had departed for the Main a day or two since, & the Gov^r & Naval Gents who intended to be present set off yesterday. The Town is to be built about 10 miles up the Swan River at the junction of that River with the Canning & called Melville Water. it is a beautiful spot as far as Scenery is in question but wants the grand desideratum, Soil. M^{rs} Dance struck the first stroke on the tree intended for the a foundation pile & bits of the tree are in great request. The ceremony was performed amidst salutes & cheers & double allowance of Grog to all hands. A distressing
- 62 event has taken place in the absence of Corp^l Phee of the 63rd Reg^t, who it is supposed has either been carried off by the Natives or has lost himself in the Woods. he went out w^h a party under Dale but straggled away from it, & was not missed until the party had nearly reached home; parties were immediately sent out in every direction & signals were constantly made but unhappily to no purpose. he had with him a musket but only two charges, & 3 days grub; he has now been absent 5 days & no tidings whatever has been heard of him. Yesterday & to day went over to Woodmans
- 63 Point shelling & shooting, collected several Venus's, Mactra's, Zebra Shells & shot a brace of Plover at a Stroke. A person who has an extraordinary taste for speculation & seems determined to kill us all, has imported into this Colony by the Calista 50 tombstones! I suppose he sends up prayers for all our deaths if he intends to make profit. Another good & worthy speculator is demanding the very moderate sum of 3 guineas p^r pair for Fowls!, & 1 guinea apiece for Geese. I think the person who wou^d give these prices must be a goose or a fool. Tuesday 18th Poor Corp^l

- Phoebe is not found & I much fear never will be alive; his wife is in a distracted state. One of the Settlers shot at a valuable mare the other night
- 64 near the Settlement taking her to be a native come there for the purpose of stealing. he had hurt the poor thing seriously having shot her in the neck. another Settler having rode into the Country a few miles to look after his stray Cattle suddenly fell in with two natives who according to his account robbed him of a red Comforter, which however he parted very readily to rid himself of their Company
- Official account of our Journey Henry's account
- June 26 Landed 10 am and proceeded in an EBS direction. the first mile was a perfect sandy plain, we then came to a dark red soil, which extended along the same distance and then again the sand ting'd with dark earth which continued without interruption to the end of this days journey about 9 miles from the place of debarkation
- 65 but to accomplish this distance we travelled over about 12 miles of Country with generally an undulating grassy surface thinly cover'd with same kind as those on the Coast. about 6 miles from the place we landed, we passed to the Southward of a Lagoon of fresh water, and we bivouack'd for the night on the bank of a more extensive one & near its SE extremity
- June 27 Resumed our journey & after we had advanced about 2 miles passed to the Southward of a deep and rather extensive swamp & about the same distance further on forded another which was neither so deep or extensive. Continued on again 3 miles & then we crossed a stream about 6 or 7 feet wide, & a mile beyond another about the same width, both running to the Southward & in a parallel direction. Nine miles from the Lake we left in the morning an agreeable & sudden change was effected in the Scenery, we had almost imperceptibly as:
- 66 ascended a considerable Eminence commanding an uninterrupted view of a vast plain bounded to the E by a range of majestic mountains, an opening in which being observed we crossed the plain a little to the E of our destined course and at a distance of about 10 miles we enter'd between two ranges, & discover'd the Canning River rushing over its rocky bed with considerable impetuosity and running to the Northward. We bivouack'd on a small Island formed by a stream from the River running to the Eastward, and re-uniting a little lower down. Respecting the nature & quality of the Soil &c passed over to day the first particular change was observed soon after we enter'd the plain where we found a yellow marl of a nature I think well calculated for making bricks. this extended about a mile when the soil again became Sandy with gravelly patches till approaching the base of the mountains where the surface is entirely cover'd with coarse gravel & loose stones.
