

A journey undertaken by
Henry Hellyer to Mt Farrell
the Fairy Gorge
Barn Bluff
and
Cradle Mt.
1828.



From a copy
in the possession
of Mr W. Walker

HOBART 45 Lansdowne Crescent,
Hobart.

Made by Miss D. E. Fleming.

Name _____

Address _____

Class _____

①

Henry Hellyer Esq. to Edward Curr Esq.
Discovery of R. Mackintosh, Eldon Range etc
Emu Bay. 29th Nov. 1828.

I have the honour to announce the return of the exploring party from their 3rd journey, the particulars of which I take the earliest opportunity of reporting. Having made arrangements before leaving Burleigh to enable the party to take a 14 days journey I determined to take a S. W. course from that place leaving the mountains on our left and to go as far as the line of demarcation agreed to on the part of the M. Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governors & Directors of the Company after which it was my intention to have returned through the country to the S. W. of Mt. Pearce, but that design was frustrated by a change of the weather after we had crossed the large rivers which obliged us to go to the E. until we could recross those rivers we had to endure the most dreadful weather as well as the most laborious & dangerous travelling with great difficulty reached Burleigh on the 17th day each persons knapsack weighing upon the average 55 lbs which required no trifling exertion to endure. We proceeded down the Burleigh Road about 3 miles after getting beyond

Firstock Hill took a S.S.W. course travelled along an elevated ridge of open forest forming the W. bank of the Seven R. which decidedly takes its rise from Mt. Cupps. We walked several miles upon an excellent dry & healthy soil, producing the same kind of grass as t. other parts of t. Surrey Hills, much intermixed with low green bushes, we did not cross a rill exceeding 12 ins. in breadth along the whole ridge since leaving Firstock Hill there were springs: we at length gradually descended & crossed two strong creeks running Westward we went on through open forest soon after crossed a water-logged marsh observed on our left a Grass Tree Hill - we went on ahead to a rising open forest at dusk having caught us 2 kangaroos, as we were very tired & stretched with pouring rain I had the tent pitched & a large fire made to restore animation. ~~At~~ Satth Nov 8th We have had a shocking night of it & the ground is still covered with snow. Wind S.W. - there was no cessation of the storm until about noon by that time the snow on the neighbouring ground had vanished. I walked with Mr. Torsey to the top of the Grass Tree Hill to look round, from which we saw several distant ranges covered with snow & found that this Grass Tree Country forms the boundary of the grassy country in this direction. We saw some open plains to the North Ward (N.W.) about a mile from our

camp, which we went to & examined. These plains rise from a low marsh on their south side even about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile due north, they are much exposed to the S.W. gales, the grass is tussocky, the soil not bad. We had now such a heavy fall of hail & sleet that we could see nothing of the country. I therefore remained where we were. Sund. Nov 9th. This morning promises better weather, the sun is shining & the clouds are of a light fleecy nature, the wind is S.W. generally the clearing quarter. Proceeded on our journey, crossed the tract of open forest entered a small open plain lately burnt by the natives, crossing which we went out upon an extensive tract of grass tree country, appearing to extend as far as May day Mt. we crossed a creek running to the Westward & from an eminence beyond we saw the Peak nearly North & a high hill directly in our course. S.S.W. forming part of Cupps Ra. I hoped that a prospect from that Hill wd. afford us much information; we descended & went down a grass tree plain nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile beyond which we entered a belt of Myrtle Forest & descended to a considerable river coming from t. S.E. shallow but 30 yds wide (which for the sake of distinction I call the Allowell) We ascended a rough grassy & bushy hill soon after finding the Allowell running to the South we crossed it & went up a rough grassy hill same as last & down over a creek running to the Allowell.

Went over more Grass Tree Country ascended to a fierce deep creek
also running to that river. We now came upon a better country
being grassy plains extending from Allowell Gully a good distance
to the West beyond which we crossed a tract of open forest gradually
becoming more bushy with pepper tree & other shrubs. We then came
out upon a grass tree valley in which ran a creek N. W. so beset
with beeches that I named it Beech Creek, forded it on knots of
spongy moss & rank silver wood grass went up a grass tree ridge
we then entered a green forest with all its attributes & continued
ascending for some hours much impeded by a dense horizontal
bush covering every creek & gully, several of which we crossed
so long a way no hope of getting out before dark, I halted for
the night determined to make the best shift we could as to fire
wood to dry our clothes for although this has been a very fine
day throughout overhead yet the forest was very wet.

