

1860

W. S. M. Wilson.

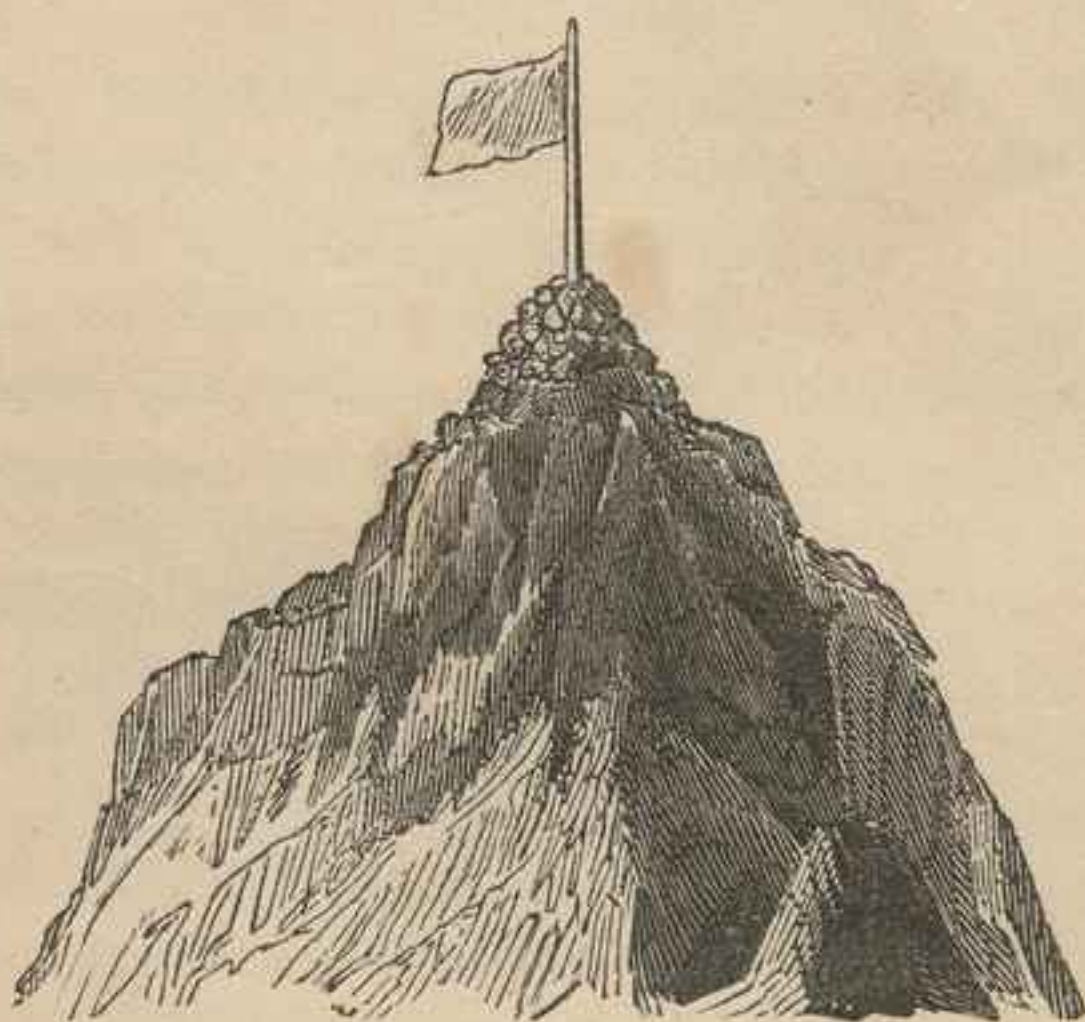
STUART'S JOURNEY
INTO THE
INTERIOR OF AUSTRALIA.



Central Mount Stuart.

