THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The South Australian arrived at Port Adelaide on Sunday, 1st instant, from Adam Bay, via King George's Sound. She reached Palmerston on the 5th December 1864, and her appearance with reinforcements and supplies and intelligence was hailed with unqualified pleasure by the members of the original expedition, whether good men and true or bad men and true. She found the party in good health, but certainly not hard at work. It is to be hoped, however, that the first difficulties have been overcome, and that as the men are by this time relieved, and prepared and disposed to proceed with the work of surveying, &c., as soon as the subsidence of the wet season will permit, of the preliminary work of settlement. The South Australian Government will, however, apply to the naval officer in command of the station to appoint a surveyor, and it is hoped that the Government Resident will be able to make his appearance in the Peninsula as soon as the health of the party will permit his return to England. It is expected, notwithstanding this delay, that the Beaufort can be dispatched to the Northern Territory in about a fortnight, and the stores and supplies which it is desirable the Government Resident should have in store. It is further expected that in the course of the next two months a vessel bound to India may be chartered to call at Adam Bay. From the continuance of correspondence placed before our readers they will no doubt be glad to gather that men experienced in sheep-farming are of opinion that wool will not suffer deterioration in the Northern Territory. Some doubt is expressed as to whether the sage-wheat can be cultivated profitably there; but no doubt is felt as to the fitness of the soil and climate for growing cotton and rice. It is thought also that wheat may be cultivated there, and as for building up the Peninsula. So much has been heard of the sand-stone which he has observed on the Palmerston Peninsula, and time, he says, can be obtained by burning coal, which is found there in exhaustless abundance.

The following official correspondence has been supplied to us for publication:—

"To the Hon. H. Acrf., &c., &c.
Palmerston, December 8, 1864.

Sir—I do myself the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 25th October last, sent by steamship South Australian, which arrived here on the 5th instant at noon. This reinforcement was most opportune, and has completely changed the aspect of our operations. The men are in a fine respectable body, and some new blood was wanted. The stock arrived and have all been landed safely. We began this day to discharge the rest of the cargo; but as at this particular period of the month's arm when the neap tides prevail we have only one tide by daylight, and as the boats can only cross the reef for about three hours each tide, I fear it will be impossible to clear her within the four lay days; however, every effort is being made to be accomplished."

"On the 6th I took the captain and some of the visitors to visit Port Daly whilst the stock was being disembarked. The want of fuel and the short time allowed for the stay of the ship has alone prevented the South Australian from entering, and I should have made every effort, even by cutting from the ship at the last moment that I had doubt whenever it would be of any avail to send any letters by her. Moreover, I was utterly unable to cope with the mass of correspondence which came before me. The copying press had not been established, as our stores were not in a state to be unpacked, being under removal at the time."

"On this occasion I have endeavoured to supply the omission as regards the one I sent by Commander Hutchinson; but the want of office accommodation, very insufficiently afforded by a tent full of dust and boxes, will render the duplicates incomplete."

"The Yatala has not arrived from Tunny, but is expected."

"As soon as the new hands are available by the discharge of the South Australian, I shall make arrangements for the survey of the City of Palmerston at this site, as it has been decided to establish a post in my despatch by the Beaufort. I am fully satisfied that I have chosen the best site on the north-west coast, having seen quite sufficient of the country to come to this conclusion. As we are getting our supplies of water from wells at the distance of more than a mile, I prepared for the difficulty of having to cart over perhaps heavy loads during the wet season by sinking a well close to the depot. We have obtained excellent water at a depth of 24 feet, about a quarter of a mile due east of the camp from the chit, in the fullest abundance; and from excursions I have made round and across the peninsula, I find water is obtainable over its whole surface, in this the driest season of the year, as deep as varying from four to 24 feet from the surface, through strata easily worked with the pickaxe."

"As some persons have hinted at the Victoria River as a site for the first settlement, I think it proper to state my views on the subject. I find that no ship can get up the Adelaide River without being towed by three boats with a favourable tide. The current is strong, and the reach is tortuous; therefore sails are useless. The tide rises 12 feet or more. No merchant ships could man three boats with the crews they take to sea; a steamer would therefore be required, and a careful survey must be made previous to any attempt at navigation by such means. The delays and risks and expenses of such a system would deter any vessel from visiting a settlement up the Adelaide River, where, if placed, it must be at a distance of nearly 50 miles up to attain the fresh water."