Monday no. 10th (Charter Day) the night has been dry & the
morning seems fair. Soon after starting on in our course we
arrived at the top of a lofty forest ridge, from which we saw
grass tree & healthy plains below leading bearing N. E. by S. I
considered it wd. be better to make for them as they were not
a mile off than continue in the dense green forest & began
to descend for that purpose. We found it very difficult to

(5)

get down from the steep ridge with safety, it was so slippery &
dangerous at last we alighted on the plain & found that they
formed part of the Range we were upon which we now saw
was partly open & healthy & partly covered with green forest, &
seeing we had ~~at~~ now the lofty eminence on our right which
we had before us yesterday. I left two men to take care of the
knapsacks & with Mr. Fossey, proceeded up the steep healthy mountains
side & after about an hour difficult climbing we reached the
summit of it from which I was happy to observe the snow had
disappeared except a few patches on the highest mountain tops. We
saw extensive open plains lying S. by W. between 2 ranges of
secondary mts. beyond them a mt. which from its size &
situation can be no other than Mt. Hemskirk upon the chart
seeing nothing equal to it in pt. of height or magnitude to
the W. of it & I concluded that it is placed on the chart several
miles too close to the W. Coast & we could see 2 distinct ranges
westward of it. We did see nothing of the N. W. for the forests
which cover that portion of this mt. we were upon. We returned
to the knapsacks as the day was far gone went on along
the healthy country until we found a place to stop at, where
we could get some firewood. This has been a delightful
day: the large flies & mosquitoes were very numerous.

the evening. I have named this place "Charter Mount" in commemoration of the day.

Tues. Nov 11th a fine morning at Charter Mt. dense fog in the valley below but it soon cleared up. Went along the heathy & grass tree range having on our left a wide gully clothed with green forest & crowned by woody sheathy ranges on each side, in which we heard a roaring river. Our course was now S.S.W. intending to avoid going off the range into the gully until we were obliged which soon occurred for we came to a gully side opening from the N.N. descended it S.S.W. through a very steep green forest at length came to a wide creek running to the left, pursued our way over a green forest ridge, descended across another similar ~~creek~~ ^{creek} after which ascended a very steep mountain side in the hope of regaining the open sheathy top of the range which occupied us several hours; at length we came out upon some look out rocks surrounded with honeyuckles, mountain blue & various shrubs soon reached the top which I call "Mount Block" from the enormous rock which crowns the summit. The rock is of coarse reddish kind veined with quartz. Mt. Block afforded us an extensive prospect commanding all the great features of the surrounding country, particularly the gullies & the

(6)

rivers it seemed very doubtful then whether we shd. be able to explore much further to the S. unless the rivers were down. The next difficulty was to get down from the nearly perpendicular eminence for here was no more heathy top. Mr. Loosely had a bad fall & broke his bottle of brandy in slipping down the rocks: we at length found a spur jutting out a little from the cliff down which we carefully lowered ourselves for some distance: one of the men then climbed a tree & called out "The Big River is right under: the plains look like god grass, we may get to the river tonight, the peppermint & tea tree runs a long way down". We continued descending with the utmost ~~was~~ caution sliding down rock & steep places very bare of vegetation of any kind to hold on by as the trees or shrubs grow only in fissures of the rock at wide intervals: we all eventually arrived safe at the north bank of a noble river larger than the Mersey at Gadd Hill, very deep & subject to rise 20 ft. above its present surface as we were informed by the driftwood lodged on its banks. The dog caught a porcupine close by the river which we boiled & found tender as a young pig. McKay tried to catch a fish but the current was too strong. The river course here was from N. E. to S. W. To distinguish this

from other rivers I call it the 'Mackintosh' after the eminent
statesman of that name. Wed. Nov. 12. A dry warm night &
hopes of a fine day. I determined to follow the Mackintosh
to the south which we found very difficult to accomplish
from its ravine being composed of a succession of gullies eroded
of various sizes & a dense gum forest to labour through the
ground everywhere sloping hideously. We were obliged to rest
many times with our loads, & by degrees we left the river
further on our left by which we headed many of the gullies
which would have come in our way. Our course here
was nearly S.S.W. we hoped we had got over many
difficulties by keeping so high, but all at once we came to
such a dreadful chasm that we wished we had kept
lower down. We were obliged to descend from tree to tree
nearly perpendicularly, at least 1000' & at last got safe down
when we crossed a rapid roaring creek which I doubt not
had in the course of time torn out the whole of this chasm
or chine from the level of its issuing from the mts. As I
crossed it I looked up at the opposite side which we had to
ascend seeing the trees growing out of its side affixed to a
wall. I thought some of us might revisit the creek before we wished
to do so - the poor dogs had no chance of getting up, they fell