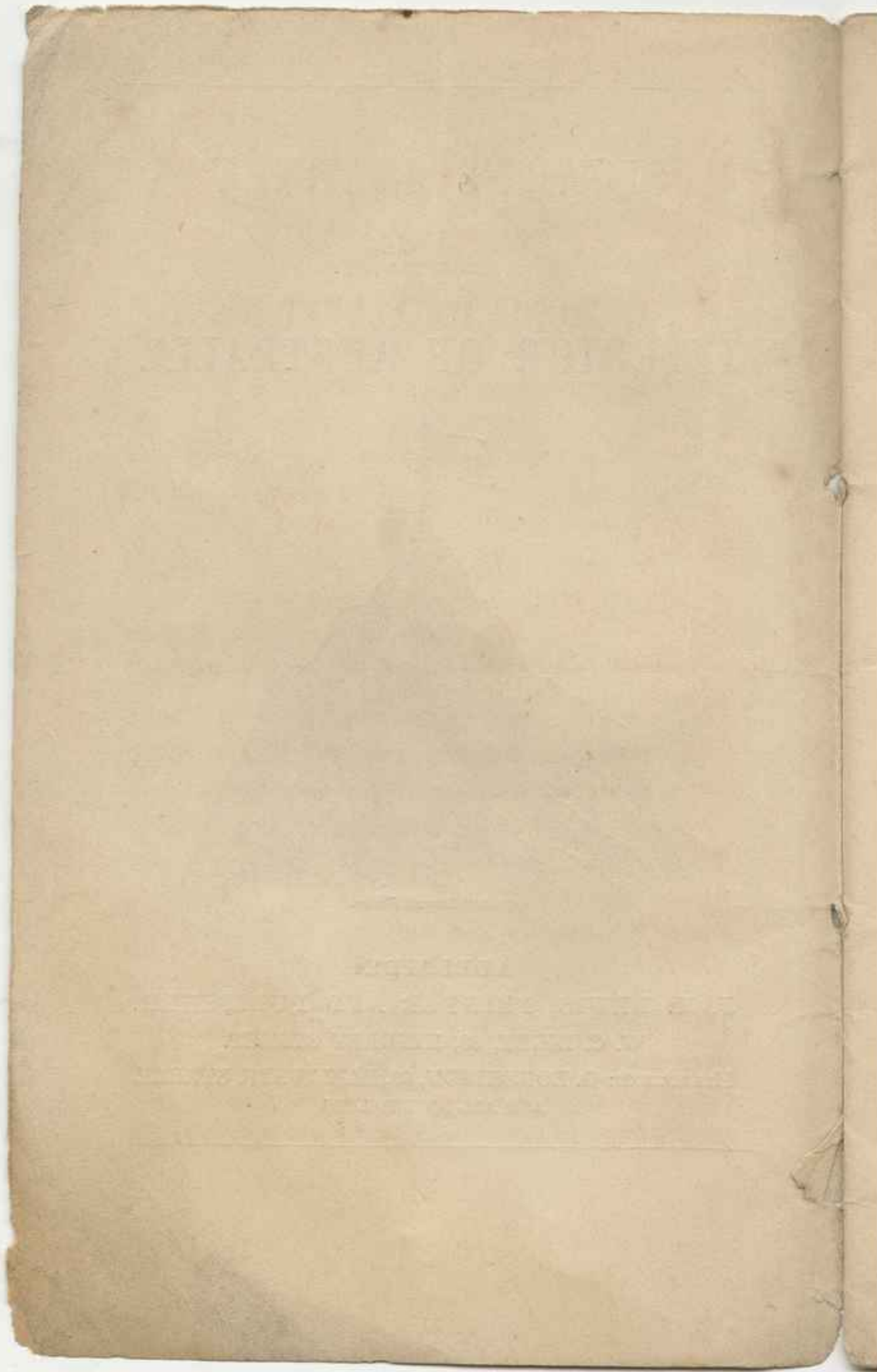
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INTRODUCTORY PREFACE.

THE name of JOHN MACDOUALL STUART has become familiar to every inhabitant of Australasia, and of South Australia in particular. As an Explorer in these regions, Stuart has had no equal, whether as regards his peculiar accomplishments, his hardihood by nature to endure thirst and hunger, or his enthusiasm to solve a problem hitherto considered to be the work of ages.

We first hear of Stuart as a companion of Sturt, whom he accompanied in his perilous expedition into the interior in 1844, as draughtsman. In addition to this requisite acquirement for an explorer, Stuart possesses a good practical knowledge of botany, of surveying, of astronomy, and of medicine; and, what is also a necessary accomplishment, can shoe his own horse.

In 1858, when the Government of South Australia fitted out an expensive expedition to endeavor to solve the mysteries of the Interior of the Continent, Stuart, accompanied by one white man, Foster, and an abori-

ginal native, who soon deserted them, "took his venturous ride around the Government expedition," for the purpose of surveying runs for Messrs. Chambers and Finke—discovering Chambers' Creek, and opening a path for the party in the rear, penetrated, in the latitude of Chambers' Creek, to the west of Fowler's Bay.

On this occasion Stuart and his companion existed on two pounds and a-half of flour each, per week, for more than a month, with but little animal food, and that chiefly kangaroo mice; and by them a few sow-thistles was then looked upon as a luxury. He then told us of desert land, where no water is; again, of fertile country, pleasant as Bunyan's Delectable Mountain; of never-failing springs, and of enchanted ground—"little bushes appearing like large gum trees;" and of the appearance of large sheets of water, but of their encamping without any.

Perhaps a more cheerless aspect was never seen by the eyes of man, than that presented to Stuart at the farthest point of this trip, when, his provisions nearly exhausted, he ascended a hill to look Southward over the country between him and the sea, and observed nothing but a vast saline desert, through which he must pass to return to the abode of civilized man; yet, nothing daunted, he succeeded in the perilous enterprise, and made the sea-shore and Mr. Gibson's Station

after having been three days without food. As an acknowledgment of his valuable discoveries, the Royal Geographical Society of London presented Stuart with a valuable gold watch.

This trip occupied about three months, and resulted in the opening up of 15,000 square miles of available pastoral country, and for which Stuart was suitably rewarded by the South Australian Government.

The successful return of Stuart from his first expedition, resulted in the determination of the Government to organise a party, under the command of Stuart, for the purpose of attempting to cross the Continent; but after much delay, and an insufficient sum unwillingly voted for the purpose, all overtures were abruptly terminated, and Stuart was again dispatched, accompanied only by Wm. Kekwick and Benjamin Head.

