

the seat of commerce and manufactures, and the chosen abode of an industrious and virtuous people, I would have this ultimate destination kept steadily in view from the formation of the first settlement within its territory. With this view I would recommend that, in the first instance, its limits should be permanently fixed, its entire coast-line accurately surveyed, and its capabilities both by sea and land thoroughly ascertained. Such a survey as even Captain Flinders made of Shoal Bay, Moreton Bay, and Port Curtis, would evidently be insufficient for this purpose, as it might leave the most important rivers or inlets along the coast undiscovered. The survey must be one of so minute a description as to leave no nook or corner along the whole line of coast unexplored, and with this view an expedition by land, to follow up that of Dr. Leichardt, to Cape York—the northern extremity of the Australian land to the eastward of the Gulf of Carpentaria—would be indispensably necessary. Such an expedition, by keeping towards the Pacific on its outward course, and towards the Gulf on its return, would cross every important stream in the territory, and show at once what part of the coast-line would be the most suitable to fix on for the future emporium of its commerce and the seat of its Government. This point being ascertained, therefore, I would recommend that the available convict labour of the settlement should be expended, not in attempting to raise food of any kind for the consumption of the convicts and troops (for this could in all probability be supplied at a much cheaper rate from the neighbouring free colonies of New South Wales and Cooksland), but in those works of indispensable necessity for a community of British origin which the nature of the harbour and the sight of the future capital would suggest, such as the formation of quays or wharfs, roads or streets, the construction of tanks or reservoirs, if necessary, and the erection of public buildings. In this way much valuable property, in the shape of building allotments, &c., &c., would be created, the sale of which, on the opening up of the settlement for freemen, would reimburse the Government for a large portion of the expenditure incurred, while the comfort of the Colonists and the advancement of the Colony would be greatly promoted. Nor should this process be confined to the mere capital of the new Colony. Secondary towns would spring up rapidly in suitable localities both along the Pacific and along the Gulf of Carpentaria, and if the Government should only make a judicious choice of the sites for such towns, it would not only secure for itself the direction of the rapidly increasing stream of population and its guidance into the proper channels but provide for the eventual repayment, in the way I have already indicated, of a large portion of the expenditure incurred in their formation."

At the fourth chapter we are favoured with an interesting account of the author's visit to Moreton Bay in the close of 1845, and this is one of the most readable portions of the book. We give an extract or two.

Abundance of Fish.

"There is no place near Sydney where fish is in such abundance, or of such excellent quality, as at Moreton Bay; and in the event of a large free immigrant population being settled in that part of the territory, a fishery could be established in the Bay with great facility, not only for the supply of a large commercial town, but for curing and exportation. The species of fish that are commonest in the Bay are mullet, bream, puddinba (a native name, corrupted by the colonists into pudding-ball), kingfish, jewfish, blackfish, whiting, catfish (a fish with a large head, resembling a haddock in taste), &c., &c. The puddinba is like a mullet in shape, but larger, and very fat; it is esteemed a great delicacy. Cod and snapper are the species most frequent at the Flat Rock outside the entrance.

"Turtle are very numerous in their proper season, particularly at Kabeipa, the southern extremity of the Bay, where small coasting vessels take in cedar for Sydney. An intelligent black native whom I met with on the Brisbane River, about the middle of December, when asked when the turtle would come to the Bay, held up five fingers in reply, saying, "that moon;" signifying that they would come about the middle of May. The greatest excitement prevails in hunting the turtle (for it can scarcely be called fishing), black natives being always of the party, and uniformly the principal performers. The deepest silence must prevail, and if the slightest noise is made by any European of the party, the natives, who assume the direction of affairs, frown the offender into silence. They are constantly looking all around them for the game, and their keen eye detects the turtle in the deep water, when invisible to Europeans. Suddenly, and without any intimation of any kind, one of them leaps over the gunwale of the boat, and dives down in the deep water between the oars, and perhaps, after an interval of three minutes, reappears on the surface with a large turtle. As soon as he appears with his prey, three or four other black fellows leap overboard to his assistance, and the helpless creature is immediately transferred into the boat. A black fellow has in this way not unfrequently