(7)
backward as fast as they attempted it, our only chance was by
helping or rather ^{er} fishing each other from one root to another -
the dogs at last scrambled up, we found it less steep after the
first 100 yds. We were now after incredible fatigue only
2 miles from our last night's halting place - we rested a while
on the top & proceeded SSW went through a continuation of
green forest with here & there a stringy bark tree & a wattle:
we had observed ~~away to the S.~~ ~~on asc~~ the river had
turned away to the S. on ascending a hill covered
with ~~we~~ weed 10' high which exhausted the men
quickly after which we entered a forest of stringy bark
& dry open healthy country below, seen $\frac{1}{2}$ an hr. came
out upon open plains of heath & grass tree. We saw a
curiously shaped hill somewhat like a venerable old
sack (the N. end of Eldon Pt) bearing S. by W. & the
plains between us & it, we went on towards these plains
& soon saw more extensive plains to the left which had
been burnt - this I concluded was the beginning
of the open country seen from Charter Mt. We went
on wading through the heath & grass tree until our
progress was suddenly stopped by the Mackintosh
which has here bent its course from E.S.E. to S.W.

we descended to the water's edge, looked up & down. A cormorant flew up & over as it passed along it seemed alarmed at seeing us there. This bird had no doubt flown up from the sea coast, & accounts for our having seen one before at the Race course which had probably flown up the other branch which I call the Huskisson. We heard the roaring of a rapid about 300 yds further up, went there & saw it was occasioned by vast heaps of boulders impeding the river course between which the water rushed with great fury. Cutts & Walker went on as far as the top of the rapid & saw a tolerably even ford not too deep - they took a stout pole each & got over & held a long pole for us to take hold of & we all got safe over - the water was dreadfully hilly & our place was very deep & dangerous. We never found a little brandy of more service. We had now to cross a break out & sand heap after which we reached the southern shore & having ascended to the plains the dogs caught us a kangaroo & seeing a back log on a dry spot we encamped for the night.

The Mackintosh is now at a low ebb which enabled us to get over it, & I hope it may continue so or how shall we recross such a current - we have had several dry days & the moon looks well tonight. These plains are of heath & a fine sort

of grass tree not growing in Huskisson which the natives have burnt out - they would I thought hardly come to burn a small patch & I expected certainly to find a portion of good country not far off.

Thurs (?) Nov 13th [1825] Wet morning - Wind SW very thick in that quarter. Went on nearly S up the open country & found it all of the same kind to the north of a forest below us - soil poor & sandy with pieces of milky quartz lying on its surface, where our progress was stopped by another tremendous river nearly as wide as the Mackintosh & very deep; its course was from S. E. it seemed now at a low ebb, having a wide sloping bank now dry over which its waters flow, & as we proceeded along in an uncertain mood whether it wd. be desirable to cross this large R. or not & increase our obstacles we espied an enormous trunk of a tree lying directly across, having in its fall rested mostly on a rock under the water & although great part of the upper side of the tree was under the water the water ~~at~~ current was flowing over it at a great rate, Cutts thought it practicable for us all to get across by crawling upon our hands & knees along the tree & having got safe over we all followed but the danger was much increased by the time the last person had to get over

as the river had risen more than 6 ins during the time. This is the widest river I ever crossed on a tree, being upwards of 50 yds. The weather was now squally with a heavy fall of hail. We ascended from the river ground on the open heathy plain beyond the Waratah or bush tulip in full bloom which is an evidence of its being a more forward climate than some parts of the Surrey Hills for those trees about Bureghley are only now in bud. I call this large river the Brougham, it joins the Mackintosh a few miles lower down & they must together form a very large river we thought ourselves fortunate in having encountered them singly. We had now arrived at the foot of a long heathy range which ran nearly in our course expecting to obtain much information by ascending it, we did so with some difficulty & from the summit I observed that the plain (which I have since named Cranbourn Chase) extends about 8 miles in length nearly in a N & S direction in some parts upwards of 2 m. in width. The Riv. Brougham crosses the Chase obliquely from S.E. to N.W. belted by forest the whole way @ a mixture of the green & brown. The Chase has a cultivated & diversified appearance from its having been lately burnt in several extensive tracts, looking fresh & green in those places; in others so completely covered with blooming

heath that it resembled vast fields of clover divided by rows of shrubs serpentering every brook which intersected it from the mountain ranges on either side. I felt much disappointed that it was not a country at all desirable for the Co's purposes & more so on looking over the Ra. I was upon which I call Eldon (*) for I could discover nothing westward by heathy plains lofty woods, ranges beyond, which limited my view to about 2 m. not a spot of burnt ground. Thus I proceeded for some miles nearly south along the top of Eldon Ra. which is a lofty knobbed ridge of heathy shilly country as my object. (* Not the Eldon Ra. of Spren's map the name having been carelessly applied to another party.)

