

as he approached the Gulf of Carpentaria; and Leichardt and his followers fell victims to the spears of the same tribes a little more to the eastward. But as a contrast to this, when Burke and his two companions were left to starve at Cooper's Creek, they were sustained for many days by the generous kindness of the natives whom they found in that locality. I do not attribute these differences of character to differences of origin. In the north the natives are better supplied with food, and their ranks are frequently receiving accessions from the wild tribes of the archipelago, and probably from the Malagar peninsular itself; in the same manner, though in a less degree, as the Philippine Islands receive reinforcements from China and the other Asiatic coasts.

The character of the average Australian is noted rather for its negative than for its positive features; by which I do not mean that these people are incapable of improvement. As a rule they are indolent and apathetic. They dislike any thing that gives them trouble, and still they are patient and persevering. They will pass two or three days without food rather than exert themselves to find a daily supply, unless at least it is close at hand and can be had without much effort. If they are in want of fire, they will often prefer to travel for another day or two, in the hope of getting some from their neighbours, than take the trouble to "make" it for themselves. Yet they will plod along over many long miles under a burning sun, without food, to change their location; or they will spend weeks diligently carving out a boomerang or a waddy, with a few rough stones. I have always found these people faithful and trustworthy companions. I have travelled among them through a wide area of country, and almost always alone. I have associated with many tribes and met with them at different times under very varied circumstances, and I have always found them uniformly friendly and kind, ever ready to render me a service even at their own personal inconvenience. They have a keen sense of honour. They will enter upon undertakings of hardship or danger for a master or one whom they regard as a friend, and they will not hesitate to risk their lives in his service. They are submissive and ever ready to do a kindness to a friend, if they find him in need or distress. But while this is the result of my experience among them, I must add that in all my intercourse with aborigines tribes in any part of the world, I have ever made it an invariable rule to treat them with kindness and *confidence*. I believe that to trust in their right intentions will go farther to win their friendship than a very large amount of bribery, and the effect is