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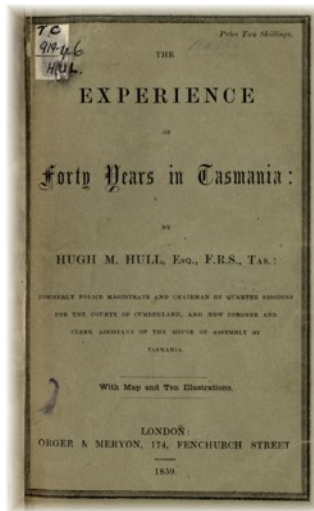
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The Experience of Forty Years in Tasmania

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- For more detailed explanation and tips to get the best search results [click here](#)

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THE
EXPERIENCE

OF

Forty Years in Tasmania :

BY

HUGH M. HULL, Esq, F.R.S., Tas. :

FORMERLY POLICE MAGISTRATE AND CHAIRMAN OF QUARTER SESSIONS
FOR THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, AND NOW CORONER AND
CLEEK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF
TASMANIA.



LONDON :
ORGER & MERYON, 174, FENCHURCH STREET.
J. WALCH & SONS,—HOBART TOWN AND LAUNCESTON.
AND
WM. FLETCHER,—45 & 47, ELIZABETH STREET, HOBART TOWN.

1859.

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LECTURE
ON THE
CAPABILITIES OF TASMANIA,

Read 23rd of June, 1859.

I HAVE the pleasure of reading before you this evening the manuscript of a pamphlet which I have prepared for the purpose of being circulated at the Crystal Palace at Sydenham.

I am assured of the cordial support of the Government of Tasmania in the matter—of the substantial assistance of a vote in aid of the expense; were I a capitalist I should make the book more worthy of the object, and produce from records everywhere courteously placed within my reach, and from extensive observation and a not unfaithful memory, a book which would more fully and felicitously depict Tasmania in its true colors. These would not possibly be so gorgeous as those of our gold producing neighbours. But if the deep thinker look upon this page and upon that, he may possibly see cause to agree with me, that though we have not the material wealth of Victoria, we have far more moral and social worth; and that without egotism we must feel ourselves to hold a higher position as a community. Excessive wealth cannot be said to produce all the consequences of extreme indulgence, nor does poverty beget an aggregate of opposite evils.

This pamphlet will be printed in England, and the first edition will consist of 3000 copies, with illustrations from the pencils of Colonial Artists, and when I mention the names of our venerated Bishop, Dr. Nixon, of Sharp, and Prout Hill, you may feel assured that Tasmania will be both beautifully and truthfully delineated. A small map showing the western country which, with all its advantages, is now open for selection by any person residing in the Colony, and also pointing out the localities where gold has been found, will also be attached.

enterprise since then has been conducted in larger ships. In the winter time the whaling ground is off the coast of New Zealand, and in the summer on the coast of Tasmania.

In the years 1840-43 our ports were visited by large numbers of French whalers, owing in great measure to the bonus then granted by the French government for every tun of oil brought into France by French vessels. This bonus has been discontinued, and the visits of foreign whalers (though our ports are open to them) are now infrequent.

Nearly all the whalers resort to Port Davey, which they find a safe and commodious harbour for vessels of any size, and it possesses to them the additional recommendation that the neighbourhood being unoccupied by settlers, the men have no inducement to desert from their vessels.

As an employment for men previously ignorant of sea-going matters, it is often attended with favorable results, and in these seas without much danger. The custom is for a merchant to fit out a whaler at an expense of £1000 to £3000, and send her out on her speculative voyage, whence she sometimes returns *clean*, that is without having captured a whale, and often with oil and bone to the value of £5000 or £6000. To encourage the crews to exertion each man has his share or lay. If the ship is fortunate, the lay is sometimes a goodly sum, if otherwise, the sailor has had a home and his food.

As a proof of the uncertainty, I may say that during last year (1858)

3 ships	procured less than 5 tuns of oil	
4 ships	procured from 5	„ 10 „
3	„	10 „ 15 „
1	„	15 „ 20 „
7	„	20 „ 25 „
2	„	25 „ 30 „
2	„	30 „ 35 „
2	„	35 „ 40 „
3	„	40 „ 45 „
1 ship	procured above 45	„

The greatest number of vessels, therefore, procured about £1800 worth each. The whalers this season are not doing well, owing to the prevalence of bad weather off the coast of New Zealand, where some have been lost.

One of the vessels which brought forty-four tuns of sperm oil, also brought eleven tuns of black oil, another with thirty-two tuns of sperm

Hobart Town to George Town, a distance of 165 miles, having an intermediate station at Launceston 120 miles. The charge is three shillings for a message of ten words.

The ship bearing the cable to be submerged between Tasmania and Victoria is daily expected, and when it is laid down, which will be done with dispatch, we can flash messages to friends in Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, hundreds of miles off, and receive replies in a few minutes. Its advantages to the mercantile world will be of the utmost importance.

IRRIGATION.

