

tion of the ranges was due north and south, and as they appeared from the plains, looked like a dark wall stretched across the land. The outline of the hills were generally rounded; there were no cones, nor were the hills themselves of any great elevation. From the Rocky Gully they proceeded on a bearing of 142° , and they gradually increased their distance from the hills. They traversed stony plains, but thinly covered with salsolaceous plants, and about sunset descended to softer ground, and made for a line of gum-trees, under which they found the dry and gravelly bed of a creek. Here, after digging, they obtained water enough for themselves and cattle, and halted for the night. The precincts of the creek were both grassy and open, but soon afterwards they entered a low scrub, in breaking through which they had to cross low ridges of land crowned with pine-trees. These ridges were running nearly north-east and south-west, and were separated by narrow flats of red clay, with bare patches on them. Neither on these nor on the sandy ridges, however, was there any deficiency of grass; on the contrary, although thin, it was of luxuriant growth; during the whole of the day, however, they found no water, nor on the resumption of their journey, through twenty-five miles of a similar country, in consequence of which they put back to the creek from which they had started two days before. The remarkable feature of the country, even so low down as lat. $33^{\circ} 40' 8''$ was the growth of pine-trees. The party remained at the camp for some days, a violent fall of rain taking place, and Mr. Poole was sent to see if any better prospect was afforded by taking a route nearer to the hills. On the 2nd of December he returned, having gained lat. $29^{\circ} 52'$, and had terminated his excursion at a chain of small lakes connected with each other by narrow sandy channels; the water in them was salt. The country, till he arrived at these lakes, was the same as has been before described, but here it became more open. It became necessary now to proceed with great caution, and explorations of the surrounding country were made, but no indications of water discovered till the 7th December, when a little creek was discovered by Mr. Flood. On the 10th, they reached the creek, which was verdant, and supplied them abundantly with water, which, however, soon began to disappear. The party were dispersed in different directions to a considerable distance, to endeavour to discover a practicable course where water could be obtained, but without success, the whole country being sandy, and covered with gloomy pine forest. It was in this dense forest, that they first experienced the excessive heat which was subsequently felt in traversing other brushes of the same kind. The thermometer was seldom under 99° , often up to 112° in the shade, and at midnight to 86° and 90° . Still, however, everything wore a green and fresh appearance, and the cereal grasses were not yet ripe. On the 28th, the party started forward. For two or three days they toiled through desolate pine brush and sandy desert, seeking water, but in vain. The cattle were completely exhausted, and two of the bullocks dropped on their way to the bank of a muddy lagoon which was discovered by Mr. Poole. On the last day of the year 1844, they once more rounded the cattle upon a plain, but it was midnight before they