

Society, for their extensive researches and determinations of longitude and latitude in Northern, Eastern, and Western Australia. Whilst more recently, the bold expedition of Burk and Wills cost these noble fellows their lives, the latest researches of their successors stand out as indeed most singularly successful. M'Douall Stuart, after various previous triumphs, in one of which he reached the watershed of North Australia, has actually passed from Adelaide, in South Australia, to Van Dieman Bay on the north coast, in latitude 15 deg. S. Contemporaneously with this last expedition, M'Kinlay, proceeding also from Adelaide, reached the Gulf of Carpentaria, and thence travelled to the eastern shore; and Landsborough, realizing all the value of the discoveries of Burk and Wills, and penetrating from the Gulf of Carpentaria, traversed the continent southward until he regained the noble colony of Victoria, in which the expedition was organized. The rapid rise of the different colonies in Australia is truly marvellous; and whilst we have successfully occupied all the available ports and lands along the eastern, southern, and western sides of this great continent, we are, I rejoice to say, now beginning to extend our settlements to the north coast, the occupation of which I have advocated for many a year, on political as well as on commercial and colonial grounds. A few years only of practical researches have dispelled our ignorance respecting the interior of this vast mass of land; in which, though there are wild desert tracks, there are also many rich and well-watered oases of fine pasture-grounds, through which the colonists may open out communications across the continent from the south and east to the northern shores. A short time only, I venture to predict, will elapse before towns arise at the head of the Gulf of Carpentaria, as well as at the mouth of the Victoria River of the north; from whence, as well as from the new settlement of Cape York, Australia will have a direct communication with our great Indian Empire."

Referring to the discovery of the sources of the Nile, the President remarked upon the fact that "traveller after traveller, from the days of the Egyptian priests and of the Roman emperors down to modern periods, had endeavored to ascend the Nile to its source, and all had failed"; and that it was by reversing the process, and by proceeding from the east coast of Africa, near Zanzibar, to the central plateau land between North and South Africa, that Captains Speke and Grant had solved the problem.