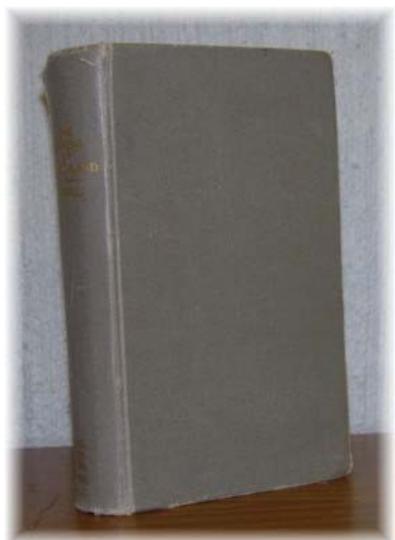




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THE
GENESIS
OF
QUEENSLAND:

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FIRST EXPLORING JOURNEYS TO
AND OVER DARLING DOWNS:
THE EARLIEST DAYS OF THEIR OCCUPATION;
SOCIAL LIFE;
STATION SEEKING;
THE COURSE OF DISCOVERY, NORTHWARD
AND WESTWARD;
AND A
RESUME OF THE CAUSES WHICH LED TO SEPARATION
FROM NEW SOUTH WALES.
WITH
PORTRAIT AND FAC-SIMILES OF MAPS, LOG, &c., &c.

BY

Henry Stuart Russell.

Sydney:

TURNER & HENDERSON.

MDCCCLXXXVIII.

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CHAPTER I.

King Arthur made new knights to fill the gap
Left by the the Holy Quest.—*Tennyson.* (The Holy Grail.)

ASSUREDLY the gallant Pedro Fernandez de Quiros must have been possessed by some of the "sacred madness" of King Arthur's bard when as he first gazed, as he thought, upon the coral-gripped coast of the new land which King Philip of Spain had sent him to seek, he shouted in reverent joy with doffed sombrero: "Australia del Espiritu Santo!" But was "Australia" the utterance, or was it "Tierra"? 'Twas not for de Quiros to discover his own error. Choosing one course for further discovery, he directed his Lieutenant to take another in the second ship, and so they parted in 1606. Superstitious dread prevailed over the discipline of his own, and he was compelled by his mutinous men to return to Peru, which he reached in disgrace, ever attendant upon failure. His Lieutenant, Luis Vaes de Torres, soon found that the Admiral had saluted but an island—probably one of the New Hebrides—continued his course westwards, bore away along the south coast of New Guinea; unwittingly fixed his eyes upon the true "Tierra Austral"; upon the "very large islands" which the Cape, since called York, presented to his bewildered sight, ere he stood away to the north, threading his way through the mazy channel which exposed his commander's mistake.

Torres had unconsciously fulfilled the Holy Quest. The memory of and monument to his name are baptised and bathed by the isle-fretted waters which bear it.

In John Bull justice did a native of our own British island stamp "Torres" with his hand of authority as hydrographer to the Admiralty upon that strange channel which had already begun to be the promise of a grand highway claimed by, but not destined for the sovereignty of that flag under which Torres had sailed.

The most authentic registration of Queensland's birth was thus declared from the far north; her future growth was nourished and confirmed from the far south. Among the first forms of a new shore brought to light, she has derived her existence from that which was delivered last by the labour of

“Admitting the non-existence of rivers in so vast a country of distant internal origin, or of magnitude approaching those noble streams, which, rising in the more elevated regions of the Andes, are disembogued on the shores of the American continent, we are naturally led to the belief that no lofty ranges of mountains traverse the central regions of this ‘great southland,’ either in the direction of the meridian, or transversely in that of the parallel, but the rather, that large portions of our intertropical interior will one day be discovered to be of low depressed surface, subject in part, in seasons of much rain, to extensive inundation. Indeed, it has been remarked by travellers that, so far as their observations have extended, the high lands of this continent are, on or at no great distance from its shores, and navigators inform us that the more elevated ranges occupy its eastern coast, which in several parallels they immediately invest, and throughout a span of five hundred miles within the tropical circle, are of primitive structure.*

“Fourteen years have elapsed since those enterprising travellers, Messrs. Blaxland, Lawson, and Wentworth, upon surmounting the many obstacles that lay in the way of internal discovery in their day, passed that formidable barrier, our Blue Mountain Ranges, and at once laid open an extensive western country, not only to the persevering industry of the husbandman and grazier, but to the no less laudable research of the zealous naturalist.