The equipment and selection of Stuart for this expedition, is due, we believe, to the enterprising exertions of James Chambers, Esq., and Wm. Finke, Esq., to whom, alone, the Colony is indebted for the undertaking and consequent important discoveries. As Colonists of long-standing, and particularly as regards a knowledge of the country beyond the settled districts, together with ample wealth for the purpose, none were evidently so well fitted to plan this undertaking as Messrs. Chambers and Finke; and no explorer has

ever deserved renown equal to our Great Australian Traveller, JOHN MACDOUALL STUART, Esq., who has in this last trip boldly and successfully pushed beyond the Centre of the country, dispelling the visions of the most renowned men of science, whose conceptions were burning sands and arid deserts, or an inland sea of large extent, in the place of extensive tracts of well watered and fertile country.

Some of the results of this latter journey are here given in brief selections from Stuart's Journal. It will merely be further requisite to notice that, in anticipation of successful results, Mr. Stuart took with him a flag for the purpose of its being planted in the Centre of the Continent, which task, it will be seen, was accomplished; and had it not been for a tract of country about sixty miles across, without water, the opposite coast would evidently have been gained—Stuart having reached a point 1,300 miles in a straight line from Adelaide, and within 300 miles of the opposite shores.

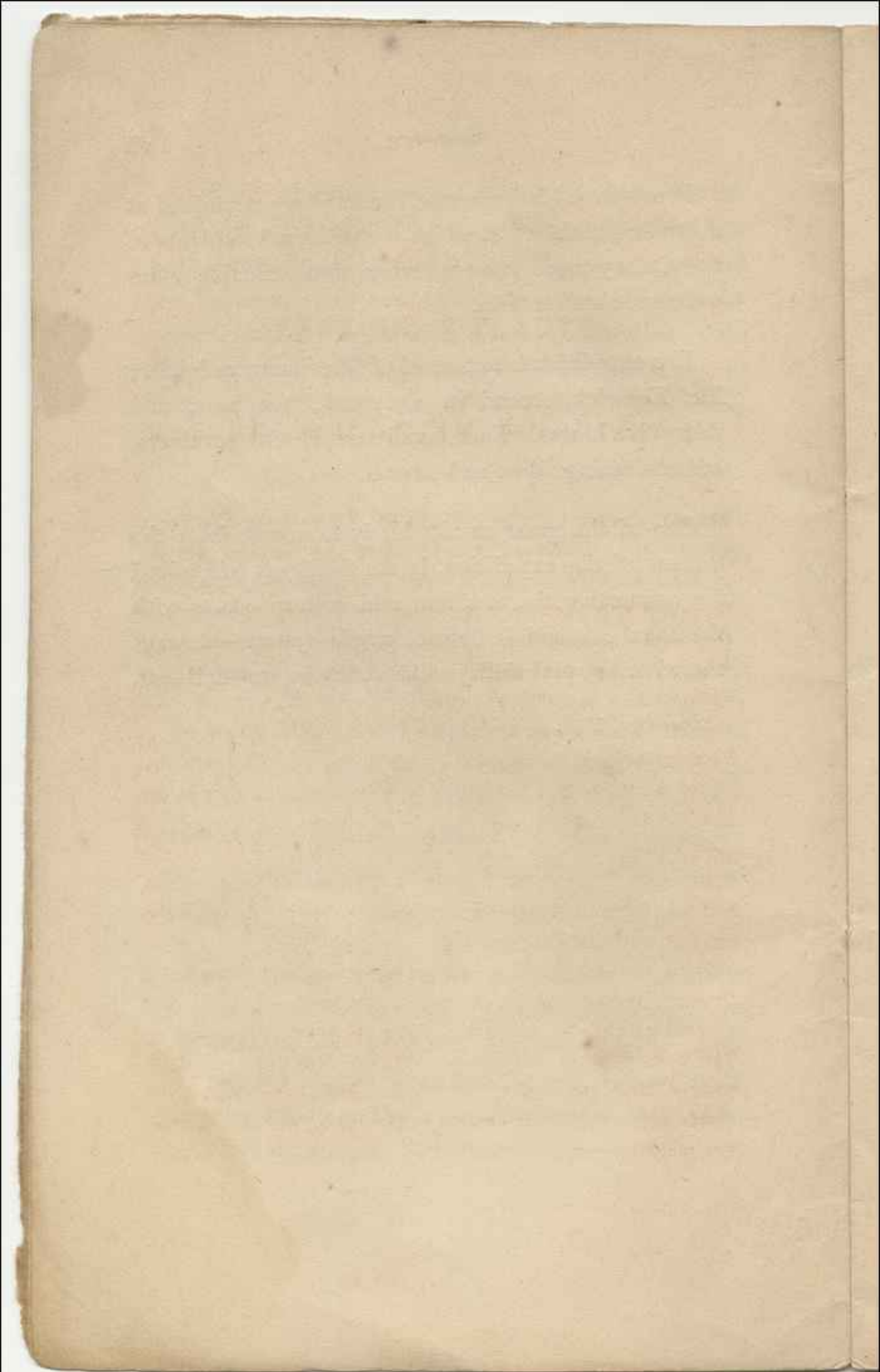
Stuart is now on his way again to renew his attempt of crossing to the Gulf of Carpentaria, fitted out on this occasion by the South Australian Government. The sum of £2,500 was voted for this purpose in the month of October, 1860, and Stuart left Adelaide for the North on the 2nd November.