"In the Victorian District these difficulties are much increased, as the tides rise and fall 30 feet and upwards, and the currents are from five to six knots an hour. It would require a steamer to overcome this, and there would be no trade to make one pay for a very long time—until, indeed, an export was created, which must be the
work in-ieed, the general former acted more have Bay, the Palmerston. harbour a« here than less a« deeded spot them. Fitzmuurice called, the in-Chief, passage ?applies arrived which fresh ha-ida. of thirds from sea Hutchison’s ‘I

The following letter, addressed to the Agent-General, is of sufficient interest to be published here:

"Palmerston, December 9, 1864.

Sir,—My last letter to you was written on board the Beagle off Port Darwin on the 16th October last. Since then nothing has transpired of importance to landowners in England. I am

I send you in that letter, however, that I had decided on fixing the site of the first town at Escape Cliffs. I now confirm that statement, and have to inform you that the city of Palmerston, as it has been named by the Governor-in-Chief, will be laid out at Escape Cliffs, at the very spot where the officers of the Beagle, Messrs. Fitzmuurice and Keys, had to dance for their lives to avoid the spears of the natives assembled to attack them. We have not possession of the top of the cliff, and the natives are now a myth as regards the whole of the Hotham, or as it will now be called, the Palmerston Peninsula, for they have not shown themselves for several months. I do not think we shall have any trouble with them.

On the 5th inst. the steamship South Australian arrived here with reinforcements of men and supplies of cattle and stores. She made the passage by Torres Straits, calling at Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane. She has brought us 40 fresh beasts. 44 horses, and 60 sheep, all of which have been safely landed from the anchorage, south of a mile from the cliff. I am now in a position to proceed with the surveys, and they will be pushed with all possible vigour. I propose to lay out two-thirds of the town fronting the sea at the cliff, which is a fine healthy situation, open to western seas here, and the remaining portion at Port Daly, an inner harbour between the mouth of the River Adelaide and the Narrows. This harbour is safe and deep, with all winds, deep, and capacious. We have no doubt received from the Admiralty Commodore Hutchinson’s survey, which will explain

have no doubt received from the Admiralty Commodore Hutchinson’s survey, which will explain its capabilities better than I can do in writing. The land around the basin which forms the inner harbour is low, some of it covered at high-water spring tides to the depth of six inches; but there are other portions of the shore which though low are still quite free from any tidal influence. The water being deep enough for vessels to lie within a few yards of the shore, capital only is wanted to make wharfs and stores for the convenience of shipping. There is a level road from this to Palmerston, less than six miles, so that the busy merchant may after office hours take his drive to the more healthy and pleasant site of Palmerston for his dinner and social enjoyment.
Adelaide River, where the tides rage one night 12 feet and rush with a velocity of over three miles an hour: whilst in the Victoria the tides and currents are more than double, from which must result more than double the difficulty of navigation. Black will thrive in the bush country of the Victoria, and in the course of years, when an expert has been created sufficient to employ many ships, it will probably become a port of importance. But we must work for the present a good way into the future. Palmerston, as now situated, is open to the visits of ships of every description and tonnage without danger or delay. The soil of the peninsula, about 30 square miles, consists of firm moss sandstone, which forms an admirable dry site for dwelling-houses, and although not as rich as other sand, yet it produces water clear enough and thick enough to render walking through it a matter of great difficulty, and tree and shrub of many varieties, amongst them the spiral and the cabbage palm. Under these circumstances I infer that it will be suit- able for many descriptions of cultivation and as water can be obtained over the whole extent by sinking wells from six to 20 feet deep, this portion of the district to be surveyed will be profitably occupied by future settlers. There is some very rich sand among three miles east of the cliffs, which will form the ruins of a high sandstone cliff.

"Fishing will be profitable, if undertaking as a trade by skilful persons, especially, I think, with fishing and trading for crabs, vide, and other flat fish. The crabs are fine and large, but are not easily taken without proper means.