“Almost immediately subsequent to that epoch in the annals of our colony, expeditions were despatched to explore rivers, then of recent discovery, in which Mr. Oxley, our able Surveyor-General, to whom their direction was intrusted, was engaged in 1817 and succeeding years; but the results of these journies having tended in no small degree to check that spirit of internal geographical inquiry, which had at those periods manifested itself, no tour of any magnitude, with the view towards the acquirement of a further knowledge of our interior has, since those days to the present year, been undertaken, if we except the laborious excursion of Messrs. J. Hovell and Hume from the country of Argyle, across a portion of our southern interior, to the shores of Port Philip. Of the relation of that long journey,

* King's Voyage 2, p. 570.

CHAPTER XII.

In the reproof of chance
Lies the true proof of men.

—*Shakespeare.* (Troilus and Cressida.)

LIEUT. OWEN GORMAN, of Her Majesty's 88th Regiment, was at this time Commandant of the penal settlement of Moreton Bay, which had been established about sixteen years. A small detachment was quartered at the Brisbane Barracks. Of cheerful and hospitable Irish temperament, he took our wayfarers into his house, and welcomed them with characteristic cordiality. Two days after their arrest at Limestone permission was sent up for visiting Brisbane. There were two Government stations passed on the road—one at a place called Redbank, the other seven miles before reaching the town, Cooper's Plains,* the country all the way uninteresting and uninviting. The first house seen was the Commandant's, at the top of the bank on the other side of the river, to which and from which a boat plied. A horse was made to swim across, being towed by its owner sitting therein. One horse at a time made it slow work. Just above the Commandant's house, Deputy-Assistant-Commissary-General Kent's quarters; then the Barracks; above them Dr. Ballow's, the medical officer's, at the back of whose house, and in the main street (Queen-street), was the postmaster's house and office—such as was required;—the Prisoners' Barracks; the lumber yard; and about half a mile further on the abode of the Superintendent of Works, Andrew Petrie, and his family. The Prisoners' Barracks and Female Factory were empty; the prisoners had been sent to Sydney. Transportation was supposed to have ceased to New South Wales on the 1st of August, 1839. Last year the system of assigning servants had been discontinued.

About three miles away and down the river on the same side was a place called Eagle Farm. Here had been erected a kind of open palisade-enclosed space, in which female prisoners had at times been confined. It was now untenanted; but in a cottage hard by there still dwelt two gentlemen who, having been

* First named "Cowper's" Plains.

in former days associates in the old, found themselves again together in this brush-encircled nook in the new world. The elder was Stephen Simpson, who was afterwards appointed to be first Commissioner of Crown Lands—as soon as it was declared an open settlement—for the Moreton Bay district; the other, William Henry Wiseman, years afterwards Police Magistrate at Rockhampton, where he died and was buried. The former had been attached to a crack cavalry corps in the old war: when peace was declared had retired from the army, become a disciple of Samuel Christian Friedrich Hahnemann, founder of homœopathy, come to England, and by practise of the new doctrine, drawn upon himself so much invective and ridicule on the part of the Faculty, that pamphleteering and prejudice had embittered the old world to him, and after twenty years patient engagement had, in the first of his wedded life, been left to bear the burden of his disappointment alone as a widower.