Previous to his departure, Stuart was entertained at a Public Breakfast, at which the principal residents of the Colony were present, when two valuable rifles were presented to him.

The expedition is composed of Mr. Stuart, as leader; Mr. Kekwick, second in command; ten men, and thirty-five horses. Each man is armed with revolvers, breech-loading rifles, and swords.

One of the great results likely to accrue from the success of the expedition, is the facility it will afford for connecting the southern and eastern coasts with the European and Indian telegraphic system—a result there is every probability will speedily be accomplished.

December, 1860.



STUART'S JOURNEY

INTO THE

INTERIOR OF AUSTRALIA.

STUART started on the 2nd March, 1860, from Chambers' Creek for the northward, with 13 horses and two men, camping at Hamilton Springs, and on the following day at a place he named Beresford Springs, where there were indications of the natives having had a fight. A native was found lying dead, with his skull broken in three or four places. In the rising-ground were three wurlies, round which were some waddies, boomerangs, spears, &c. The natives appeared to have run or been driven away by a hostile tribe. Between two of the wurlies were a handful of hair, apparently torn from the head of the dead man, and a handful of emu feathers, placed close together—the feathers to the north-west, the hair to the south-east. They were between two pieces of wood, which had been burnt, but were extinguished before the feathers and the hair were placed there.

From the 4th to the 14th a succession of well-grassed country; springs, and rain were encountered, a hill observed covered with reeds at the top, and a creek running round it. The country here was boggy. On the east side sandhills covered with grass were prevalent. Here the pack-horse which carried the instruments broke loose, and the sextant was much injured.

From the 15th to the end of the month an abundance of rain; swamp and good saltbush country. One of the horses, thoroughly knocked up, was unwillingly abandoned, being unable to extricate itself from the boggy nature of the banks of Neales' Creek. To this succeeded a stony country, well covered with grass, some of it resembling wild wheat and rye; wild oats, four feet high, were also found on the banks of a creek, and small fish, mussel shells, and crabs two inches long in the creek. The numerous springs, &c., passed during this interval are as follows:—Strangways Springs, William Springs, Hawker Springs, Milne Springs, Freeling Springs, and Kekwick Springs; and the hills, Davenport Range, Mount Younghusband, Mount Kingston, Mount Ben, and Kekwick Range.

On the 29th they discovered a native encampment, the fires still alight, and winter habitations on the banks of the creek; also a native grave, composed of sand, earth, wood, and stones, of a circular shape, about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, and 20 yards in circumference.

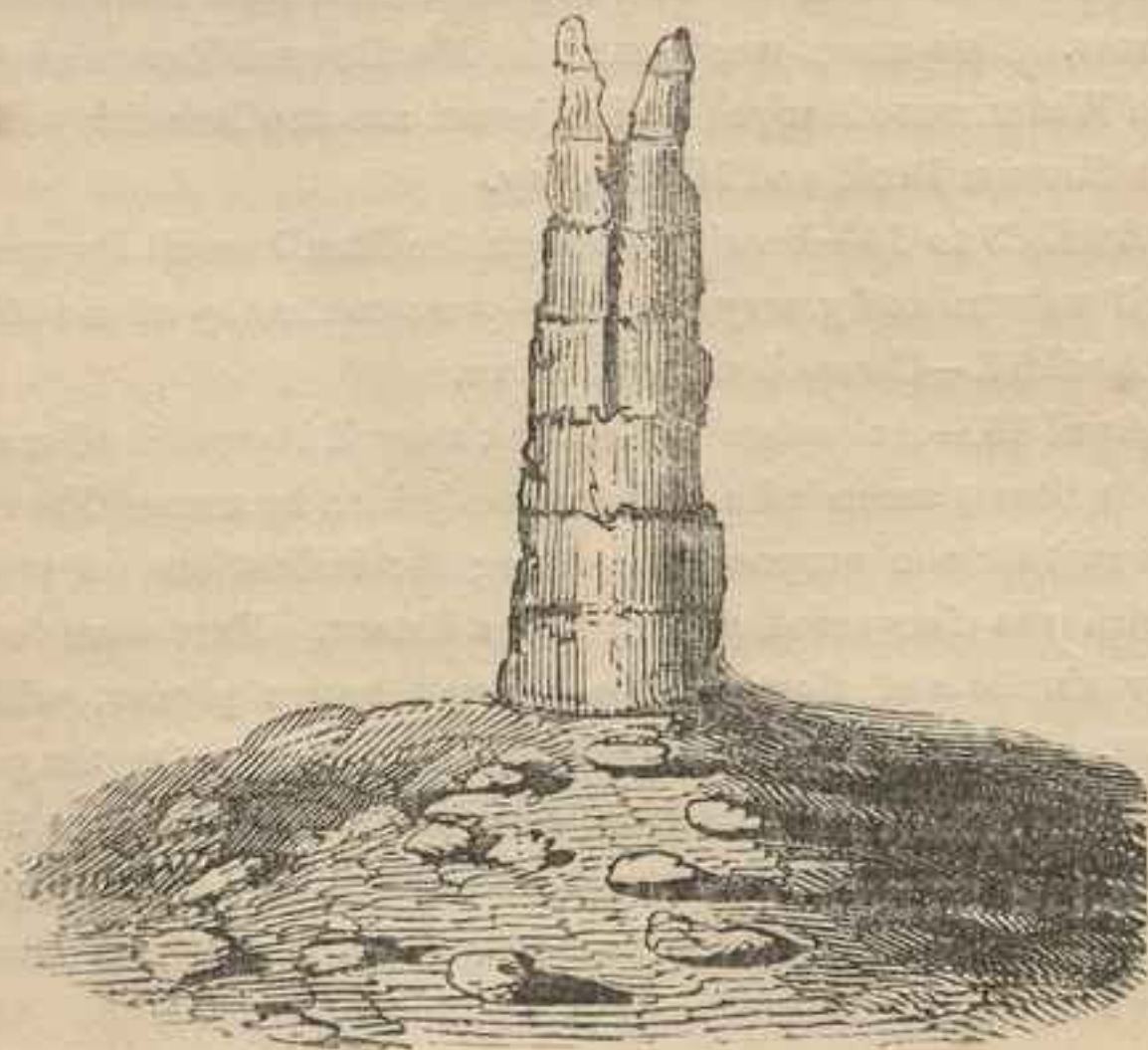
On the 1st of April, Stuart found his right eye had become useless for taking observations. He saw two suns, as a consequence, which led him into an error of a few miles.