"I found the natives very troublesome at first. They were shy, and would not approach us for some time, but after making and receiving signs of friendship amongst them, came to us in great numbers, showing our confidence by shouting: demanding everything that was within their reach. Their pertinacity in this respect was so great that to avoid quarrels we were obliged to suspend all work during their visits, which became at last too frequent and troublesome. Not having an interpreter between us, it was difficult to make them understand that our peaceful behaviour was no result of inability to defend ourselves; nor a quarrel of any nature. One of them was shot, but not until they had wounded one of our party, and they retaliated by spearing our horses. I sent out a retaliatory party to clear the peninsula of the natives by destroying their camp, and in an affair which took place another native was shot dead, a noted chief and thief, to whom I had shown the greatest kindness. Since this which is now nearly three months, we have had no communication with them. We see their fires about ten miles off, the river, and on one of the Vernon Islands. I think that their hostility has been arrested at very little cost to them, and I have no doubt our stronger party will awe them into respect, and that thus our future communica- tions with them will be of a friendly nature. I never expect to find them useful as labourers, although some such views have been entertained. The impossibility of keeping them from the labour of unloading boats, although I gave them food for every packet they carried. They are too fat and well fed on easy terms from the natural produce of the country to care to work. We cannot carry them, and for outdoor work require a large amount of labour before which the numbers of the whole native population, if converted into civilized habits of working for wages, would be quite unacceptable. We must have Asiatic labour, and that speedily, before we can have built roads, or cultivation to any extent. Landowners who intend to settle must see to this. I have made this letter rather long for official correspondence, and have departed from the usual rule of confining our remarks to one subject but I give every information to be given by persons on the spot will be valuable to future settlers and speculators."

"I have, &c.,
E. T. FINNIS.

"G. S. Walters, Agent-General."

"Northern Territory, South Australia, Depot Escape Cliffs, October 6."

"Sir—I do myself the honour to report proceedings in continuation of my despatch No. 2 of the 18th August last, which was dated from this depot. On the 16th August I discharged the Henry Ellis, finding her rather an encumbrance than a service to the expedition, as the master made too many difficulties about securing her as requited. I had only a captain's log in the shape of boats, and was herself undermanned by the loss of two of her seamen—one by desertion in Port Adelaide, another by drowning in Adam Bay. It would have been impossible to use her as a depot, even if those circumstances had been otherwise, as whilst any stores were on board some of our party had to remain with the Assistant Storekeeper to watch the stores, and almost every package was required stores to supply some article of necessity for the expedition.

"Captain Phillips was settled with on the 18th August in the following way: Five hundred pounds (£250), as due under the charter; four hundred and sixty-four pounds (£464), hire for one month under the original agreement; and thirty pounds twelve shillings (£32 13s.), for supplies had during the voyage and pending her stay in Adam Bay. The total sum paid the Captain Phillips, therefore, amounted to nine hundred and ninety-four pounds twelve shillings (£942 13s.), which was done by a bill on the Agent General for £1,000 at par, the balance being returned to the accountant here. Having found all that was needed for an infant settlement at this place, viz., a convenient harbour, fresh water in sufficient abundance and easily obtainable, an apparently healthy, cheerful site, and good soil in abundance, I made this my permanent depot, and collected all the party at this depot on the 31st August with the cattle and stores—I regret to say, however, with the loss of three horses and three bullocks, which I am satisfied died from the effects of eating a poisonous weed which appears to grow chiefly at the Narrows near salt swamps, and probably in similar situations elsewhere."

"The labour of getting our stores collected—I cannot say secured—at this place has been immense, under all the disadvantages and difficulties that opposed us."

"The goods were first landed in boats from the anchorage outside, nearly a mile from shore, across a mud-flat, which was only accessible to the land of unloading boats, although I gave them food for every package they carried. They are too fat and well fed on easy terms from the natural produce of the country to care to work. We cannot carry them, and for outdoor work require a large amount of labour before which the numbers of the whole native population, if converted into civilized habits of working for wages, would be..."
They were taken out of the Henry Ellis by the men of the Beatrice through the kind assistance of Captain Hutchison, and safely stacked on the beach at Point Chataway, the only eligible place at the time they were landed to which they could be conveniently conveyed. The Yatala and the Julia, with seven of my men, are at this moment employed rafting them off, and I expect to have them here tomorrow.

I stated in former despatches that the Beatrice had proceeded to Timor for supplies. She returned on the first day of this month with supplies of fresh provisions, fruit, and vegetables, greatly to my joy, for her presence was much needed, and I had strained my eyes for days watching her approach.

My anxiety was occasioned chiefly by the failure of our stock of food. We have abundance of flour, tea, and sugar, but our salt pork, of which we had only brought a stock of pork, had become tainted and unwholesome, both in the large and in the small barrels; and our small stores—rice, cheese, jam, and peas—were exhausted. Our stores, now reduced to a dozen, were husbanded; but even when killed afforded very little nourishment, as from the grass having been of necessity turned they had to subsist on leaves and shrubs.