This is a footnote. D.T.

next was to get upon its loftest dome to extend our prospect: we did so after much trouble exertion & from it saw "The South West Hill" which is a high woody ridge & extends far in advance of the ranges near the W coast first observed by me from Mt. Pease bearing from thence S.W. but we could not see what kind of country there was about that hill as we were still too little elevated to see over the near woody ranges to the N.W. We also saw the intersection of the 2 great gullies forming what is called the Lymans R. or more

intelligibly the junction of the Hudson & the Mackintosh that there is much open & apparently healthy country on both sides of the Mackintosh lower down. We saw May-day plains & the Hill of Kelson - the Cradle Mt. was eclipsed by a loftier ra. in the foreground, but we saw the Burn Bluff bearing E. by S. & little thought at that time that we shd. be obliged to pay it a visit. The air was very keen here & we were assailed with violent squalls & hail & sleet being all recd. exhausted by fatigue & very wet & cold, we returned to the shelter of some rocks where we saw some dead trees to make a fire & remained upon Eldon Ra. all night. Having now arrived within a few miles of Mt. Heemskirk which I knew cd. command all the country round & it shd. be possible for us to ascend it, I determined to see how far we could go, if possible to get upon the top of that grand eminence that we might obtain all the information we cd. S.W. of Mt. Pearce. Fri. Nov 14 Very little sleep last night for cold which such a fire as we cd. obtain on the top of a mt. cd. not obviate. We went along Eldon Ra. nearly S. & turned S.S.W. over the top between several hillocks forming a basin in which there is a lake about $\frac{1}{4}$ m. in diameter with an outlet to the S. forming a cascade down the S. end of Eldon Ra. This mt. ra

(13)
is composed of pudding stone rock in which there are large round red & white pebbles crumbled in masses & in general covered with a kind of white clay, producing the dwarf heaths, mountain tea tree & rushy grass of so tenacious a nature that in many places are fountains playing in the air in streams $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Having arrived at the S. end of the summit of Eldon Ra. we discovered a tremendous gully with another large river which we readily traced to its junction with the Mackintosh. Mt. Heemskirk rose on the opposite side of the gully, traversing far above the other mts surrounding it, & was clouded half way down, seeing which, & as it now rained & wind being from N.W. (the west quarter) I feared even if we shd. be able to get upon it that it wd. be some days before it wd. be free from clouds. We observed large flights of white cockatoos below & considered it an indication of there being an open country not far off. The great river below was completely open to our view coming from S.E. passing through a great gateway formed by its having decidedly cut a passage by lopping off Mt. Eldon from Mt. Heemskirk which the perpendicular rocky chasm bears evidence of, cleaving the S. end of Mt. Eldon it enters a district of low heathy hills winding round them

first in a S.W. then in a N.W. direction. This river I call "Canning". (Later explorers have thought proper to give new names to the rivers Canning & Brougham) The only route we could take to reach Mt. Heemokk was S.W. as being most free from precipices as we cd. judge. We descended in that direction very many heathy slopes, all running with water rendering our travelling very dangerous, the rain now falling in torrents ran in two hrs - we got down so near to the river that we cd. see there was no chance of our getting any farther, having arrived at a rocky precipice face above the water which seemed deep enough to float a gal, at least 60 yds wide cd. see nothing but perpendicular rocky cliffs on t. other side. We cd. go no further on, not one step for there were precipices both E. & W. as well as S. another considerable river entered the Canning to the Westward of us. The Canning was roaring & foaming along in a terrific manner our only chance of getting across seemed to be to go up & descend more to the Westward, but as this was our 8th day, I did not think we ought to risk another day, particularly as we had no hope of getting back except by heading t. two large rivers we had already crossed having had nothing but heavy rains ever since. I therefore returned again up to the lake on Mt. Eldon, a hurricane with a deluge

of rain pursuing us all the way. We were often obliged to rest with our loads before we cd. begin again the top & reading another such a night as the last, I went directly down Eastward into Cranbourne Chase, although we were so dreadfully wet & fatigued as wd. willingly have remained amongst scrubby peppermint trees by the lake. We were more than an hour descending the open heathy range, although we went down at a great rate, not being able to avoid sliding many yds. at a time, & having alighted on the Chase we pushed across through heath & grass tree partly burnt, & partly water-logged to a forest of tall peppermint trees where we hoped to find some firewood, wading several creeks more than knee deep. We at length entered a shrubbery of tea trees where we pitched our tents. The dogs soon caught us three remarkably fine kangaroos on the burnt ground close by & the men declared on dissecting them that they had never seen any so fat before, which circumstance leads ~~me~~ ^{me} to think that there is something peculiar in this spot which causes the kangaroo to become so fat that t. natives burn it knowing its good qualities. I named it Cranbourne Chase or the Native Preserve. What I call heath ~~is~~ includes in this place a great variety of plants & I

