№ 33.

1893.

From April 10th

to June 11th

Edgar R Waite.

The Australian Museum

Sydney.

AMS583/30

April 1893.

10. Mon. Landed in Sydney. At 8.30 am, we drew near to the Circular Quay but were a long time in heaving to, While so doing we waved our hands to 2 ladies who from their likeness to Mrs Bleechmore & Mrs Upton of Melbourne we knew must be Mrs Down & Miss Roebuck their sisters. Mr Geo Down was also there & when we touched they all came aboard. Later Cousin Vause came on & told us that being full up he could not put us up at Trupe

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but had taken furnished rooms for us at Mrs J. O Gilchrist's 'Clareinnis' Bayswater Road. I now went to get our luggage through the Customs & had to pay 17/6 on the Gun & Camera & had 2 1/2 plate developing dishes broken into the bargain. On returning to the 'Ormuz' I found Mr Brazier with Rose. After having arranged for the luggage to be taken to 'Clareinnis' Cousin drove us thither, passing the Museum en route, thence we drove to Tempe. Bay View House is splendidly situated in fine grounds overlooking Cook's River crowded with grand trees &

luxuriant plants ferns & flowers, The Cicadas were everlastingly 'Singing'. From the bark of trees I obtained several cocoons of A. Eucalypti & caught a large Cricket. We were next introduced to Mrs Vause She was before marriage one of the principals in the Carl Rosa Co: her name being Lillian Tree. She is from Manchester, has often sung in Leeds was met by Cousin in Sydney before his return to England joining her in Italy After lunch cousin and I walked over the grounds & out towards Cook's River. We proceeded along its now ar-

tificial banks in course of construction by means of huge 'Claw' dredgers, After making a lengthy round we returned at 6.0 to dinner, + afterwards sat outside in the dark, the lightning playing about. In England it is quite usual to have perfect stillness in the night, but here such a thing is unknown, the Cicadas sing unceasingly + sometimes there is quite a chorus of them and sounds like the tinkling of bells. the frogs are constantly croaking but their note is very musical quite unlike the harsh note of the English Rana temporaria

Cousin thought they would be tree frogs. Many unrecognisable insects were aiding in the general Chorus. Before leaving Cousin gave me a small Lizard (Physignathus Amphibolurus muricatus Jw) caught by the cat yesterday, a Cicada & a Mantis both taken in the grounds. Walked to Trumpe Station & took train to Sydney. They are broad gauge which gives plenty of room inside + are arranged on the American system, Walked to our rooms. a Superb suite in the most fashionable part of the City for which I had to pay £3. 5. 0 a week. Sydney so far as one can judge is a much more English-looking

place than Melbourne. It is very undulating well wooded & with many beatiful open parks even in the middle of the city. In many respects one is reminded of London there is however less bustle and the telegraph & wires are not underground as in London.

11. Tues. At 9.30 am Rose and I turned up at the Museum. While waiting a very small Lizard (Lygosoma guichenoti) ran over the floor of the ante room - my first introduction. Brazier took us round and introduced us to the Collections, the workshops and the Staff which is now as follows:—

Curator -	E. P. Ramsay
Secretary	S. Sinclair
Geol: & Palæon:	R. Etheridge Jr.
Minerals.	T Cootsey
Ornithology	A. J. North
Reptiles & Fishes	E. R. W.
Entomology	Jas Skuse
Marine Conch;	J. Brazier
L. & F. W. "	C. Hedley
Invertebrates	T. Whitelegge
Artist -	Barrow.

My predecessor. J. D Ogilby had charge of the Mammals, Reptiles & Fishes and is now engaged in writing Catalogues but is not on the Staff. He is an excellent man at his work but had to be discharged on account of drunkenness.

I am told that he was borne with time after time & was even offered the chance of being placed in a curative hospital but would not accept drink with him had become a disease and he says that he cannot resist it he had many & many a time had to be carried to some place of secret in the Museum. His tipple is the Museum spirit & it has to be kept out of his way. he takes fresh spirit if he can get it but as that is almost impossible he drinks that in which all kinds of things have been preserved & leaves the specimens dry.