The health of the party from these combined causes, exposure on exploring trips amongst swamps, insufficient animal and succulent food, hard labour in a tropical sun, and perhaps also from a changing season, had begun to fail, and with it their spirits and energies. None of these causes had been assigned by the surgeons of the expedition, Dr. Goldsmith, to account for the sickness, which he attributes solely and exclusively to the quality of the water. But I am quite satisfied that he is mistaken in this opinion, and his own reports, which I transmit by this mail, attest the fact. The alarm created and exerted was sufficient to cause dependency, and I have no doubt that it has been such an effect.

From the very day of the arrival of the Beatrice a change has been operating for the better in the health of the men. This morning Dr. Goldsmith only reports one sick of my party, viz., Mr. Pearson, who has been on the sick list since his wounds. I have given the men as much fruit and fresh vegetables as they can consume. We killed our first buffalo on the morning after the arrival of the Beatrice, and we, with the aid of fishing and kangaroo hunting, now make our supplies of fresh meat and vegetables hold out for three months.

On the 9th Commander Hutchison proceeds to Timor on his way to Adelaide, and I have ordered the Yatala to accompany him as far as Timor for additional supplies, to enable me to hold on for a further three months, by which time I presume the first reinforcement from Adelaide will reach us.

I send Mr. Davis, the assistant storekeeper, with all my remaining funds on board the Yatala as supercargo. The Yatala cannot be completely repaired at Timor, as Captain Hutchison informs me that they have no sheet copper or copper nails. Iron will be substituted, but will not last 12 months; but as her speedy return is a matter of importance, owing to our necessities and the expected chance of monsoons, there seems to be no alternative. Perhaps Major Bougainville could send copper nails for the rudder and sheathing-copper for her bulk and keel from Adelaide. If so, she could be repaired here by her own carpenter. The little fleet will be assembled and sent out from Port Paterson by the Julia with 16 hands, including myself. I avail myself of this opportunity to take a view of other harbours, assisted by the judgment of Captain Hutchison, before I finally decide the site of the capital city of the New South Wales.

The reports of the officers returned from the rains give considerable aid to the insidious sleet of storms in which health can only be maintained by care, good shelter, and good food combined.

I do not like, under all the varying circumstances that may occur, to promise any particular time for the completion of the surveys of the town and port, I can only venture to say for myself that they will be completed before the 1st of March next. I have a reason to fear which I know nothing of, and I have but a small party, entirely unacquainted to these seas, too men for the field under the circumstances that have occurred and may occur. But of this the Government may rest assured, that no exertion on my part shall be wanting to get the land ready for selection as early as possible. I have taken up this service in the full conviction that my reputation and honour and welfare are involved in its success; and though I have had to struggle through more difficulties than were foreseen, I am not daunted with the prospects before me, nor do I entertain the slightest doubt of the ultimate accomplishment of all that was expected.

With respect to the rural surveys, I shall want a large force of good hands, all hardy labourers, and men who, with provisions, tools, stores, cattle, and horses, I have as many as the men can possibly find work for, with the addition I allude to for the next 12 months. They will only remain here the two first months. They shall receive both shelter and subsistence if

end of page
They will require food, shelter, and attendance if they come, and have nothing to do. When I require more it will be easy to communicate with the Government. But in the meantime they will be a positive obstruction to anything that must be supplied to me immediately, viz., a lighter or punt of about 24 tons, and drawing less than three feet water. Without such a convenience I cannot move a single party across the Adelaide River, to be landed on the other side of the river. The punt should be, east, from 25 to 30 feet in length, and about 8 feet wide cleanmade. She must be made to carry a dry boat, and bullocks. There are no means of conveniently or safely landing or unloading horses and stock without such a boat, or of handling cargo except at great loss of time and damage; moreover, the stations inland can only be supplied in this manner. Without roads in the interior, dry floods are almost useless, and pack horses can scarcely travel at present on account of forests and creeks with sandy banks and fresh-water swamps. I can push on the river surveys up the east side of the Adelaide River, from there half way down the river, but I cannot go up six or five miles from the river, and so can the Diaries Range on this side. But all surveys on the west must be suspended until I have such means of transport. The sea here are transit of such a lake, but the waters of the rivers are turbid, subject to a rise and fall of tide varying from 6 feet here to much more down the coast, and the reaches of the rivers tortuous, so that sailing vessels have no chance of using a water; they must be towed. A punt should have a strong mast and cabb, to be used to hoist cattle and heavy goods, and she should also have a stage in her stern to let down when necessary to admit horses and other stock and be withdrawn when alongside of the banks of the rivers, which is deep enough to admit of this stage reaching the firm ground. I have dwelt in detail upon this, because it is an absolute necessity for the surveys. I am now, altogether, without funds, or at least shall be so in a few days. A supply should therefore be sent. Bills on London, Acc, can only be negotiated by sending a vessel to the islands at a great cost. For supplies to be derived from there, it will be all too late, for I ought to have cash. The men have their dealings with themselves, and with the wretches of ships, and they like to send their own cash to Cull for supplies. I would suggest, however, that, instead of paying the men who desire to return to Adelaide by procuration orders, as I am doing at present, a credit should be established at one of the banks — say the English, Scottish, and Australian Bank — in Adelaide, in the name of the Government Resident, or the Accountant here, and that he should have the authority to pay by cheques drawn against such credit, which should always be watched by the Treasurer in Adelaide, and varied in amount according to the growing expenditure of this place.