observed along Eldon Ra. that there is an abundance of
fragrant herbs some of them nearly resembling the wild
thyme, which sheep are so fond of upon the South Downs
in England & a kind of coarse grass, there is no doubt
that such herbage adds much to the fattening of the
Kangaroo met with in this part of the country. It is
possible that t. natives by only burning one set of the
flames are enabled to keep t. Kangaroo more concentrated
for their use & I can in no other way account for their
burning only this place unless it is to serve them as a
halting place on migrating from the coast to t. interior,
a question which a view from Mt. Heemskerk might have
solved. Sat. Nov. 15th It has blown a hurricane all
night from the N.W. & poured with rain to such a degree that
we expected every island to have been swamped. Now we
are to ~~pass~~ recross the rivers it is impossible to imagine
but here are plenty of kangaroos if we shd. be obliged to return.
I ~~cut~~ cut on a large peppermint "Cranbourne Chase
1828" having packed up some of t. kangaroo we
proceeded eastward to see if we cd. cross the Brougham.
We waded through an extensive swamp of Sea Luce &
cutting grass & crossed a breakout more than bank high

on a fallen tree. We were thus insulated & traversing
a Gum forest actually inundated in many places
everywhere streaming with the overflowing of the River, so
that we were bewildered to know where the river was &
obliged to feel our way along, crossing multitudes of
streams of various depths & at last we came to an
open place where the water was knee deep round the trees
where we stood, & beyond (where words of trees) it was
running at a dangerous rate. The men stood deep in
the running stream & resolutely felled a large tree with
their tomahawks but it fell short: seeing which &
being heartily tired of our present critical situation
& the uncertainty that it was the river after all, &
that we might have only been landed upon another
island in a state of inundation, I told the men I
wd. return if possible to where we were had been the
night before, which, after many soundings we all
managed to do but in a dreadful pickle hearing found it
much worse returning than going to t. river. A pole 20' in
length did not touch the bottom where the men were falling the
tree, it was perhaps a fortunate circumstance that the tree did
not answer for us to get across, as we could see another run

of water beyond, which we might not have been able to get over. This was a shocking day for any unfortunate creature to be out in, nothing but violent gusts of wind with hail rains. The dogs soon replenished our camp with kangaroo, my bread which I had baked at Burghley (11 lbs) lasted till to day but had become mouldy. The men employed themselves baking half a dozen thin cakes or dampers upon bark, for each person, before the fire as the ground did not admit of baking in it being so wet.

Sunday Nov. 16th. Distressing weather, it has rained nearly all night & we have no hope of getting away from here unless we follow the mountain ranges until we reach the Brougham: we have actually passed the night ankle deep in water our retreat would have soon been cut off, for had it continued to rain so heavily we ed. not have gone to the mts. at all. It is wonderful we are able to exist in such a plight, we got on our legs, every joint feeling stiff, hands cut, scratched sore, clothes torn to rags, wet cold, can we go on our loads. We struck the tents, ~~or~~ wrong them out & started in the pouring rain for the ft. of Mt. Eldon, at the S. West of the Chase walking for the most part across a nearly level plain of heath & grass tree with many creeks overflowing their banks

when near the mt. we crossed a torrent which descended with a noise like thunder down the rocky channel it had formed. We then entered a scrambling ~~shrub~~ scrub of running pricket, through which we struggled waded knee deep in water for some distance, & came to a tract of gum forest when we heard a roar of water proceeding down a gully which we had observed down the Chase. We crossed it on a tree & found it a large branch of t. Brougham: here the dog found a dead wombat - probably killed & partly devoured by a hyena. We gathered the waratah upon a little plain beyond in full bloom, upon a slender shrub 60' in height we saw some exquisitely beautiful yellow flowers. Soon after which we began to ascend the side of a gully S.E. taking up a very steep hum forest in which are a few large stringy bark trees, a heavy storm of hail as we went on forcing our way upward through a dense thicket beset with weed upon a kind of white yellow clay with a surface streaming with water as slippery as grass under our feet. We at length gained the summit of the range crested ~~with~~ on an enormous mass of pudding stone it is worthy of remark that the rock felt quite warm crested with the moisture of the last

