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For two or three years, this company was busy in building a jail, a tavern, a soldier's barracks, and a government house; and to this day, these are the most important public institutions on the island, in comparison with which, churches and seminaries of learning, are NON-ESSENTIALS, in perpetuating the supremacy of British rule. The natives found on the island at this time, were in a state of nakedness, covered with filth, having no form of government save the patriarchal, of a short stature, large woolly heads, flat noses like the Africans, high cheek bones like the American Indian, broad face, and of a dark complexion. They have now become nearly extinct.

The island contains about 24,000 square miles—is situated in lat. 41 deg. 20 min. S., and long. 144 deg. 40, and 148 deg. 20, E., and is 150 miles in width and 210 in length, south of New Holland; from which it is separated by Bass Straits. In 1841, the free population of the island, was about 50,000, of which number, 20,000 was transported convicts, who had gained their freedom, and 22,000 convicts, and in 1842, arrangements were made to give an accession of 10,000 both to the free and convict population.—Of the convicts, 7,000 are females. Hobart Town, from the best of my knowledge, contains about 8,000 inhabitants. The principal animal found here by the Colonists, was the Kangaroo. There are several species of snakes, and all that I ever saw, were said to be venomous. Among the birds may be found the parrot, magpie, cockatoo, emu, large black swan, &c. The face of the country is rugged, and not one half of the island can be said to be arable land, and irrigation is necessary to induce a good share of this to yield a tolerable crop. It was the custom of the natives formerly, to set fire to the woods in every part of the Island, during the dry season, which spread with so much rapidity, that it would drive the Kangaroo to points of safety, where they were easily taken by the natives for food, and opossums and other smaller animals could be found in the burnt districts, ready roasted, in quantities sufficient to supply the Islanders with food for a long time. Vegetation does not grow spontaneously to any degree of luxuriance, as four acres of the native soil, will hardly produce weeds and Kangaroo grass, sufficient to support two sheep; and clover and timothy do not grow very well except on land which has been irrigated. Oats and barley are the principal crops relied on by the farmers; wheat being frequently cut off by frosts, though the climate is generally mild throughout the year. Potatoes are blasted in the midland districts, from the same cause, very often, but the other parts of the island supply them in tolerable abundance.

Upon our arrival here, Sir John Franklin was Lieutenant Governor of the Island; he was a very old man, and is known the world over, as being a noted English navigator. He had been employed by the English government in several exploring expeditions, and voyages of discovery. His imbecillity, "that