

o'clock the anchor was weighed. This is a most curious river, and might well be made the scene of a romance by some poetical person. It is only every ten or twelve days that craft drawing over ten feet can get up or down the river, and then only by the light of the moon. By day no large vessel can reach Rockhampton.

*Friday, August 5th.*—At eight o'clock a.m. we hove anchor and proceeded to the mouth of the Fitzroy River. The pilot left us at 10.30, and we proceeded out to sea under sail. We passed through



CARDWELL SCHOOL-HOUSE.

the Cumberland Isles, and Tom had a rather anxious night, as the navigation was very intricate.

*Saturday, August 6th.*—The scenery during the day was lovely, and I was carried into the deck-house in order that I might enjoy it. The east coast of Australia at this season of the year is a perfect cruising-ground for yachtsmen. The Great Barrier Reef, extending for a distance of 1000 miles from Swain Reefs to Cape Yorke, protects the coasts from the heavy swell of the Pacific. The inner route, which we followed, passes between numberless rocks and islands. Turning from the sea to the mainland, the coast-range at a short distance inland forms a continuous barrier, varying in height from 3000 to upwards of 4000 feet.