shower, a decided proof that the earth is warmer than the atmosphere. On looking over this hill eastward we saw a much higher eminence, heathy rocky, which we supposed to be part of the same range, endeavoured to reach it but were soon aware of the impossibility for on descending to get nearer to it we saw one of the outrageous torrents we had ever beheld at the bottom of a deep nearly perpendicular gully which it had formed in the solid rock: its voice was deafening its whole surface in such a perfect foam that it resembled a river of cream. We could only wonder how we could go near this terrible fellow which we knew could be no other than the great Brougham but seeing a clear road to the southward we went along the heathy mts. range in nearly a S.E. direction crossing many considerable torrents, branches of that river, chopped thus to reduce it to a more manageable size. As we proceeded we discovered an open heathy country between the mts. lying N.E. which it wd. be desirable for us to get to, after several hours, travelling along the range, we came to a gully with a loud torrent in it & the day being far gone we halted & were enabled to make a good fire finding plenty of slender topped pine but the ground sloped at an

(21)
angle of 50° & we were obliged to sit up all night there being no wood elsewhere. We had walked the last hour in despair of finding any place to stop at where there was either food or shelter.

mond. nov. 17th much rain in the night & still continuing. descended the gully crossed a violent 20' creek knee deep went up through a dense scrambling scrub cover a heathy slope which conducted us to the Brougham running here N.W. we walked by it some distance up till seeing a rocky bottom where it was not too deep we ventured in & luckily got over safely: the current was quite as much as we cd. bear up against with every precaution between 30 & 40 yds wide. We missed all the dogs here & they did not come after us with all the shouting the men cd. make until we had left the river an hour. We came away due N. pursued the long of the open heathy country N.E. We crossed several large streams between the heathy hills which we cd. easily, we ran from the waterfalls with which the mts. sides are adorned. The dogs chased several kangaroos here but they were too fleet & doop have not so much chance upon hard as upon soft ground where the kangaroos

feet sink in. The heathy country appears to be
desirable for the natives as it affords them kangaroos,
wombats opossums etc appears to have been burnt
by them some time ago of which the numerous dead
stumps now standing in the gullies bear ample
testimony. The soil is light sandy with small bits
of quartz bestrewing the whole of its surface so
completely that to convince ourselves that it was
not hailstones undissolved we were obliged to catch
up some examine it, whence the name which it has
received of "Hailstone Heath". There are large rocks
scattered about the size of houses which are of so
quable a nature that the action of the weather has
rendered the exterior of them as round smooth as if they
had been worked by a mason, their appearance quite
enlivens the desert, they assume such a variety of
shapes, resembling ornamental buildings & they are in
general surrounded by little shrubberies - these rocks are
of a shattery texture composed of quartz & hornblende
We now saw before us that a lofty ridge (running
apparently from N. to S.) must be surmounted we ob-
serve that its summit was rocky, & was partially

covered with snow. We went on as far as a sheltering
Peppermint Forest at the foot of the mt. at the E. end
of Hailstone Heath, where we arrived after crossing
two deep ruts up to our elbows, being all very tired &
wet having had no sleep the previous night. I halted
fell asleep (wet as I was) with sheer fatigue.
This afternoon was finer than the weather had been
for several days, the sunset was magnificent directly
at the back of Mt. Neemskirk, which it exhibited
with a grand effect, every crevice of its rufed rocky
sides, its rugged gullies filled with snow, the numerous
rocks & domes crowning its summit were all displayed
to our view, there was not a cloud to be seen which
seemed an earnest of better weather.
Tues Nov. 18. Squally morning with snow & sleet,
wind W. Went up the hill about N.E. passing by some
huge domes of white rock as before described. Dykes which
we left the heathy country went through a forest of
stunted peppermint among which we found immense plants
resembling Pineapple Trees (such as seen in hot house
in Eng.) require only a long trunk to make them like
these currow trees which are upward of 20' in height

having these long stems or trunks, they are enabled to obtain an slight by protruding between the branches of other trees along the hillside. These stems are not naked but retain the last year's leaves which give the plant altogether a grand appearance, but it occasioned as much trouble to get along, as their edges cut like a knife or saw. They seem very hardy if they are real pine apples they wd. require very little trouble in their cultivation, we cut off some large leaves & brought them away. We ascended to the top of part of t. lofty ridge & had some observations of the country we had left including Mt. Heemskirk, & two lofty peaks E. of that Mt. which I have named after the Princesses "Victoria" & "Sophia". Descended, crossed a gully & ascended to the snowy top where we experienced a cutting storm of snow sleet, during which the dogs caught a kangaroo, & we stood up to our knees in snow while it was skinned & cut up. Mr. Fossey & myself carried on portions of it, having but little pork left. The snow now fell so thick all round, that we did see nothing whatever, & were completely puzzled which way to go or what to do as we had arrived at the edge

