

and was copiously supplied with draughts of seawater, Parker's infallible remedy for all the ills of the bad sailor ; but for the most part, the weather was glorious, and by the end of a month even Maitland was looking a different man, though he was still very shy and retiring, and not half so bronzed and fit as most young men of his age would have become by this time.

The voyage gave Sir Donald ample time in which to mature his plans and sketch out the route he intended to take. Together we pored over the latest maps and came to a pretty definite conclusion that the particular district we were bound for was still practically unexplored and unknown. The reader may acquaint himself with the geographical position of the district in question by drawing a line through the map of Australia from north to south, almost exactly halving it ; then, following this line down about one-third of its distance, he will know as much as we did, during our voyage, about Smith's possible whereabouts.

In due course we transhipped at Thursday Island in Torres Strait and made for Normanton in the Gulf of Carpentaria. From that young and growing little town we went to Burketown on the Albert River, and it seemed to me as if this must certainly be the *Ultima Thule* of civilisation. Nor was I far wrong, for between it and Port Darwin in the Northern Territory, about a thousand miles distant, there was no other settlement worth calling such ; nothing but a few solitary cattle runs—great open plains by the coast, where the cannibal black and the wild horse roamed, with here and there long