So he, and his companion oft times in Germany, made interest to be admitted to this recess in voluntary exile; and here, with all manner of friendliness, which in some cases became durable friendship, the wayfarers from westward ho! were on all occasions called in, entertained, and tended. I say “entertained” because both were men of no mean powers of thought, enriched by no superficial study, and tempered by experiences beyond the *rôle* of every day life. They were no modern sciolists.

The spring of this new era brought out these two recluses into the world again; they lived in it all long enough to make some few who remain feel that the old “arm-chairs” at Eagle Farm and Woogooroo can never be refilled by kinder hosts, or more chivalrous gentlemen.

The Commandant and his estimable wife left nothing undone, if it could be done, to make the sojourn of some days comfortable and very enjoyable. Truly visitors to Brisbane had—some there may be who still have—reason to remember Lieutenant and Mrs. Gorman with gratitude.

But the main object of this visit was to find a road, fit for drays, back again. If this were not attained, was it possible to get up Cunningham’s Gap again? and No! seemed the inexorable answer. Yet Hodgson and Elliot were compelled to return without success. The “pinches” of this terrible gap

We had rejoined, presumably, a continuation of the Condamine, beyond and below the junction herewith of the Jimbour creek—then the northernmost station on Darling Downs,—so they now proposed examining the land lying between the point at which the river had not been traced out of the Broadwater, upon which Rolland and Taylor had formed and occupied their cattle station of Tummavil—next below Leslie's crossing place—to the spot at which we had lately intercepted the stream followed down by us on our last ride. I have before me a letter of my brother's to his mother at the beginning of the year 1842, which gives the result :

“ Having accompanied my brother Henry in his late unsuccessful expedition in which we struck upon what we conclude to be a portion of the lower course of the Condamine, I set out, soon after our return, to explore the country in another direction, Henry being unable, from illness, to join me. I left Hodgson's station on the 7th of November, 1841, accompanied by Isaac, a capital man for the bush. My object was in the first place to discover, if possible, the re-appearance of the Condamine after losing itself in the lagoon, being persuaded that as the latter had no visible outlet for the waters it received, they must escape by some subterraneous channel, and might somewhere be found to re-appear on the surface. On the second day we reached Taylor's station on the lagoon, which is seven miles in length,” (here they learnt that the Gore Brothers—St. George and Ralph—had taken up country from Taylor's boundary: had struck upon a deep bed some miles below a small creek on which they had decided to build their head station—Yandilla—and marked a tree some twenty miles or more below it for their sheep-run), “ and having followed it to its furthest extremity, we shaped our course from thence in a direction, as nearly as we could judge, the same as the river had held before it fell into the lagoon.

“ At the end of one day's journey we came upon a small gully, across which we could jump. This gradually widened till it broke into a deep, rocky river-bed, on both banks of which was a fine open grazing country; and here we took up thirty miles on either side, marking two trees with our initials as having taken possession by right of discovery, which would [but did not] prevent anyone else from settling upon it within three months from the date of the license given for it by the Commissioner of the district. It requires one to be well acquainted with the peculiar nature of the rivers in Australia to trace out their true course, for some of them, particularly in a dry season, present only long reaches or mere pools, and are here and there entirely lost; though there are others which have a full stream throughout the year—such as those on the eastern side of the Great Range, which run into the sea. This river

is a very fine one, for this country; its direction is first N.W. and then more northerly—of course, not running except in floods; but having beautiful long reaches, with deep water, and fine lagoons branching out of it. The country on the west side, though not hilly, is undulating; on the east flat and rich, the best for pasturage. There is plenty of the best kind of timber—iron-bark, blood-wood, pine, swamp-oak, and the best, I think, of all building woods, stringy-bark. In fact we have found a most beautiful spot for our head-quarters, with this great advantage: that we shall not be troubled by the natives" [vain hope!] "as they never harbour where the country is open, and we have no scrub on our station. By-the-by, when we were following down the river we came suddenly on a native encampment. Strange to say, we were within twenty yards of them before either party saw the other. I galloped up to them, when one and all bolted into the river, leaving their opossum cloaks, spears, boomerangs, tomahawks, and all kinds of things, at our mercy. After a short time they came over to us, but we could not make them understand, although we had a native boy with us," [Isaac's Charcoal] "but he was of another tribe; the languages of the tribes are so different. Their spears are about fifteen feet long, some slender, some very heavy. They can throw them forty yards and can hit anything. The nulla-nulla is the worst weapon; it is a short club about two feet long, which they throw with awful force. On our return the report we made of the country was hailed with joy.

