

## SIMMONDS'S COLONIAL MAGAZINE.

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### PROGRESS OF DISCOVERY IN AUSTRALIA—THE LATE EXPEDITION OF CAPTAIN STURT.

UNDER the sanction of His Excellency the Governor, Captain Sturt has published in the South Australian journals a lengthy account of his late expedition into the interior of New Holland. The leading incentive to the publication of this elaborate paper appears to have been to explain the contrast presented by the late expedition of Sir Thomas Mitchell and that of Captain Sturt, and to exhibit some of the natural causes which lead to the existence of the luxuriant country discovered by the former in the proximity of the almost impenetrable desert traversed by the latter.\* The present narrative of Captain Sturt's journey commences from the starting point. On the 15th August, 1844, his party left Adelaide, and proceeded to Gawler-town, his instructions directing him to gain the meridian of Mount Arden, or that of  $138^{\circ}$ , with a view to determine whether there was any chain of mountains connected with the high lands seen by Mr. Eyre to the westward of Lake Torrens, and running into the interior from south-west to north-east. He was then ordered to push to the westward, and to make the south the constant base of his operations. He was prohibited from descending to the north coast, but it was left optional to him to fall back on Moreton Bay, if forced to the eastward. How far he accomplished his mission he leaves to the public to judge; and while regretting that he has discovered no fine country, states that he was not sent to do so, but to solve a geographical problem. His own desire and ambition were to extend his investigations over the Province of South Australia, as far as his instructions would permit, and to strike to the centre of the continent. His course into the interior was left open to him by the Secretary of State. The basin of Lake Torrens presented an insurmountable obstacle to a northern course; and, after much consideration, he started up the Darling, with a view of tracing the Williorara upwards. The expedition left Moorundee on the 21st August, under the charge of Mr. Poole, followed on the 24th by Captain Sturt, Mr. Eyre, and Tenbury, the native constable at Moorundee. The nights, in the valley of the

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\* At vol. vii., p. 257, and vol. viii., p. 257, we gave particulars and extracts from other despatches of Captain Sturt.—EDITOR.