

could push on. The men at this time had begun to despond, but made up for it by subsequent exertions. The journey with the drays which had been left behind at the creek that had been discovered, is described as fearful. Captain Sturt says—

“An extract from my journal of that date will perhaps give the reader a better idea of our position at that time than anything I can say:—‘Thursday, January 2nd. The drays reached the creek at three this morning—both men and bullocks worn out. I had hoped that they would have got out of the pinery before sunset yesterday, but they did not. The men assure me the sand was so insufferably hot that the poor animals could not endure it. The men had the upper leather of their shoes burst as if by fire, and Lewis had his back most severely blistered. The dogs lost all the skin off the soles of their feet, and followed the team with difficulty. One of them, old Fingal, has remained behind to perish.’”

For a considerable time the party staid at the lagoon, examining the country round to endeavour to find a safe course, and a considerable portion of Captain Sturt's narrative is here devoted to a description of the country. It was during these excursions that Mr. Poole discovered a supply of water amongst the stony ridges, which alone enabled the party to keep their station for six months in the heart of the desert. On the return of the exploring party to the camp, they found that the supply of water from the creek was gone. On the 27th, the party removed to the rocky glen, where Mr. Poole had discovered the water, and encamped close by a fine serpentine sheet of water, about a quarter of a mile in length. This was the formation of the permanent encampment, and we give Captain Sturt's description of it:—

“There was not much grass in the immediate neighbourhood of the camp, but there was an abundance of feed lower down the creek, and amongst the slaty hills to the westward of us. The depot camp, in lat. $29^{\circ} 40' 14''$ south, and longitude $141^{\circ} 30'$ east, was established on the 27th January, and the tents were not again struck until the 14th of July following, making a detention of 161 days. We had little idea, however, when we sat down in that lonely wilderness, that we were to suffer so severe a trial. Had we been so, few of us, perhaps, would have had strength of mind to have sustained it. Mr. Poole, however, had not over-estimated the value of the spot to us. There was an abundant supply of water in the glen, sheltered from the rays of the sun by high rocks, even supposing the pool at which we were encamped had run dry; but although not more than 40 feet broad, it was $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, and about a quarter of a mile in length. Besides this there was a lagoon, at which the cattle watered, but it was shallow, and was soon exhausted. The sources of this, to us, important creek, were to the westward of us, on large and open plains, that were elevated considerably above the desert country beyond them. In its progress to the eastward, it passed through a defile in the slaty range close to us, and at about a mile below the camp joined a much larger creek from the north, on the dry character of which I have already remarked. Independently, however, of the slaty range through which the Depot Creek passed,