"We have called our new station after you, 'Cecil Plains.'"

Recurring now to Glover's letter—

"The Boyne was discovered by Henry Stuart Russell, having with him his servant Orton, and a native, in the following way:—Russell had heard from Davis, a runaway convict, whom he found with the natives up the Monoboola, on his boat-trip to Wide Bay, that there was a very fine country immediately in the neighbourhood of Eales' station, which report he found wrong, so far as to its being near that station."

"He determined on a journey to Wide Bay, and from thence to prosecute his research. Having reached Eales', he only remained long enough to recruit, and started in company with an overseer and a man of Eales' in a W.N.W. direction, and had one of the most formidable journeys that can possibly be imagined. The overseer and his man very soon returned, disliking the dreary waste and rugged country they encountered. It was, indeed, a very hazardous undertaking, as they had to travel through the Bunnia Bunnia country, which at this time was swarming with natives, who assemble for the purpose of feeding upon the fruit. After travelling over a broken and rugged country, they came upon a large flowing stream, which he supposed to be the Boyne. He found a lovely country upon the river, and left with the determination of

revisiting it. Delighted with the report he brought in, we (the party before mentioned)* started off with a month's provisions in a due N. direction from Jimbour, with the full intention of tracing the river down to its very mouth, which the nature of the country and want of ammunition afterwards prevented us from entirely accomplishing.

"On leaving Jimbour the whole character of the country alters. Instead of the wide-spreading plains upon the Darling Downs, the traveller comes upon a fine undulating country, thickly timbered, and covered with the most luxuriant grass; the ridges are chiefly granite. There is little, indeed, no standing water for the first twelve miles; four miles further on is 'Hungry Flat,' so called from our sufferings from hunger whilst there."

On our return the same way we halted at this spot: man and horse hungry and weak. Horse had the best of it. We had been almost without any food for days past. It had become unpleasantly less before that. Denis looked worst. His white features and jet black beard and eyes were too trying a contrast. Our horses grazed awhile and with the exception of my brother, Orton and myself, the others rode off as quickly as they could manage knowing how near we were to Jimbour station. It was a painful effort we made to catch our unsaddled horses, and we jogged on as painfully and in silence. On reaching the hut, Denis was lying near the creek very sick: Glover squeamish. They had "bolted" all the catables. Having to wait, we escaped much of such an unpleasant result from sudden repletion. Poor Denis! He afterwards told me that the feeling of starvation had so clung to him that he never could lie down to sleep o' nights without a "whack" of damper under his pillow!—until, I suppose, he left for Sydney and went down in the "Sovercign" at Amity Point.

"Here we found a chain of ponds, running west, which supplied us with water. At the end of this valley we with difficulty fought our way through a scrubby pass, on clearing which we burst upon a fine open forest glade with a rich dark soil. A stream from the Great Range runs through it into the interior. Being now some twenty-four miles north of Jimbour we determined to change our course and cross to the eastern slope of the range; this we did, and having descended about four miles from the summit, say two hundred feet, came upon a creek which we followed: it zig-zagged a good deal but its lay was decidedly northerly becoming

* Wrong. It consisted of Glover, Henry Denis (of Jimbour), my brother, myself, with Orton and "Jemmy."

APPENDIX B.

CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS' JOURNAL.