April 2.—Hilly country, grass and saltbush, but no water. On taking an observation of the sun on the following day, he found his bearings $118^{\circ} 17' 30''$.

April 4.—Mount Humphries. On ascending this mount a dense scrub presented itself from south-west to west; open grassy country succeeded. A creek coming from the north, with plenty of water, was adjacent, and appeared to be a favourite place with the natives, as there were eleven wurleys in one encampment. A number of new parrots, the black cockatoo, and several other birds were seen. The explorers then passed over "a portion of as fine a country as any man would wish to see." "I have not passed over," says Stuart,

"such a splendid country since I have been in the colony." The creek he named the Finke.

April 5.—The party halted for half-an-hour to take an observation of the sun ($117^{\circ} 16'$). Flat-topped hills of every size, water, and good feed prevailed. On the next day, following the same course (330°), they observed a remarkable hill, which in the distance appeared like a locomotive engine with its funnel. Here Stuart saw a native among the bushes, and pulling up, spoke to him. At first he seemed at a loss to know from whence the sound came, but when he saw the other horse coming up, he took to his heels and was no more seen. Proceeding, then, towards the remarkable hill, they found it was a pillar of sandstone, standing on a hill, upwards of 100 feet in height. From the base to the top of the pillar it was 105 feet, 20 feet wide by 10 feet deep, and quite perpendicular, with two peaks on the top, evidently the remnant of former higher ground. This Stuart named Chambers' Pillar, after one



of the promoters of his expedition. To the north and north-east were seen a number of hills, presenting the appearance of castles in ruins.

April 6.—The same course was followed for six miles; it then became a plain of red soil and fine grassy country.

On the 9th their course was intercepted by deep perpendicular ravines, which they were obliged to round with a deal of trouble, their saddle-bags being torn to pieces, and their skins and clothes in the same predicament. On the 10th a number of native encampments were passed. Indications of the scurvy now began to show themselves.

On the 12th they arrived at the foot of the bluff, and camped at an excellent spring, where they found a palm tree, its leaves spreading over on the top, like the grass-tree. Its fruit has a large kernel, with a hard shell like a nut, and about the size of an egg. The taste is like that of a cocoa nut, but when roasted is like a potato. It is unfit for food. Here was also found the India rubber tree, the cork tree, and various sugar plants. This range was named the MacDonnell Range, another the Waterhouse Range; and adjacent are the Brinckley Bluff, the Hanson Bluff, and Mount Hay.

April 13 to 15—Passing through the MacDonnell Ranges: a well watered and grassy country—grass to the top of the hills.

April 17.—Camped without water.

April 18.—At daybreak Kekwick started in search of water, while Stuart ascended a high mount (which he named Freeling Mount) for the purpose of looking for indications of water, which was discovered at two miles distant. Here were found new shrubs and flowers, also a small brown pigeon, with a crest. Native camps and tracks were also seen. On the peak of this mount Stuart built a cone of stones, bearings 293° . The country from the west to the north-east is a mass of hills; to the south-west high broken ranges. The range is named Reynolds' Range, after the Hon. the Treasurer.

April 19.—During the night the horses separated, which delayed starting forward until after 1 o'clock. Water was found in a gum creek on the east side of the mount. The hills were rough sharp rock, impassable for horses, with grass in abundance. Stuart here marked a tree with his initials—J. McD. S. About 10 miles distant, in a branch creek, half-a-mile to the north of this, is more water, while a little higher up, in a ledge of rocks, is a splendid reservoir, about 30 yards in diameter, and 12 feet deep at the edge. A few yards higher up was another ledge of rocks, behind which was a similar reservoir, but smaller, having a drainage into the other. This Stuart named Anna's Reservoir, after Mr. J. Chambers' youngest daughter. Native tracks were again observed.