It is surprising that Irrigation has not been practised to a greater extent than it is, when the results are shown in every case to be so valuable, and expense, in proportion to the profits, so very trifling. One acre of grass land irrigated during the summer months is worth thirty of dry land for pasture; besides which water destroys the small caterpillars which in some seasons infest grass lands.

In the address of His Excellency Sir Henry Young to the Northern Agricultural Society, he pointed out the high importance of Irrigation. His Excellency referred to the Lake Country as affording ample means for carrying out a general system, and mentioned a tract of 163,000 acres on the Lake River alone which could all be irrigated from that river.

The Surveyor General stated that no country in the world is more happily situated as regards water for irrigation than Tasmania. In 1844 Major Cotton commenced some extensive works intended to spread water in artificial channels over the lands bordering on the Macquarie and Elizabeth Rivers, from reservoirs, draining 180 square miles of country, and calculated to supply 30,000 acres for irrigation, and to keep up supplies of water all the year round for Campbell Town, Ross, and Tunbridge. These works were however abandoned.

It is said that the last thirteen public works for irrigation executed in Madras by the Indian Government, have returned a profit of 134 per cent., and there is every probability of a handsome return for capital expended in such works in this Colony.

THE POLICE

Protection of the Colony consists of seventeen police or stipendiary magistrates, twenty-two chief district constables, twenty-six district

CLARENCE.

Five miles from Hobart Town. This is an agricultural district.

Three resident Magistrates; one Surgeon. Churches at Rokeby and Bellerive, and chapels. Postmaster, at Bellerive, Mr. M'Arthur; at Rokeby, Mr. Farrar. Coroner, Edward Abbott, Esq. Four inns at Bellerive; one at Rokeby. The *Kangaroo* steamer passes between Hobart Town and Bellerive every half hour, fare 6d.

The district returns a member to the House of Assembly.

DELORAINÉ.

130 miles from Hobart Town, thirty from Launceston, and twenty-one from Latrobe on Port Frederick.

This is an agricultural and pastoral district covering 230,000 acres of country.

The Rivers, Meander, Mersey, Rubicon, and Dasher, flow through the district.

Population 2300.

Five churches; several inns. Land in cultivation 20,000 acres. Gold has been found here in small quantities. A branch Savings' Bank and a branch of the Liverpool and London Insurance Company. Three resident Magistrates, and one Surgeon. Postmaster, Mr. Humphries.

A Road Trust raising and expending about £400 a year.

It is in contemplation to extend a tramway from Delorainé to the Port of the Mersey.

The district returns a member to the House of Assembly.

FRANKLIN.

Chief Town, Franklin, twenty-one miles from Hobart Town. This is a thickly timbered district, covering 1,300,000 acres of country. The Huon, Mount, and Kermadec Rivers flow through the district.

Population, 1422 males, 929 females; 529 houses; 4307 sheep, 1124 cattle, 209 horses, 1014 pigs. Land in cultivation, 2528 acres.

Church and chapels at Franklin; three inns; a Road Trust, raising and expending £600 a year.

THE FOLLOWING IS A RETURN OF THE AVERAGE RETAIL
PRICES OF PROVISIONS DURING 1858.

		£	s.	d.
Ale, Colonial	per gallon	0	4	0
Bacon	per lb.	0	1	9
Beer, Colonial	per gallon	0	2	0
Bread	per lb.	0	0	2½
Butter, fresh	do.	0	2	0
— potted	do.	0	1	10
Cheese	do.	0	1	6
Coffee	do.	0	1	6
Candles	do.	0	0	8
Flour	per cwt.	1	1	0
Meat, Beef	per lb.	0	0	7
— Mutton	do.	0	0	7
— Veal	do.	0	0	9
— Pork	do.	0	1	0
Potatoes	per cwt.	0	8	0
Salt	per lb.	0	0	2
Sugar, moist	do.	0	0	4
— loaf	do.	0	0	10
— crystallised	do.	0	0	5
Soap	do.	0	0	4
Tea, black	do.	0	2	6
— green	do.	0	2	6
Coal, Tasmanian	per ton	£1	5	0 to 1 10 0
— Sydney	do.	2	0	0 ,, 2 7 0
— English	per ton	3	0	0
Wood, fire	do.	0	15	0

AVERAGE RATES OF WAGES PAID IN TASMANIA DURING
THE YEAR, 1858.

	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Bricklayers	8	0	to	12	0 a day, without board.
Joiners	8	0	„	14	0 „ „ „
Carpenters	9	0	„	15	0 „ „ „
Masons, Cutters	7	0	„	16	6 „ „ „
— Builders	8	3	„	13	0 „ „ „
Plasterers	8	0	„	11	0 „ „ „
Painters	8	0	„	11	3 „ „ „
Plumbers	8	0	„	13	6 „ „ „
Quarrymen	6	6	„	8	0 „ „ „

HOUSE SERVANTS, *with board*, &c. (in great demand). Cooks £20 to £50; general female servants, £20 to £30; laundry maids, £18 to £25; nursery maids, £15 to £25; Grooms, £25 to £50; farm servants, from £26 to £40.

Getting around this CD

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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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