- June 28th at 7 AM ascended the summit
- 67 of a mountain about 1000 feet high for the purpose of obtaining a more extended view of the surrounding Country but the density of the atmosphere was so great that objects were only visible a few miles to the Westward where little of interest presented itself & to the Eastward nothing was discernable but a succession of lofty mountains cover'd wth Trees at 9 descended to the River & passed to the left bank & in our progress along its course to the N. we were soon gratified by finding good red soil which continued about 5 miles with an occasional mixture of Sand. The River then divided into two branches & the ground became swampy. crossed the western and lesser stream and endeavoured to follow the course of the principal one which wended more to the N but we were shortly interrupted by a deep reedy swamp which forced us to pursue our course more to the Westward and in so deviating lost sight of the River but after a few miles walk over good soil & thro' several small swamps we found it again but so much reduced by passing this and inundating an extent of low marshy
- 68 ground that we were induced to cross to the N & proceed to the mountains 2 miles distant to be fully satisfied that it had not branched off in that direction, But observing from the top of the hill water NW advanced in that bearing about 4 miles over a sandy Surface and bivouack'd on rising ground in the vicinity of a small sheet of water after a journey of 18 miles but not more than 12 distant from the Ravine left in the morning.
- July 29 At 8 AM proceeded in a NNW direction and in half an hour fell in with the River about 16 feet wide we crossed it over a fallen tree & pursued our journey down the left bank. The River gradually widening as we descended and presenting on each side for a space of 10 miles the richest verdure & most luxuriant vegetation. The ground again became marshy and the River

- more irregular in its course, passed thro' a large swamp & bivouak'd on elevated sandy ground convenient to the River where it was nearly a mile broad & the water brackish: July 30th
- 69 at 8 AM, continued our journey following the course of the River thro' a number of small swamps and several streams of good water and after a walk of about 8 miles over a sandy soil we reached its junction with the Swan at Melville Water. proceeded thro' the same description of Country to the Military Post at the mouth of the latter river, when we met with the kindest reception & most hospitable entertainment from Captⁿ Irwin & the Officers of a detachment of the 63 Reg^t Having traversed the Country from Cockburn Sound to the Darling mountains & followed with little interruption the course of the Canning River from near the source to the mouth, the general impression resulting from as minute observation as a hurried journey w^d permit, is, that with trifling exceptions the soil above the salt water is of a quality well suited for all purposes of Agriculture
- I cannot conclude these remarks without observing that during this journey of a 100 miles or upwards not a native was
- 70 seen, which is pretty conclusive that they are not very numerous But there can be little doubt but we passed at a great distance from some of them for we saw several of their wigwams & many recent traces of them, and it is more than probable they did not like our appearance & from the nature of the Country & with their superior power of vision, they have easy means of concealment (true copy) A.H.G.
- Wednesday 19th The pleasant information of poor Corp^l Phee having been found by Dale under the Ship to day. he had on being left by the Party wander'd about in various directions in the hope of finding the Sea but failed until Tuesday morning when he reached it but was then equally at a loss to know what direction to take & when fortunately for him Dale heard
- 71 his shot in answer to the firing of his Party & brought him to the Settlement much reduced & very weak. he states he fell in with two parties of Natives 30 or 40 in each One party behaved kind & civil to him, but the other shew'd every symptom of being violent & when off his guard one of the villains threw a spear at him which he avoided & it stuck in a Tree close to him. he instantly fired at the fellow & brought him down by a wound in the leg, when the whole of them seized their wounded companion & fled into the woods yelling & making the most horrid noises. Poor Phee managed to subsist on the bread he had left when he parted company & actually had a small portion left when found. His wife
- 72 was in ecstasy when she saw him. Henry dined w^h me to day & after dinner Morritt accompanied him & I in walk to Mangles Bay met there Pakenham & party in Jolly Boat fishing. we assisted the extraordinary haul of between 3 & 4 thousand Kingfish not one less than five pounds. it took 9 of us 3 hours to get them ashore. The fish is of the mackerel species, & looks exactly like one & quite as good, but shaped like a salmon [???]. The Captain & Cutters Crew caught by Hook 97 Snappers the least 7 or 8 pounds.
- Wednesday 27 Augst. Captⁿ D: Preston, Morritt & myself went in the Cutter to the main to the Southward of our anchorage, shooting. Killed several Paroquets, & a quail but the latter bird is extremely difficult to kill from laying [???] close in cover & rising generally after you have passed them.