JAMES COOK had broken through the red, rugged ranks, coral-clad in their uniform front, challenging and defying with face eastwards, as its rear guard of the Barrier Range presented its front westwards, to the knights in quest of the dungeoned "Faërie Queene." Having been the first, the pages of his grateful country's history worthily illuminate his name. But no one man's life-energy was sufficient to unravel the skein which Cook had laid his hand upon in so strange a tangle of the secrets of the deep sea. Yet one more! no less daring, brave, skilful, self-sacrificing, enthusiastic cultivator of the ocean fallow fields stepped out of the ranks of men at once to catch the mantle falling from the prostrate form of his sea-scourer father.

On no less worthy and noble shoulders than those of Matthew Flinders did that mantle display its brightest colours: fly out in the storms, or wave its folds faithfully to the soft breezes of Australia's shores, until riven, and rent, and threadbare in that unrequited service! Cook in native love of justice would have loved to stand hand-in-hand with his son of the sea, who taught the world how much the father had left yet uncompleted.

Have we in Australia thought reverently enough of Flinders? The man who housed this garden-continent within the economy of a British domain, with a hand which charted his labour of life and love: lost in the gloom of a prison; to which French jealousy of his service to *us* consigned him? The man who lay almost forgotten for years therein without one helping hand, one sympathetic voice among his far-away countrymen, has passed away, it seems, from our memory as he has from our eyes; absorbed, perhaps, by that—questionably attitudinised—memorial of his precursor in the "Quest," standing in Sydney Hyde Park, with his hand stretched seawards—where the New South Land did *not* lie!

A tribute of gratitude to Matthew Flinders need not be the less because that earned by Cook is so great.

Extracts from Matthew Flinders' "Introduction to a Voyage to Terra Australis, undertaken for the purpose of completing the discovery of that vast country, and prosecuted in the years 1801, 1802, and 1803, in His Majesty's ship the 'Investigator,' in two volumes, 1814."

"Flinders' voyage was undertaken by command of His Majesty, in the year 1801, in a ship of 334 tons, which received the appropriate name of the 'Investigator.'

APPENDIX H.

THURSDAY, 12th May, 1842. (*Sydney Gazette*.) "His Excellency the Governor has, in a proclamation inserted in 'Tuesday's *Government Gazette*, defined the boundaries of the Moreton Bay district to be as follows: 'On the south by the ranges which separate the sources of the rivers Brisbane and Logan from those of the Richmond and the Clarence; on the west by the range dividing the sources of the rivers flowing into the western interior from those which fall to the eastern coast; on the east by that coast; and on the northward by the limits of colonisation, until a more definite boundary shall be determined on that side.' His Excellency has also appointed Stephen Simpson, Esq., Moreton Bay, a Commissioner of Crown Lands beyond the boundaries of location.'"

APPENDIX I.

THERE are perhaps some who would be amused by the record of the first land sale—so long expected—of building allotments at Brisbane; many more who would marvel at what “separation” has done in affecting their present value. For this reason I am loth to put aside what may appear to most to be dry and worthless matter.

“On July 16th, 1842, Thursday, the sale was effected. The allotments with a few exceptions, consisted of thirty-six perches each, and the prices given exceeded our most sanguine expectations. The eight allotments put up in Queen-street, realised collectively the large sum of £1,340; the largest sum given for any one allotment being £250. The south side of the river did not go off so well, but considering the inferiority of the situation the biddings were high. . . . The allotments were put up at the minimum price of £100 per acre. No. 1, of Section I, was purchased by Mr. Dudley Sinclair for £230, and then other allotments were secured by the following:—W. S. Moutry, £135; Isaac Titterton, £125; Benjamin and Moses, £130; G. F. Wisc, £155; G. S. le Breton, £200; D. Sinclair, £250; C. Mallard, £110; W. Sheehan, £105; Edmund Lockyer, £85; John Panton, £80; W. Young, £70; J. Betts, £140; T. Dent, £105; Evan Mackenzie, £145; J. Betts, £115; W. B. Dobson, £125; David Jones, £110; C. Mallard, £110; J. T. Howell, £120.