I have now, in conclusion, a suggestion to make with regard to the mode of selecting rural lands. If I am to defer notice of selection until 25,000 acres of land at least are surveyed, this will be a positive obstacle that cannot be removed long before completion by fines which must overspread the country or no one can move through the long grass, by excessive growth of underwood, by heavy rains setting the ground and destroying spade marks, and by white ants, which, in three months, leave the wood of this country nothing but a shell. Stone is not to be had except at long intervals, and that of such a hard texture as not to be easily broken by a hammer.

These difficulties can be partially, perhaps wholly, got over by altering the regulations by legislation, if necessary — giving power to the Government Resident to call on holders of land orders to select, as soon as blocks of not less than 2000 acres shall be ready, on a month's notice. The order of choice could then be determined in Adelaide, and the numbers of the land orders, with the order in which they were entitled to be used in selection, communicated to the Government Resident. There are some details of minor importance to be attended to in this scheme, such as the opening of a block for selection, how long the holders of land orders may withhold the exercise of their right; if any proprietors with a large block of land, when it came to their turn, they might indicate the locality for survey under certain restrictions to prevent the cost of distant operations from being too great. The settlement, supplies, and where the survey parties might be exposed to danger from natives. I know that too much capital is involved in this undertaking, and too lightly an interest felt in its success, to feel it necessary for me to advert to the length of this communication, because it contains some of the letters which I have lately been compelled to write, much matter for consideration.

The Hon. H. Ayres, Chief Secretary.

Extracts from a letter addressed by Dr. Goldsmith, Surgeon and Protector of Aborigines, Northern Territory, Acc, to the Hon. the Chief Secretary, Adelaide.

Camp, Escape Cliffs, Northern Territory, December 1864

"Since I had the honour of addressing you by letter dated October 5, I am happy to inform you that there has been a great improvement in the state of health of the members of the expedition: but unfortunately we have latterly been short of provisions, from the effect of which the men are getting into a debilitated state, attended with nausea and irritability of the stomach. Owing, however, to more energetic means having been adopted for the procuring of food, and the use of tonics in the shape of quinine and wine, I am happy to be enabled to state that the symptoms have all vanished, and I trust our present immunity from sickness may long continue."

I forwarded by the Beatrice's mails, which left in August, a list of medicines and medical comforts required for the expedition, to which (as it is probable they will not be forwarded till after the South Australian arrivers in Adelaide) it will be necessary, there should be some alterations and additions, as I have been enabled to obtain some medicines from the Beatrice, and the opportune arrival of the steamer with fresh provisions will render the procuring some of the medical comforts unnecessary.

I therefore now enclose a list of medicines and medical comforts which I consider necessary at the present time, and which I shall be glad to have the kindness of forwarding by the Adelaide papers should seem to intimate.
diarrhoea, 12th, 14th, 15th, and 16th, W. Smith, car- buncle; 15th, Breman, rheumatism; 16th and 28th, T. King, nausea and gastric irritation; 18th, W. P. Auld, gastric irritation; 18th to 28th, J. Cooper, diarrhoea; 27th and 28th, T. King, sore head; November 12th, Willshire, haemorrhoids; sore hands and feet, November 22nd, December 4th, and 28th.