of a tremendous gully many miles in width. We wandered about in the snow storm with a great deal of labour & looked over N^d. then S^d as the storm wd. permit, & saw nothing but precipices & gullies every way. At length the clouds began to disperse, & we thought that the great gully might be avoided & that we cd. head it by going to the S.E. Mr. Kay led the way, we went on at as quick a pace as we cd. to keep ourselves warm as well as to endeavour to get out of such a perishing part of the country & comforted ourselves with the idea that we had rounded one portion of the formidable gully, but we soon were as much at a loss as before. The weather again became so thick that we did not know which way to go, & at last retreated with another gully to the S.E. where finding some scrubby ferns, we halted & collected together all the firewood we cd. procure to keep us alive through the night which was as miserable a one as ever we experienced.

Wed. Nov. 19th. It has snowed all night so much has fallen that we are completely hemmed in by it, our fire was kept in with difficulty, all the trees ~~are~~ are bending with their loads of snow, & all the trees & other shrubs through which we must push the way are covered

or buried with snow, resemble our solid body higher than our heads, it still appears very black & terrible to windward, heavy masses are continually falling about us, blown from the mt. top. We had snow melted for breakfast, which having warmed us a little for no more firewood cd. be got at we pushed our way through & descended to a strong creek running to the Nth having crossed it had a most difficult job to climb up a steep rocky hill in the deep snow, nearly E. to regain the top of it. here, & avoid the gullies where we found snow 3' deep & as we laboured through it were overtaken by a cutting storm of sharp sleet which obliged us to retreat over a precipice & take shelter among some rocks, whence, when the storm had blown over a little, we saw Mt. Block & Mt. Charles & knew by the bearing that the terrible gully which obstructed us was the same that we had seen from Mt. Block running towards the Barn Bluff. We hoped to avoid crossing this vast ravine by going more to the S.E. which we did & rounded several minor gullies, but the weather again became so thick that we cd. do nothing till about one o'clock when we had arrived at ~~the~~ ^{we} supposed near its upper end. The snow storm somewhat

abating we saw we were in a worse predicament than ever, that we were cut off entirely. in consequence of our having to travel completely round to the Eth of the Barn Bluff to avoid the gully. That Ravine seemed to be more perpendicular than ever where we were, but there was no place to stand still in for more than one moment's consideration for the storm now came on with more violence than ever & completely doubled us up, as ~~we~~ ^{we} were standing half buried in the snow. It cut our faces & hands to pieces when we attempted to retreat, we found the snow had filled up all the marks of our approach. A partial gleam of sunshine having thawed the surface of the snow it had since frozen, we had ~~since~~ been labouring on it like walking upon pie crust, which broke at every step, & let us in up to the middle, the edges of which cut the man's leg like glass, particularly McHays who broke the way for the party being which I endeavoured too, but the snow formed in such hard lumps under my overalls which were forced up to my knees that I was completely fettered by it, & in the greatest pain imaginable. One hour's exposure in this weather would kill any man if he stood stuck fast

& remained inactive. The poor dogs were regularly
 plated with coats of mail, formed by ice at the
 extremity of the hair, but they travelled better than we
 cd. as the ice wd. support them. Our faces were swollen
 & smarted excessively, our hands & feet benumbed. Now
 we had no alternative, retreat into the gully & pent,
 we made for the horrid ravines, our only refuge. We began
 to descend its almost perpendicular sides finding great support
 from the icebound snow amidst jagged obelisk rocks,
 from which were hanging vast riches like inverted obelisks
 as large in diameter as the trunks of trees, a proof that
 the frost is exceedingly severe in these elevated regions.

