

Birksgate
Glenosmond.

Notes from a Pocket Journal
of
a Trip to Lake Hope in 1861.

by
Sir Thomas Elder, S. C. M. S.



Diary.

1861.

August 31. Left Adelaide in the "Lubra" for Port Lincoln.

September 1. Arrived at Port Lincoln: and spent the day with Captain Bishop.

September 2. Rode out to Mr. Haig's station, and saw the Alpacas and Angola goats sent from England by Titus Salt - Went on to Poorindie and saw the native Institution under charge of Mr. Hammond - Embarked in the evening.

September 3. Reached Port Augusta. Slept in Mackie's Hotel in company with Major Warburton.

September 4. Left Port Augusta about mid-day with Mr. Brown for Mount Arden. Arrived there in the evening.

September 5. Got our horses here, and started for the North.

September 8. Reached Nuckelleena.

September 10. Saw the Mine, and started in the forenoon, arriving at Mount Deception (Bellana) in the evening.

September 17. Started for Angepena. Stopped at Bobmoonie, and saw Mr. Glen, who told us that Mr. Burke had been heard of and that ^{McDonnell} Stuart had passed southwards with his party some days previous - Saw Mount Stuart Mine, and got to Angepena before dark.

September 18. Went to top of Mount Charlie - Started at 2 o'clock after getting Adelaide mail, and reached Awicandina in evening.

September 21. Reached Blanchester.

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September 22. Remained at Blanchwater under Mr. Dean's hospitality. Mr. John Mackinlay with his expeditionary party from Adelaide arrived in the forenoon and encamped by water hole - Spent the afternoon in fishing with nets in the Government boat in Blanchwater. Had a long conversation ^{in the evening} with Mackinlay regarding his expedition.

September 24. Started for Toonketchen. 30 miles. Arrived in the evening.

September 25. Mackinlay's main party arrived in the evening & encamped across the creek.

September 26. Started after breakfast for Manuwankininna - Mr. Stuckey's Station. Reached it at 2 p.m. Had a long discussion with Mackinlay on the way, and strongly urged him to push on an advance party from this place. He does not seem sufficiently alive to the importance of hurrying forward to test the truth of the natives' story respecting Burke and Wills. Mr. Hodgkinson, second in command, gave me his own history, & the history of Burke's Expedition to which he belonged.

September 27. Left Manuwankininna at 9 o'clock a.m. Pooled for twenty miles in a severe hot wind, and crossed Lake Torrens twice. Camped with the horses on a barren plain without water at 5 o'clock, the Camels joining us at 8 p.m., leaving Mr. Mackinlay to bring on the dray.

September 28. Mackinlay's men emptied their canteens yesterday, and

as Mr. Hodgkinson would only allow one quart of water to each man from the general supply, the most of the men were without tea or liquid of any sort to their breakfast this morning. Started at 6 o'clock & after a short ride reached the margin of Lake Hope at noon - the camels coming in at 3 p.m. No sooner had the advance party - Giles, Stucky, and myself, arrived at the Lake, than we were surrounded by 20 to 30 natives, the number increasing toward evening to upwards of 100. They were all very harmless & only one man armed with the boomang. The natives hung about the encampment till dark, when they all went away, but some of them returned, and were only dispersed by Mr. Hodgkinson presenting his gun at them. Mr. Stucky and I spent the afternoon by ourselves, accompanied by two natives, in shooting game, and collecting the seeds of wild flowers at two or three miles distance from the camp. During the night a regular watch was set, each man taking his turn of an hour and a half. Slept under a large gum-tree on the margin of the Lake.

September 29: Mr. Hodgkinson & Middleton started on the camels at day-light to carry water to the bullocks. About ten o'clock Mr. Mackinley arrived with the bullocks, which he was compelled to bring on for water - leaving the dry in the Sand Hills about 25 miles off. Two