On the 13th, Mr. Pearson, debility; 18th, Captain Humbert, debility; 28th, Atkinson and Wore, bilious attack; 28th, 29th, and 30th, J. Howe, farminie and debility; 27th and 28th, J. Gilbee, sore head; November 12th, Willshire, indigestion; November 22nd, December 4th, and 28th, haemorrhoids; sore hands and feet, November 22nd, December 4th, and 28th.

The abstract of the report.

The wooden houses are not yet erected. The first will be finished by Christmas Day, having been begun a month since and continued by three of the new carpenters. I shall, however, by building the main house last used and by erecting huts set at

safety in shelter very shortly after the departure of the steamer.

I shall put three survey parties to work immediately, and I think there is very little doubt now that the party will be ready to start on a new selection in about two months, unless any extraordinary sickness or weather sets in, which, however, I am not prepared to expect.

The Governor's speech on the departure of the expedition, has done much good in this camp, and the lively personal interest which he evinced in the success of the expedition relieved men from any idea that the Government are indifferent to proceeding with the work. The site selected for the Government houses is about three sides of one of the wooden houses for the Government Resident erected, and the roof covered in, and calculated plain, 25 feet long, having been nearer for a flagstaff, and a wall about 25 feet deep sunk a quarter of a mile from the camp. In this way we get water better than what we had from the shallow wells about two miles away, but yet it is not good, it has the peculiarity of turning black when mixed with a little brandy, and it appears very singular indeed when one puts in the mouth with a spoon or mouth instead of containing brands and water to see it have the resemblance of weak ink.

Up to this date nothing has been done in the survey work, and I can see no advantage in the Government houses will be done before February or March; for we have every reason to believe that the rainy season was set in within a very few days, and if we have anything like tropical rains it will be impossible to work during the wet season. Then it is rumoured that the Government Resident has some intention to have huts erected for the men, but, judging by past experience, this would be a very beneficial measure, appears highly problematical. You will, no doubt, be aware that this place was pencilled upon as the site of the future city without sufficient information about the rest of the coast; but on this I will not give an opinion. I simply recommend every intending settler to bring some steam-engine, apparatus, and building timber with him, or be content to live in a red tacked log hut. The climate is warm, but I believe it very healthy, and outdoor work could not in any case be postponed.

The food has been good, it can be good, and it

could not be got from the beat
ool, however, in the vicinity of the town is an arid

land, intersected with swamps and salt

sands, and the interior of the country would be

inaccessible during the rains. I hope the holders

of land orders will continue to feel every possible

ease in the present Administration, and consider

that the expeditions before them have been duly

studied in the selection of the new capital.

I may mention that the horses and sheep per

South Australian were all landed safe: 367 out of

400 tons on board were landed. Manna, store and

carcasses arrived with the intention. I believe, of

seizing the town allotments; but alas, there were

no allotments to select, and instead of finding

us encamped in a stockade with guns mounted

and all preparations for enduring a siege they

found us camping in security, without palisades or

drains, not even a watchman patrolling at

night, the military guard having been dispersed

with some considerable time before. Several

members of the old expedition go home with the

appearance of two or more who came out by the

South Australian go back by her; whether they

have made their fortunes or are disguised with the

place they can best inform the Adelaide public.

A good deal of discontent, or rather grumbling,

has been attributed by the fact that 37 per cent

has been added to the original price paid in

Adelaide for the shop clothing supplied to members

of the expedition.

The mail closes at 12 to 1-day, 1st December.

Mr. Ward (late clerk in Charge) and Captain Hum-

bert return in the South Australian, their services

having been dispensed with. It seems rather hard

that an officer should be dismissed here, where he

cannot work, nor lodging, food, or

perhaps have to wait months for a passage and

then pay his fare back; but possibly it may be

a mistake, and that the Governor intended that

the passage be paid by the Government.

Another correspondent has favoured us with the

following letter:

"Adam Bay, December 8, 1864.

"Dear Sir—With considerable difficulty I pro-

ceed to write you a few words, on the truthfulness

of which you may rely as was human beings can

be relied on. The vessel coming back way of

King George's Sound proclaimed me from keeping

my engagement to send a telegram by way of

Finniss, and I have made the best of it. Will you

please to send the facts to me. I desire you will

be in possession of the facts, which are the most

startling, such as the deaths of Mr. Bonnett and

the cook of the Yatala; also of the affair at

Chalmers's Bay, where another native was killed.

I must enumerate these in case any accident should

have happened to the Beaccadd.