It took ~~us~~ us 4 hrs. to descend this grand valley
 hurrying as fast as we cd. spending the great M^o p^octosh
 at the bottom was fordable, we gladly forded it,
 fearing the melted snow & rain might prevent us in
 the morning. The dog caught a wombat & we
 found some grass tree patches & eall timber where we
 had a good fire etc x x x

Thus Nov. 20th Rain all night, very little
 hope of getting to Burghly for 4 or 5 days & this one 14th
 out, only a little flour & tea left. The pack tosh now swollen

unfordable. eyes swollen scarcely able to see, faces felt as if
 scalded. Went up side of valley about N. across some grass
 tree patches & turned to N.E. up a likely open clothed
 with ~~mountain~~ tea tree etc. tolerably good travelling. after
 ascending 3 hrs. we rested, we did not seem to be half
 way up: we saw nothing before us but perpendicular
 rocky cliffs were obliged to fall a tree to get over it etc.
 We then ascended through stunted tea trees & grass tree &
 arrived at the snowy region once more, where we found
 dangerous travelling from the masses of half thawed snow
 going way under our feet as we crawled over the rocks.
 Seeing we cd. head another gully by deploying to the right,
 we did so & came N^d across the top of the ridge deep in
 snow to the brink of another horrid precipice, where we
 halted for a few minutes hoping the clouds wd. disperse &
 allow us to see what was before us. but that not being
 the case, I determined to persevere to the N. We were obliged
 to turn to the right ultimately got down to a gully in this
 gully where we found some black hilled gums & halted for
 the night by the side of a noisy torrent which ran N.N.W.
 where we had a wretched night. It now became a serious
 question whether we shd. extricate ourselves at all we determined

to start very early tomorrow have a long day before us.
Wed. Nov. 2nd. Thick muzzling rain from W. crossed
creek went N. over a ridge covered with scrambling
scrub - descending sliding down places nearly perpend.
amidst ~~the~~ ^{mountain} tea tree came down to a torrent that made
us stare, its fury was beyond anything we could conceive
of water: it had however luckily brought down two large
trunks of trees which crossed amidst a roar which nearly
deprived us of the sense of hearing. It was some time before
the dogs wd. follow. We went up a very difficult mt side
often being obliged to climb rocks in the face of a cascade
as the whole was streaming c water - abundance of
luxuriously growing pine apple trees. After much toil we
began to fear the perpendicular cliffs of slate (query if
the cliffs were of slate) above us wd. oblige us to go
back. We found a passage ~~tho'~~ ^{tho'} rugged & dangerous
& reached the top of this vast mountain where the fog
was so thick that we cd. see nothing but the snow that
we laboured through. I was determined to keep the
ridge as long as possible in the hope that the weather
wd. clear & let us see our way. It did so sufficiently
to discover that we cd. travel N.E. along the ridge & we

plunged along in that direction. At length the clouds
began to disperse we were delighted at seeing a grassy
valley of great extent directly before us something like the
Vale of Belvoir etc etc. We felt we were in the land of the
living once more & cd. get kangaroo & made a direct line
for the valley sliding down the snow with great alacrity
& after descending 2 miles we seemed to have arrived
in another climate, warm & sheltered compared with
where we had been the last 4 days. In fact it was
an escape from a snow prison. I had never been in
so much snow in my life. We found a halting
place - dead timber, tried to get a kangaroo but dogs so
hungry they helped themselves & refused to show. We
therefore had some flour & water as the evening was
clear I hoped to obtain a view which wd. tell us
where we were. ~~tho'~~ ^{etc etc.} I ascended a rocky ridge
& was delighted to find that we had arrived at the N.
side of the Cradle Mts. & saw the lake which Mr. Lossey
had described as an opening between the hills to the
N. leading to Middlesex Plains. In the eve we had
plenty of kangaroo - Cradle Valley extends from W.S.W
to E. W.E. about 6 miles or so about a mile in width.

it appears to a wet place the grass appears in general
of the ~~rocky~~ rushy kind but intermixed with
bladed grass in several parts. I understand from
Mr. Loxley that Hounslow Heath is a similar country
that it wd. form a great addition to Middlesex
Plains as a summer run. There is much pencil pine
of a large size in Cradle Valley the neighbouring
spine.

Saturday. Nov. 22nd. A fine clear morning - little wind
from N. quite sultry (?) Left Cradle Valley
proceeding through an open forest by the side of
the R. which is running to the N. from the
lake below the Cradle, all stiff sore-faces, legs
hands still swollen all obliged to rest often.
We had good travelling across Middlesex Plains
had some kangaroo roasted in the ramrods in the
Park of Belvoir with great exertion reached the
May Day Plains halted for the night.

Sunday Nov. 23rd (1828) Left May Day Plains
soon after sunrise arrived at Burghley (all very hungry
& fatigued) where we obtained the food vest which we all
stood ⁱⁿ so much need of. x x x. It has been

a mortifying circumstance that we shd. have had
no clear weather while toiling over some of the
highest mts. in the country to enable us to
see what the distant country was. We have
yet a large field to explore between the Muskegon
& the Mackinac to the N. of the Muskegon x x x
(Iq) Henry Hellyer.

[The latter part of this copy of Mr. Hellyer's
report much abbreviated.]