- 73 We witnessed a curious & extraordinary sight on our passage, having observed a great quantity of birds assemble over a spot in the sound, we bore away for it & to our astonishment some 60 or 70 Porpoises huddled together & about 6 or 8 large sharks attacking furiously a large school of small fish which appeared so terrified as to make no efforts to escape from them. the Gannets were all assisting in their destruction by diving for them to a great depth. we shot many of the birds & also at the Porpoises Saturday 30th Augst. Took a walk to Mangles Bay with Johnson, found two beautiful [???]. on our return met the Gov^r M^r Stirling, who seemed very anxious to obtain my little venus shell. A Thrasher was seen in the Sound today attacking a very large whale which seemed to suffer much
- 74 The Challenger sailed Thursday 27 Augst & saluted the Gov^r she got out perfectly safe. Morrett, Johnston & myself having obtained a weeks furlough we provisioned ourselves for that period to proceed up the Swan. we left the Ship Monday morn^g, 31 Augst in the S^t Leonard boat & arrived at Fremantle at 12 noon. hired a boat from M^r Jacques a Settler & proceeded up to Perth, having taken M^cLeod in at Fremantle. we rigged a blanket for a sail and arrived there after a pleasant passage at 4 PM. The situation of this spot for the Town struck me at first to be injudicious from

the little depth of water in the approach to it, there being scarcely 18 inches in any part, but on enquiry I found the object was to place both ends of the Town near deep water & thus connect the passages above & below which is a very desirable object. The Town is about 14 miles up the River & a mile below what is called the flats which extend the whole width of the River & here the water is so shallow that a boat wou'd not

- 75 float except after heavy rains when the River is swollen. we spent some time very agreeably with the officers of 63rd Reg^t & made two excursions up the River the farthest about 20 miles The soil is generally excellent on the immediate banks but half a mile from them it becomes patchy & mix'd with sand. the best soil is a red loam, & a dark brown earth & is of good depth. we shot some ducks Cockatoo's & Paroquets, the Swans were too wary for us. The Scenery was very beautiful & the River being very serpentine added a fresh prospect every half hour but it still was tame wanting the grand, & romantic, which on a River is so sublime. The Weather during the week was bad as bad cou'd be blowing heavy gales with quantity of rain. The River itself is a very fine one & above the flats perfectly fresh & delicious water & to judge from the jumping must be full of fish. we returned to Fremantle Sunday the 6th Sept^r
- 76 & the following morning I rec^d a messenger from Preston to return on board to prepare for our expedition over the Darling Range of mountains. we went on board in the Cutter as was our previous intention, & the next morn^g, the 8th Sept^r, Preston in comm^d Collie as Medico & Naturalist Disney a Mid, & myself with 10 men left the Ship at 10 in the Cutter with a fortnight's provisions, the Captain & crew giving us 3 cheers on shoving off, it was our intention to have proceeded to Fremantle but it blowing a heavy gale in our teeth & the boat being deep we were obliged to bear up for Woodman's Point & there land everything. we were thoroughly soaked with rain & salt water This P^t is 8 miles distant from Fremantle but we were not dismayed at the idea of walking that distance with a weight of nearly a cw^t on each of our backs which we actually accomplished during heavy rain, & along heavy sands in 4½ hours. we were made comfortable, by Pedder & soon had
- 77 a roaring fire of our old friends the Grass Trees for the men. The next morning Preston took a cart & Horses & fetched the Casks of Provisions & at 2 PM we got under weigh from Fremantle Preston in the Whale Boat with Disney & 7 men, D^r Collie & myself (to whom Preston gave the comm^d of the Boat) & 3 men to the Dingy with a fine fair wind & came to at 5 PM on the left bank of the Canning River distant about 2 miles from its junction with Melville Water where we pitched Tents & soon were comfortable round a good fire. M^r Knight a settler being anxious to join the expedition that he might judge for himself the nature of the soil & country, was permitted to do so & was found a very useful person. Thursday morn^g at 6.35, (having previously communicated to Preston that Dale was anxious to join us) he dispatched me in the Dingy to Perth to bring him & on my return to proceed up the River as far as the Islands
