

But leaving Port Essington—can we not colonise other spots about equal degrees of latitude, which would at once equally serve the purposes of emigration, so far as it is conducive to the general purposes of England? Exploring trips and visits have already been made by Colonel Barney to Port Curtis and other spots suited for the proposed new convict settlement in North Australia.

In the great gulf or estuary of Carpentaria, there are ports which offer themselves. Settlements might be formed suited to England's purposes in certain of these latitudes, equally eligible for commercial objects and yet combining advantages which Port Essington does not possess. It is, for example, of almost indispensable advantage to a coast settlement that it has a navigable river in its vicinity. If a more extensive and accurate survey of the countries which border this gulf were made, probabilities are greatly in favour of finding rivers from the interior which point either south, east, or west, as the nature of the soils may determine, offering spots as advantageous for the trading emporium with China, and the rich Archipelago which lies between that country and New Holland, as the one formed upon the representations of Sir J. Gordon Bremer.

Captain Stokes's surveys have thrown new light on the boundaries and coasts of North Australia. The interior discoveries now in progress of being made by Sir Thomas Mitchell are also very important, as regards our knowledge of the eastern soils of Australia. This journey of exploration, conducted by a man of his experience and abilities, cannot fail to throw much light over the eastern part of the interior of this continent. We may, therefore, soon calculate on a much more intimate acquaintance with the territorial country lying between Sydney and Port Essington, on which so much light has already been thrown by Dr. Leichardt.

Those parts that have actually been surveyed have been found propitious. It has been said that a singular dearth of rivers has formed a grand barrier to the Colonisation of Australia; but in those parts of New South Wales surveyed by Sir Thomas Mitchell, and ranging from latitude  $30^{\circ}$  to  $25^{\circ}$ , and longitude  $147^{\circ}$  to  $149^{\circ}$ , we are told of no less than six or seven rivers of very considerable magnitude, beside others of less extent, which stemmed the progress of the travellers.

When we read of the Bogan, the Macquarie, the Darling, the Narran, the Ballone, the Bokhara, the Ballandoola, the Biree, the Cogoon, the Maranoa, and others, some of them rivers of great magnitude, it is impossible to give credit to an opinion that the region of New South Wales is not well watered. When, likewise, we are told of the Narran being a "wonderful provision of nature" for the supply and retention of water in a dry and parched country, irrigating thus, from one principal channel, extensive regions of rich earth beyond the Darling, and forming extensive reservoirs, and furnishing an inexhaustible supply for the support of animal life. When we hear, in lat.  $26^{\circ} 39' 30''$  S., of a "fine open country, extending as far as the eye or telescope could reach, watered by a river from the northward—a splendid region." When, again, we read of lakes and springs of the purest water, in a country