“In South Brisbane, D. Sinclair, £150; C. Fitzsimmons, £70; W. B. Dobson, £75; John Woodhouse, £60; William Young, £58; John Graham, £57; Moses Joseph, £65; Thos. Lenehan, £46; C. Fitzsimmons, £33; Thos. Grenier, £33; John Bryden, £29; Martin Doyle, £26; George Thornton, £31; John Richards, £80; W. B. Dobson, £52 10s.; D. Sinclair, £75; J. Panton, £90; T. W. Dent, £44; P. B. Rogers, £40; E. Mackenzie, £32; E. Mackenzie, £34; D. Jones, £38; P. B. Rogers, £39; J. Betts, £60; J. Betts, £38; David Bunton, £48; A. Gore, £60; Robert Rowland £27; L. O'Brien, £32; P. B. Rogers £33; Moses Joseph, £35; D. Jones, £34; P. B. Rogers, £40; Moses Joseph, £30; E. Mackenzie, £58; J. Betts, £57. . . . Respecting the sale of land at Moreton Bay, called ‘Eagle Farm,’ His Excellency directs it to be notified that the sale of this land will take place in Sydney, on Wednesday, the 7th December next.”—*Gazette*.

Getting around this CD

Navigating Archive CD Books CDs

All Archive CD Books products can be navigated easily using the handy bookmarks on each CD. The table of contents in most original books, and the original book index where it exists, can provide additional ways of finding the information required.

Searching Text on Archive CD Books Australia CDs

Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology has been developing over the years as a useful mechanism to convert images (as Archive CD Books pages are) into text which can be searched. The quality of the OCR can still vary, and hence the searchability can vary. Around 95% or 99% of the words in books with good type are searchable—or even higher with very good type.

*OCR is now a wonderful searching aid in many instances
but there is still no substitute for reading the book!*

Different Versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader

Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 or later should be used. Adobe Reader 6 (as it is now named) in fact has considerably better searching options and is recommended.

- **Acrobat Reader v4** has both a “Find” and a “Search” tool. Those tools are two *totally* different things. Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *FIND* tool
- **Acrobat Reader v5** has only a “Find” tool (not a “search” tool). Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *FIND* tool.
- **Adobe Reader v6** has only a “Search” tool (not a tool labelled “Find”). HOWEVER — what is called “Search” is the same as the tool that used to be called “Find” Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the *SEARCH* tool

Tips For Searching and Getting More From the CD Books

- update to Adobe Reader 6 for more versatile searching options, including the ability to bring up a list of all instances of the word you are searching for — across multiple files on a single CD in a single search request.
- enter the MINIMUM number of characters needed to bring up the search results required.
- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering “rederi” if you want “Frederick”, but find that the letters “F” “c” and “k” are sometimes misread.
- use the “Match whole word” option to eliminate unnecessary items in your results list, e.g. to eliminate all the blacksmiths and tinsmiths etc when you only want the name Smith.
- use the “Match case” option to eliminate all the occupations “smith” if you only want the name “Smith”.
- don’t just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
 - › look for others of the same name
 - › look for others who lived in the same place or street
 - › who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
 - › how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
 - › what churches were there and what time were services held?
 - › what other activities were there in the community?
 - › look for others who had the same occupation or other interests
- all of this and more may be available in a seemingly mundane book such as a directory. You can learn much of the background of life at the time, even if your ancestor is not listed there.
- Many CDs have only one file, but some have the book content spread over several files. Adobe Reader normally searches in the file that is open at the time. If you wish to search ALL files at once choose the “All PDF documents in” option and select the CD drive or directory the files are in—Adobe Reader 6 only.

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BUT DO NOT RELY ON IT TO PICK UP ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

