

to the party driving so large a number of animals before them in an unexplored country.

In my party were two young gentlemen who joined it as assistants. On Monday, the 26th October, 1840, all engaged in the expedition were on their feet by daybreak, the men preparing their breakfast, and we superintending for the day's journey, which was rarely to exceed 15 miles. Everything being in readiness, I gave the order to advance. The two gentlemen had charge of the cattle and horses, and I undertook the management of the sheep and drays. The cattle, in one mob, preceded the sheep, which were classed in ten flocks. As the latter covered a very large space of ground, I soon found it was no sinecure office to superintend their travelling. The heat was excessive during the middle of the day, which made it impossible for the panting sheep to travel between the hours of 12 and 2 p.m. During this time they would cluster round the trees in small parties, and no exertion on the part of the shepherds, nor of their dogs, could induce them to move on so long as the almost insupportable heat continued. As by general consent, the expedition would come to a dead stand-still. I usually ordered the working bullocks to be unyoked, and allowed them to feed upon what they could pick up in the neighbourhood. So soon as the atmosphere was a little cool the sheep were set in motion, and I proceeded in advance of the whole party for the purpose of selecting the night's camping ground, where there might be an abundance of water and plenty of fire-wood, as well as feed for the cattle and horses. The drays would now leave the sheep and push forward to the spot I had chosen to encamp for the night. The tent would then be pitched, and all made as comfortable as our means would allow. A deal box, containing a change of clothes, formed our table, and a few large stones usually served for chairs. A fire near the tent was soon made, and those of the men who were not in attendance upon the stock, proceeded to collect fire-wood and arrange their own sleeping apartments, which were under the drays, being protected from the weather by means of a tarpauling thrown over the vehicle. Some, also, were occupied in preparing for the night's repast of the whole camp. Towards dusk the cattle would be brought to within a few hundred feet of the tent, and in a very short space of time would be seen to lie down. Fires were lighted at a short distance all around their bedding ground (to scare away the troublesome native dog), and two men would set up all night to watch them. The sheep, in flocks, would take up a position so as to encircle the cattle, and they again were surrounded by fires and watched in like manner. The working bullocks and horses would be sent to graze at a short distance from the camp, and, to prevent their straying home, were also attended by a man, whose duty it was to keep them in view, lest they might wander back to their old run. The watch being thus set, the men were enjoined to repeat the superintendent's call of "All's well" every half hour. The call, being made from the tent, was, or should have been, answered by all the men on duty. Sleep, after the fatigues of the day, would, however, send some of the watchmen into the arms of Morpheus, and then, of course, no reply would be made to the call; it was the province of