

December 30th.—In the afternoon we stood out of the Bay of Islands on our course to Sydney. I believe we were all glad to leave New Zealand. It is not a pleasant place. Among the natives there is absent that charming simplicity which is found at Tahiti; and the greater part of the English are the very refuse of society. Neither is the country itself attractive. I look back but to one bright spot, and that is Waimate, with its Christian inhabitants.

CHAPTER XIX

Sydney—Excursion to Bathurst—Aspect of the Woods—Party of Natives—Gradual Extinction of the Aborigines—Infection Generated by Associated Men in Health—Blue Mountains—View of the Grand Gulf-like Valleys—Their Origin and Formation—Bathurst, General Civility of the Lower Orders—State of Society—Van Diemen's Land—Hobart Town—Aborigines all Banished—Mount Wellington—King George's Sound—Cheerless Aspect of the Country—Bald Head, Calcareous Casts of Branches of Trees—Party of Natives—Leave Australia

AUSTRALIA

JANUARY 12, 1836.—Early in the morning a light air carried us toward the entrance of Port Jackson. Instead of beholding a verdant country, interspersed with fine houses, a straight line of yellowish cliff brought to our minds the coast of Patagonia. A solitary lighthouse, built of white stone, alone told us that we were near a great and populous city. Having entered the harbor, it appears fine and spacious, with cliff-formed shores of horizontally stratified sandstone. The nearly level country is covered with thin scrubby trees, bespeaking the curse of sterility. Proceeding further inland, the country improves: beautiful villas and nice cottages are here and there scattered along the beach. In the distance stone houses, two and three stories high, and windmills standing on the edge of a bank, pointed out to us the neighborhood of the capital of Australia.