"We anchored in Adam Bay, about a mile from

the settlement on Escape Cliff, on Monday, 5th

instant, at 7 a.m., in seven fathoms of water, a

coral reef being about midway between the vessel

and shore. The passage was an exceedingly calm

and quiet, and would have been very pleasant had it

not been interpolated by the situation of the vessel

out of the passengers, so much was it the case

that a statement of the state of things was drawn

up to be forwarded to the Government, which was

signed by nearly every one of the fore-cabin

passengers. Salt provisions of the worst quality

were served out to us in Merton Bay, and continued

to the end of the passage, notwithstanding some

of the meat was taken to Mr. White in a state of

decomposition. He promised given that we should

have one fresh meal every day as soon as the

sheep were put on board. It was only varied by

sheep were put on board. It was only varied by

about five or six fresh meals.

"Everything here at present is in a state of

confusion from our sudden though welcome appear-

ance. As the camp has been so long without

fresh meal, it was surprising to see the parties

looking so well. The report from the Doctor

on the day of our arrival was that Mr. Finnis had

been the report for some time past. I think, under

the circumstances, this augurs well for the health-

fulness of the site for the township. In fact, Mr.

Finniss was the only man whose eyes seemed

was at all impaired, and he looked rather care-

worn, and no wonder, considering the insufficiency

and inexpediency of his provisions; but it is

decidedly a man of health and intellect.

There could be no steam in his being the day after we landed, which

had men pulled to a place on the Adelaide River

called "The Narrows," at the entrance to which

is the selected site for the port. It is about six

miles by water and four by land beyond the town-

ship. The South Australian would have lain

alongside there to discharge by placing a short

stage from the mainland to the vessel. She

would have done so, I think, had it not been for

the want of coal. All the sheep and horses were

laid safely by the boat. A supply of food had

been much damaged, though some of the party

have suffered serious loss from accident or the ineffi-

ciency of those engaged in landing the goods.

There could be a tramway laid down to the

township. Mr. Finnis seems now entirely

eficiently in the enterprise of the port.

Another correspondent has favoured us with the

following letter:

"Adam Bay, December 8, 1864.

"Dear Sir—With considerable difficulty I pro-

ceed to write you a few words, on the truthfulness

of which you may rely as was human beings can

be relied on. The vessel coming back way of

King George's Sound proclaimed me from keeping

my engagement to send a telegram by way of

Finniss, and I have made the best of it. Will you

please to send the facts to me. I desire you will

be in possession of the facts, which are the most

startling, such as the deaths of Mr. Bonnett and

the cook of the Yatala; also of the affair at

Chalmers's Bay, where another native was killed.

I must enumerate these in case any accident should

have happened to the Beaccadd.

"We anchored in Adam Bay, about a mile from

the settlement on Escape Cliff, on Monday, 5th

instant, at 7 a.m., in seven fathoms of water, a
The captain said it was a West Indian scene.

"The soil is a mixture of sand and limestone pebbles, and seems capable of growing almost anything. There are the common cress, pumpkins, water-melons, tamarinds, and one cocoa-nut tree (both the latter raised from seeds from Timor) growing near the Governor's tent and elsewhere on the cliffs. But the time of year is only just now coming on for planting. I turned over two or three spades of this soil to plant some pineapples in. It was red and moist, and tremendously hot. The plants I have mentioned are of course small. The ants are very numerous and destructive; they are green and light brown. Flies are abundant and terribly annoying, although of small dimensions. The fly known as the March fly is plentiful. The mosquitoes, small in this locality, are a nightly pest and a formidable opponent to your rest. They seem determined to occupy every unprotected part of your body. But I suppose they will, like the natives, retire before the influence of the civilizing whites. Several persons in the camp have their eyes closed and features distorted by the sandfly. The weather is hot, but it is made tolerable by a pleasant sea breeze. There are some extremely discontented people here; but I think the principal portion of the new party have too much good sense to be led away by them. I hear that Ward is going to enlighten the people of Adelaide when he arrives. I rather expect that his statements will not be taken much notice of. I cannot find time to write much more. By the by, the telegram I sent from Brisbane you might not have thought very important. Nautical men on board said we were in imminent danger of going down stern foremost, as the mass of coal on board prevented the water from running away; so that probably had it not been for the assistance rendered by the seamen of the party in throwing the coal overboard we might never have seen Adam Bay. The Yatala has been away to Timor about nine weeks."