April 20.—East side of Mount Hugh. Here Stuart discovered a new tree, the seed of which is red, and like a bean; the foliage is very thick. The largest tree seen was about 18 inches in diameter. The wood is softer than cork when in the state of a bush, and has thorns on it like a rose. They also here found a most useful vegetable, and obtained some of the seeds. Stuart says—"We found it first-rate; it can be eaten as salad, boiled as a vegetable, or cooked as a fruit."

April 21.—East side of Mount Freeling. For seven miles the scrub is here open, and the land beautifully grassed. At 36 miles the creeks are running to the north-east; soil of a red sandy color, and grass in abundance. Days hot, but nights cool. Native tracks were here visible.

April 22.—From observations of the sun ($111^{\circ} 00' 50''$) Stuart found himself camped in the centre of Australia, and saw at about two and a-half miles north-north-east a high mount, which he called Central Mount Stuart. Splendid grass was seen all round, but no water, except by scratching a hole in the sand in a creek.

April 23.—This day Stuart and Kekwick ascended the mount, which they found very high and difficult of ascent—

being composed of hard red sandstone, covered with spinifex—but after numerous slips and knocks, succeeded in reaching the top; and building a cone of stones, they planted a pole in the centre, and nailed the British flag thereon. On the top of the cone a bottle was placed, in which was a slip of paper stating by whom it was raised. They then gave three hearty cheers, and descended the hill. The view to the north was over a large plain of gum, mulga, and spinifex, with water-courses running through. The range, Stuart named John Range, after John Chambers, Esq.

April 24.—Kekwick went in search of water, and to examine a hill that had the appearance of a cone of stones upon it. Meanwhile Stuart was resolving as to further movements, and Ben endeavouring to restore the saddle-bags, which had been sadly torn in coming through the scrub. In the afternoon, Kekwick returned successful, having found water higher up the creek, and observed a new rose of a beautiful description, having a seed vessel upon it resembling a gherkin. It had a strong perfume, with white leaves. The native orange tree also abounded here.

April 25.—About two miles west of Central Mount Stuart, Stuart observed a remarkable hill, having another small hill at the north end in the shape of a bottle, which he named Mount Esther, (by request of the female who made the flag). A large creek that flowed round Mount Stuart was named the Hanson. A westerly course was now taken, owing to the sandy nature of the country northward, and on the 27th Stuart arrived at the east side of Mount Denison, and observed a remarkable hill in the distance, which he named Mount Leichardt, in memory of that unfortunate explorer. At the foot of the mount was an abundance of beautifully clear water springing out of a rock resembling marble. The stream extended more than a quarter of a mile, falling into natural basins in the solid rock, about six feet in depth. The country

around was covered with luxuriant grass and vegetation. Mount Leichardt and the range is composed at the base of a soft conglomerate rock, in great irregular masses heaped one upon the other.

To enable the reader the better to understand somewhat of the difficulties and nature of exploring, we give the following paragraph entire:—"April 28.—Gum creek under Mount Denison. As soon as the horses were caught, I started for the top of the mount. I left my horse in a small rocky gum creek, thinking that it would lead me to the foot of the mount. At about a quarter of a mile from the mouth of the gorge I came upon some water in a rocky hole. Followed it up, and at 200 yards was stopped by a perpendicular precipice, with water trickling over it into a large reservoir. I had now to take to the hills, which were very rough, and after a deal of difficulty arrived, as I thought, on the top, but to my disappointment I had to go down a fearful steep gully. At it I went, and again arrived at the top, as I fancied, but here there was another gully to cross, and a rise still higher. I at last arrived at the summit after a deal of labour and many scratches. This is the highest mount I have yet been on; it has taken me full eight hours to climb it. The view is extensive, but not encouraging. Central Mount Stuart bears 95° ; Mount Leichardt $155^{\circ} 30'$. To the south broken ranges and wooded plains, and a long way off appears a very high mountain; to the south-west the same description of range; to the west-south-west a number of ranges seem to terminate; about 30 miles is a high mount; to the west-north-west apparently high land in the distance; to the north-west seemingly an immense open plain with patches of wood, and bearing to the next range, highest point 334° ; to the north another plain; to the north-east termination of MacDonnell Range. As this is the highest mountain that I have seen in Central Australia, I have taken the liberty of naming it Mount Denison, after His

Excellency Sir William Denison, K.C.B., Governor-General. The next range, bearing 334° , being the last of the highest ones, I have named Mount Barkly, after His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, Governor-in-Chief of Victoria."

May 1.—From the unpromising nature of the country, Stuart now changed his course to 335° , and came upon a large gum creek, divided into numerous channels, in one of which he found a native well, from which he watered his horses with a quart pot, each horse drank ten gallons. The rose colored cockatoo was seen here. The creek was named the Fisher, after Sir James Hurtle Fisher. Stuart was compelled to retreat on account of shortness of water.

