

## NATURAL HISTORY.

(Journals of Two Expeditions of Discovery in the North-West and Western Australia, during the years 1837, 1838, and 1839, under the Authority of her Majesty's Government. By George Grey, Esq., Governor of South Australia, late Captain in the 83d Regiment.)

## A BIVOUACK.

Our bivouack this night had a beauty about it which would have made any one possessed with enthusiasm in love with a bush life. We were sitting on a gently-rising ground, which sloped away gradually to a picturesque lake, surrounded by wooded hills—whilst the moon shone so brightly on the lake that the distance was perfectly clear, and we could distinctly see the large flocks of wild fowl as they passed over our heads, and then splashed into the water, darkening and agitating its silvery surface; in front of us blazed a cheerful fire, round which were the dark forms of the natives busily engaged in roasting ducks for us; the foreground was covered with graceful grass trees, and at the moment we commenced supper I made the natives set fire to the dried tops of two of these, and by the light of these splendid chandeliers, which threw a red glare over the whole forest in our vicinity, we ate our evening meal; then, closing round the fire, rolled ourselves up in our blankets and laid down to sleep.

## A RAVINE.

We found the ravine bounded throughout the southern side by inaccessible cliffs. Occasionally little branch ravines ran into it, but, on penetrating for some distance up these, they invariably terminated in precipitous cascades. A great portion of this afternoon was spent up to our middles in water as we waded about the flooded valley, and the only thing we had to compensate us for the fatigue and suffering we underwent was the wild beauty of the scenery, which was as lovely and picturesque as impetuous torrents, foaming cascades, lofty rocks, and a rich tropical vegetation could render it. On our return homewards, wearied and disappointed, we came close upon a large party of natives before they were aware of our presence. Coles had followed me up the northern bank of the ravine, and we thus occupied a good position; the natives had, I suppose, wished to avoid us, for we saw no more of them, but merely heard the sound of their retiring voices as they moved up the centre of the valley.

## AN ENCAMPMENT.

In the course of the afternoon, a path had been made, and most of the stores were safely stowed upon an elevated table-land where we had pitched the tents. The place I had chosen for our camp was a pretty spot; a sweet, short herbage had been raised by the heavy rains from the sandy soil, and amongst this the beautiful flowers for which Australia is deservedly celebrated were so scattered and intermixed that they gave the country an enamelled appearance. A lofty species of casuarina was intermingled with trees of a denser foliage, and on each side we looked down into two deep ravines, through the dense dark foliage of which could be seen the white foaming waters brawling on their way far below.

The next day was occupied in bringing up the remainder of the stores from the ravine, and repairing the damages which had resulted from the bursting of bags and other mischief in their transit over such rough ground. Early in the morning we all had a good bath, and only those who have been so constantly engaged under a burning sun, and for upwards of a week without regularly washing or undressing, can at all estimate the pleasure with which I plunged into the clear and rapid stream. After thus performing our ablutions we breakfasted, and then, whilst the stores were being conveyed to the table-land, I started to explore a route for our line of march next day.

The direction in which I now wished to travel presented a series of rocky, sandy plains, thinly wooded, and affording a scanty sufficiency of food for the ponies.

CATLIN'S MODEL OF NIAGARA.—Mr. Catlin has added to his curious museum of Indian costumes and weapons, scen-

ry and portraits, an elaborate and highly finished Model of the Falls of Niagara, representing in miniature, on a scale of exact proportion, the Falls and the Rapids above, with the surrounding scenery and buildings, exactly as they appeared at the time. No one who has not visited Niagara can form a correct estimate of the appearance and extent of this wonder of nature; pictures and descriptions alike fail; but the model makes clear at a glance the plan of the phenomenon, and enables the visitor to comprehend its cause and effect. Of course nothing but Niagara itself can convey an idea of the sublimity of the scene; and its impression on the mind and the sense will vary with every beholder. Each house and tree is a portrait; and the different heights of the two Falls are discriminated minutely: the little islands studded with trees, the spots of foam on the surface of the Rapids, the bridge across the Fall to Goat Island, its covered ways down the face of the cliff to the river—every object, in short, is indicated according to accurate measurement. The shores have undergone some change since Mr. Catlin was there, but the great cataract remains the same.—*London Spectator.*

CELEBRATED OAKS.—The oldest oak in England is supposed to be the Parliament Oak (from the tradition of Edward I. holding a parliament under its branches) in Clipstone Park, belonging to the Duke of Portland, this park being also the most ancient in the island; it was a park before the conquest, and was seized as such by the Conqueror. The tree is supposed to be 1500 years old. The tallest oak was supposed to be the property of the same nobleman; it was called the "Duke's walking stick," was higher than Westminster Abbey, and stood till of late years. The largest oak is called Calthorp Oak, Yorkshire; it measures 78 feet in circumference, where the trunk meets the ground. The "Three Shire Oak" at Worksop, was so called from its covering part of the counties of York, Nottingham, and Derby. It had the greatest expanse of any recorded in this island, dropping over 777 square yards. The most productive oak was that of Gelonos in Monmouthshire, felled in 1810. Its bark brought £200, and its timber £670. In the mansion at Tredegar Park, Monmouthshire, there is said to be room 42 feet long, and 22 feet broad, the floor and wainscots of which were the production of a single oak tree, grown on the estate.

DEATH OF A CHIMPANZEE.—The female Chimpanzee, of the Bristol Zoological Gardens, died this week. The imitations of her male companion excited the sympathy of the keepers; its moans and cries can hardly be surpassed by a human being. It was with difficulty that the body could be taken from him. In order to tranquillize him, a puppy dog was placed with him, which he fondles and carries on his back, to the great amusement of the spectator. The Chimpanzee regularly takes his breakfast with the keeper and his wife.—*English paper.*

HYGIENE.—The Buffalo Commercial contains the following rules, which are extracted from the Paris paper and published under the auspices of the "Comité de Salubrité." They may not be out of place in this latitude.

1st. Any person bitten by a mad dog or any other animal should immediately press with the two hands all round the wound, so as to make the blood run freely and extricate the saliva.

2nd. Wash the wound with a mixture of alkali and water, ley, soap, salt water, urine, or even pure water.

During the time of pressing and washing the wound, warm a piece of iron in the fire and apply it deeply to the said wound. Mind that said piece of iron is only heated so as to be able to cauterize—that it must not be red hot.

## THE SATURDAY EVENING VISITOR

Is printed and published by RICHARD NUGENT, at his Office, West Front of the Province Building, Halifax. Terms—3s. 9d. per annum, in advance, or 1d. per copy. When sent by Mail 5s., in all cases to be paid in advance.