- 78 where he w^d wait for us. accordingly having taken Dale on board at Perth, I started on my return at 9.35. AM. & fell in with Dawson in the Jolly Boat in Melville Water & took two men from him who were left behind at Fremantle he proceeded to Perth for the Detachment of soldiers that was to accompany us, & I steered for the River with a fair wind. I shot 2 swans Dale one. The water 4 miles from Melville Water quite fresh the banks of the River wooded down to the waters edge but upon the whole the scenery was wanting relief it bearing the same appearance the whole way up on both banks. Stood on till 2 PM when we fell in with Preston. Got lunch & proceeded the River gradually narrowing & in many places very rapid being much flooded by the rains. at 5.30 the current having become so very swift & there being no room for the use of the oars, we came to & bivouack'd on a pleasant place on the right bank we had scarcely landed before
- 79 a party of natives 5 in number were observed & we soon fell in with them they having evinced no symptoms of fear or reluctance to meet us. They are very small made men their limbs being about the size of an English Boys of 13 or 14. They are quite naked, having a bolt of some woollen texture round their waist in which they carry their Tomahawk & whatever is given them they are very much tatoo'd on the breast & back. Their features are not altogether bad, but the tout ensemble is exceedingly disgusting, their forehead projects considerably & the bridge of the nose is very much indented the nose itself flat, & spreading & nostrils dilated the mouth rather proportionate but the lips generally thick, the chin covered with beard about 4 inches in length, the face is almost shaped square, the hair is long & black & bound round the head with a kind of cord & it is exceedingly filthy. They paint themselves with

- 80 with a reddish earth like brick dust which they smear over cheeks, nose & forehead & rub on their hair. They were armed with Spears with which they parted readily for any presents we gave them. On a Swan being brought up from the Boat they all seized upon it & seemed thoroughly delighted when we allowed them to keep it, & it was soon deposited in the woods & returned for anything else we had to give them. They subsist principally upon roots which they dig for with their hands to the depth of 3 or 4 feet, & sometimes upon Kangaroo Rats which they spear in their [???] generally found at the foot of the yellow gum tree & on Opposums. On Friday morn^g at 6 I was sent down the River in the Dingy to meet Dawson with the the Soldiers whose firing we had heard the previous evening, found them bivouack'd a mile above the Islands & having taken on board their
- 81 heavy baggage & a drunken comrade they commenced their march along the banks of the River & to keep if possible the boat in view. our return was more tedious & laboursome in consequence of the increased swelling of the River from the continued rain which caused a current in much of the narrows of 4 or 5 knots & trees & bushes overhanging it so thickly as to prevent the use of the oars we were sometimes a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an hour getting a few yards ahead, but after considerable exertion on the part of the boats crew we succeeded in getting as high up as it was possible for a boat to go & here we found our companions who had had a more troublesome business than ourselves, their boat being larger, they had started 3 hours before me & arrived only 2 before. we were about 9 hours getting 16 or 17 miles. The weather was most impropitious raining heavily the whole day. We found the Tents pitched & a good fire made & the party in friendly converse w^h
- 82 9 natives who seemed to enjoy themselves 5 of them were the same party we met yesterday & they knew me directly I came up. They took some bread & eat it greedily but some salt Pork which I gave them, they smelt to [???] & then pretended to eat it & to enjoy it but kept it close in their left hand which they placed behind them, on finding they cou'd get no more they very deliberately commenced greasing their bodies with the fat of what we had given them. I performed as did Preston, & Collie this operation for them. I placed my watch to their ears which astonished them much, & they cried out Hubbra! Hubbra! They are most excellent mimics whatever you said or did they were sure to do the same & with such correctness of sound & pronunciation as to be truly extraordinary Come here, very good man, go it you cripple, (a bye sentence of Prestons) they pronounced as true as ourselves. We had much difficulty in ridding ourselves of them