On the 4th, tracks of natives were seen of a peculiar nature—not broad and flat, as they generally are, but long and narrow, with a deep hollow in the foot, and the large toe projecting, more like the print of a white man than a native. Stuart was obliged to remain here for two days to refresh the horses.

On the 13th Stuart changed his course to the east, and after a short ride narrowly escaped a severe accident. He says—"Here I narrowly escaped being killed. My attention being engaged in looking for water, my horse took fright at a wallaby and rushed into some scrub, which pulled me from the saddle; my foot and the staff which I carry for placing my compass, caught in the stirrup. I found he was dragging me; and he commenced kicking at a fearful rate. He struck me on the shoulder joint, knocked my hat off, and grazed my forehead. I soon got clear, but found the kick on my shoulder very painful. Mounted again, and at seven miles came upon some more low hills, with another prominent peak of a dark red sand stone."

May 15.—Centre. Of the sufferings endured on this occasion, Stuart says:—"The horses look very bad, I shall therefore give them three or four days' rest. It is very vexing, but cannot be helped. The water here will last about ten days. I will cause a search to be made, as I cannot do it myself, being too

unwell. Yesterday I road in the greatest pain, and it was with difficulty I was enabled to sit in the saddle till we reached here, both from the effects of the fall and the scurvy, which has taken a serious hold of me. My hands are a complete mass of sores that will not heal, but if I remain in a place for two or three days where I can wash them they are much better, if not they are worse than ever; I am nearly helpless with them. My mouth and gums are so bad I am obliged to eat flour and water boiled. The pains in my limbs and muscles are almost insufferable; I hope they will soon leave me. Kekwick is also suffering from bad hands; but as yet he has no other signs. I hope and trust it will not be the cause of my turning back."

And, again:—"This morning I observed the muscles of my limbs are changing from the yellow green color to black; my mouth is getting worse, and it is with great difficulty that I can swallow anything."

On the 22nd, Stuart was again enabled to proceed, and took a course bearing 84°. On cutting a small gum creek, Kekwick went in search of water, and met with two natives with two children, who stood still as if paralyzed; then, snatching up their children, ran off with great speed. They appeared to have no hair on their bodies. Near here was plenty of water. This creek was named the Stirling, and contained abundance of water for thirteen miles. Several high peaks and ranges near here were named Mount Gwynne, Mount Mann, Mount Strelitsky, Mount Morphett, Mount Woodcock, Foster Range, Davenport Range, Murchison Range, McDouall Range, Sturt Range, and Short Range. Stuart was now most reluctantly compelled to turn back, his horses being completely knocked up, and himself and companions rendered nearly helpless, having been 101 hours without a drop of water.

On the 13th of June, a party of natives was fallen in with—"They made a number of frantic gestures, shaking their spears, and twirling them round their heads, I suppose bidding

us defiance. They placed a very long spear into the instrument they throw them with, and after a few more gestures descended from the reef and gradually drew nearer. I made signs of encouragement for them to come on, at the same time moved towards them. One of them at last arrived on the banks of the creek, he on one side, I on the other. He had a long spear, a womera, two instruments like the boomerang, but more the shape of a scimitar, with a very sharp edge, having a thick place at the end for the hand, roughly carved. The gestures he was making were signs of hostility; he came fully prepared for war. I then broke a bunch of green leaves, and held it up before him, inviting him to come across to me. That he did not fancy, so I crossed to him, and got within two yards of him. He thought I was quite near enough, and would not have me any nearer, for he kept moving back as I approached him, till at last we both stood still. I then tried to make him understand by signs that all we wanted was the water for two or three days; at last he seemed to understand, nodded his head, pointed to the water, then to our camp, and held up his five fingers. I then endeavoured to learn from him if there was water to the north or north-east, but could make nothing of him. He viewed me very steadily for a long time, began talking, and seeing that I did not understand him, he made the sign that natives generally do of wanting something to eat, and pointed towards me. Whether he meant to ask if I was hungry, or that I would make a supper for him, I do not know. I bowed my head, as if I understood him perfectly. We then separated, keeping a watchful eye upon him all the time I was crossing the creek. Before I left him the other one joined. The first was a tall, powerful, well made fellow, upwards of six feet; his hair was very long. He had a net of red colour round his head, with the end of his hair lying on his shoulder. I observed no other thing that was peculiar about him. They had neither skins nor anything round their bodies, but were quite naked.

They then took their departure. A short time afterwards I saw them joined by five others. We have seen no more of them to-day, and I hope they will not again trouble us, but let my horses rest in peace."

On the 19th, a fine pond of water was found, named Kekwick Ponds, where the party were compelled to camp for a few days' rest.

