

above its previous level, and it continued to rise, but more gradually; muddy and sudden, it appeared to Captain Sturt that the waters might be thrown into the river through the medium of the Williorara, and that this flood might have been caused by the rains on the hills towards which they were approaching—for he could hardly imagine that they came from the basin of the Darling, from which they were at least 500 miles distant. On the 8th of October they arrived within sixteen miles of Williorara, but looked in vain for the hills seen by Sir Thomas Mitchell in that neighbourhood. The river had risen bank high, and had filled the lagoons, and some of the flats were also covered.

On the 9th, about two p.m., Mr. Poole saw a low range, with two cones, bearing northwest by north, but his view of them was very indistinct. There was also a line of gum trees extending to the northwest, and a solitary signal smoke, rising in a dark column above the horizon of that depressed interior, bore due west of him. The natives on the Darling were friendly, and were generally a handsome race. On the 10th they started on a course a little westward of north, which they changed to one of due north, from which they had a more distinct view of the range, bearing north 10° east. They descended from the higher ground to a low flat of polygonum, growing on a cold whitish clay, without a blade of grass upon it, and immediately afterwards found themselves on the banks of the Williorara, into which a strong current was running from the river, and which he found to be not a mountain stream but a back water. The floods, therefore, which had swollen the Darling, had evidently come from some more distant point. The party encamped near the mouth of the Williorara, about $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles distant from Sir Thomas Mitchell's last camp on the banks of the Darling. The Williorara, however, affording no facility for travelling, being a mere channel of communication between the river and lakes Cawndilla and Menandichi, Captain Sturt was disappointed in his hopes of making his way to the hilly country. The report of the natives as to the distant interior was very gloomy, they seemed in actual dread of it. The course, however, of the Darling from this point in long. $142^{\circ} 26'$, lat. $32^{\circ} 26'$, following it upwards was nearly north-east, therefore in spite of these discouraging reports, Captain Sturt resolved to strike for the hills as soon as he should have ascertained something more of the nature of the country between them. In proceeding up the Darling, the weather was very warm, but at Williorara it was much colder. The boiling point was 112° , the thermometer stood at 66° , and the wind south-west. Mr. Poole, who had been sent to inspect the country towards the hills, returned on the 15th, and reported that the range was about twenty-eight miles distant, extending to the north, and that from their summit he observed numerous other ranges to the north-west as a medium point, with a large body of water, amidst which they arose like islands. At this time the party were attended by about sixty natives, who behaved on the whole very well. Captain Sturt having decided to proceed to the hills, finally left the course of the Darling, and crossed the little ridge which separates the lakes of Cawndilla and Menandichi, and descended into the flats of the latter, whence they soon rose to plains of great extent, partly intersected by