On the 23rd they were visited by two natives, who presented four opossums and a number of small parrots: they were much frightened at first, but after a short time became very very bold, and wished to steal every thing they could lay their fingers on. "I caught one concealing the rasp used in shoeing horses, under the netting he had round his waist, and was obliged to take it from him by force. The canteens they seemed determined to have, and it was with trouble we could keep them away. They wanted to pry into everything, and it was with difficulty we could keep them off. In about half an hour two other young men approached the camp. Thinking they might be in want of water, and afraid to come to it on account of the horses, I sent Ben with a tin dish full, which they drank. They were very young men, and much frightened, and would not come near. About an hour before sundown the first that came returned, bringing with them three others; two were powerful, tall, good looking young men, and as fine ones as I have yet seen; they had a hat or helmet on their heads, which looked very neat, fitted close to the brow, rising straight to a rounded peak three or four inches above the head, and gradually became narrower towards the back part; the outside is network, the inside is composed of feathers very tightly bound with cord, until it is as hard as a piece of wood. It may be used as a protection against the sun, or armour for the battle field. One of them had a great many scars upon him, and seemed to be the father of the two young men; he was very talkative, but I could make nothing of him. I endeavoured to

obtain from him where the next water is by signs and so on. After talking some time, and he talking to his sons, turned round, and astonished me by giving me a masonic sign. I looked at him steadily; he repeated it, as did also his two sons. I returned it, which seemed to please them much. The old man then patted me on the shoulder, stroked my head, and they took their departure, making friendly signs till out of sight. We enjoyed a good supper from the opossums, which we have not had for many a day. I find the quantity of rations not enough. The men are complaining of weakness for want of sufficient rations. Five pounds of flour per week is too little for any length of time. It may do for a month or so."

On the 26th the party were again beset by natives:—"I was moving on to the place where we crossed the creek in the morning, and had just entered some scrub, when suddenly up started three tall powerful men, fully armed, having a number of boomerangs, waddies, and spears. Their distance from us being about 200 yards, it being also near dark, and the scrub we were then in being very disadvantageous for us, I wished to pass them on without taking any notice of them, but such was not their intention, as they continued to approach us, calling out and making all sorts of gestures, apparently of defiance. I then faced them, making all sorts of signs of friendship I could think of. They seemed to be in a great fury, moving their boomerangs about their heads and howling to the top of their voices, also performing some sort of dance. They were now joined by a number more, which in a few minutes increased to upwards of 30—every bush seemed to produce a man. Putting the horses on towards the creek, and placing ourselves between them and the natives, I told the men to get their guns ready, for I could see they were determined upon mischief. They paid no regard to all the signs of friendship I kept constantly making, but were still gradually approaching nearer. I felt very unwilling to fire upon them



and continued making signs of peace and friendship, but all to no purpose. An old man (the leader) who was in advance, made a sign with his boomerang for us to be off, which proved to be one of defiance, for I had no sooner turned my horse's head to see if that was what they wished, than we received a shower of boomerangs, accompanied by a fearful yell. They then commenced jumping, dancing, yelling, and throwing their arms in all sorts of postures, like so many fiends, and setting fire to the grass. I could now see many others getting up from behind the bushes; still I felt unwilling to fire upon them, and tried to make them understand that we wished to do them no harm. They now came within 40 yards of us, and again made a charge, throwing their boomerangs, which came whistling and whizzing past our ears. One spear struck my horse. I then gave orders to fire, which stayed their mad career for a little. Our packhorses which were before us took fright when they heard the firing and fearful yelling, and made off for the creek. Seeing the blacks running from bush to bush with the intention of cutting us off from them, while those in front were still yelling, throwing their boomerangs and coming nearer to us, gave them another reception, and sent Ben after the horses to drive them to a more favourable place, while Kekwick and I remained to cover our rear. We soon got in advance of our enemies, but they still kept following beyond the reach of our guns; the fearful yelling continuing, and fires springing up in every direction; and it being now quite dark, with the country scrubby, and our enemy numerous, bold, and daring, we could easily be surrounded and destroyed by such determined fellows as these have shown themselves to be. Seeing there is no chance with such fearful odds against us, and knowing the disadvantages under which we labored, I very reluctantly made up my mind to push on for last night's camp."

The arrangements and manner of attack of the natives were as well conducted as Europeans could do it. They observed

them passing in the morning, examined their tracks, and knew they would not find water, but must return to get it, and their operations were conducted accordingly. Their charge was in double column, open order, and Stuart's party had to take steady aim to make an impression. "With such as these for enemies," says Stuart, "it would be destruction to all my party for me to attempt to go on; and all the information of the interior that I have already obtained would be lost, having only half rations for six months (four of which are already gone), and my men complaining of weakness from short rations, and unable to perform what they out to do; and my health being so bad that I am scarcely able to sit in the saddle the whole day. After considering all these obstacles, I think it would be madness and folly to risk more. If my life would be the only sacrifice, I would willingly give it to accomplish the end that I aimed at." These natives are described as being of a different cast of features from those of the south, having neither the broad flat nose, large mouth, nor the projecting eyebrows, but more of the Malay—tall, muscular, and well-made men. They buried their dead in trees, like some other of the aboriginies.

The party were now suffering greatly from scurvy and want of provisions, particularly water, and were reluctantly compelled to return homewards, followed for some time by the natives, who were fully armed, but who kept at a distance. For a few days Stuart's party were relieved by finding a quantity of the native cucumber and other vegetables. The cucumber is from one to two inches long and one broad. Two gallons of these were obtained from one vine. When boiled and eaten with sugar they resembled the gooseberry.

After much laborious travelling and privations, they reached Chambers' Creek on the 2nd September, with only two horses out of thirteen, and after a few days rest proceeded again to Adelaide.