Hedley is not on the staff but is engaged to do special work receiving a Salary. ie he is not voted any sum from the Government, but is paid out of the endowment fund by the trustees. I spoke to Brazier about storing my extra luggage when he took me into the apple cellars and said that I might place anything there. Saw Sinclair & waited for Dr. Ramsay who turned up at 10.30 and asked me to attend at 4.0 when the trustees would meet for their monthly consultation. Called at the G.P.O but there were no letters. We next went to the Quay and got our

remaining luggage safely through the Customs for the same officer attended to me + remembering me was very gracious. he asked me if I had any foreign stamps + thinking they might be acceptable I said "No" when he explained that he was merely a Collector of foreign stamps. Sent the luggage to Museum where it was placed in the Cellars. Returned to Claremonts at 1.0 by bus for lunch - Arranged the negatives + at 4:0 presented myself at the Museum waiting until 5.45 before I was called in and introduced to the Trustees -

& Haswell one of them invited me to visit him at the Uni-versity where he is Professor of Biology. Arranged to commence work on Monday next While waiting I got one of the men (Harris) to undertake the printing & mounting of the photographs at 6d each. Among the workmen the Scientific staff are spoken of as the "Scientifics" Returned to dinner at 6.30 & afterwards played whist with Mr & Mrs Patterson & Mr Rowney fellow boarders at Claremnis. Patterson is a dentist and Rowney is a mining Engineer under the government, he has his wife also with him

the other boarders are Mr & Mrs Reed, Mrs Buchannan, widow of the late Stipendary. Miss Hopcraft Nursery Governess to Patterson's little boy "Laddie" and Jack Hallerin an Amateur Jockey. Mooney's little boy "~~Jeffre~~ Geoffrey and our hostess Mrs Gilchrist, a widow Complete our family, with William the Waiter Maggie the housemaid & Margaret the Cook.

12 Wed: We walked into the City got a letter at the Orient Co's office from Ernst called on Mr Doron in Hunter St. he invited us to visit him at Woolwich on Saturday next. Took ferry to North Shore & went house

hunting. Our efforts were by no means encouraging. A house Agent showed us some places. extremely insignificant at £1. a week and all left in a dirty condition this, it is said is always the case but the landlord has them cleaned for tenants. The ferry boats ply in all directions acros the harbour Some of them are paddle but the majority are screw boats, they are 2 deckers of large size and are sometimes crammed with people. They start more regularly than railway trains and are the only means of reaching certain places.

As we returned Buchanan was on the boat but we did not see him until we got off he was with an older man of his order to whom he introduced us. he looked quite well & happy after his troublesome sea voyage for he suffered more than any other passenger on the 'Ormuz' we met 'Old Brown and also Finch. Returned to 'Claremis' to lunch thence walked to the University - Dr Haswell took us round the Museum & introduced me to Masters Marsden the Curator. In the grounds I caught a large green grasshopper. we also saw the

Hall a very fine edifice.
Returned to the City by bus
& called on Mr Harper at
1 Barrack St. Had dinner at
6.30 at our quarters and
finished the evening at Cards
Mr Rowney gave me a large
map of Sydney.

13 Thur. After breakfast we
again went house-hunting
this time in Paddington, Saw
several houses, one especially
took our fancy. The house
is large, but £60 a year
in Glen View Street. After a
tiring tramp in the blazing
Sunshine returned to Clarence
Received telegram from A.T.V.
saying that Mr Down had

wired for our address, so after
lunch so after lunch. (1 Oclock)
I went to Hunter St: when
he gave me the letter he
had wished to address. It
was to ask us to meet him
on Sat at 11.45 instead of
at 1.0 & inviting us to remain
over Sunday. He took me to
a friend - a house agent but
he had nothing suitable. I
gave our private address at
the G.P.O. Every morning 2
Swallows smaller than H
rustica with red throats and
foreheads come to our Verandah
& perch on the railings they
are exceedingly tame & allow
us to approach within a

couple of yards and do not move if we pass out through the French windows into the Verandah, So long as we do not go nearer. They occasionally fly off but come back & again perch on the rail. The note is very pretty & is almost a song while preserving the characteristic twittering. From our room to the right we overlook Rushcutters Bay. - Beyond is Port Jackson and the view is terminated by the 2 heads upon which are respectively the 2 harbour light, the Electric light on the South head being one of the finest in the World

I reserve this opening for Bank news up to date and hereafter.

14 Fri. I was told that the Union Bank was mentioned as being likely to go so I at once took my £50 draft down and took the precaution to have it in gold not trusting to notes- Went to the Museum found a letter awaiting me from S.P. Hill demonstrator at the University in Biology regretting that he had not seen me yesterday and offering assistance in the matter of apartments if desired. In the afternoon we again went round to look at houses but did not find any more desirable residential places than Darlinghurst or

Paddington where there are a goodly number of empty houses. Mr Vause called and invited us to Tempe on Monday and to take Mr Gilchrist.

15 Sat. At 11.45 am we turned up at Mr Downes office by way of Woolloomooloo Bay & the domain. Being somewhat early for the boat Mr Down took us into the older part of the city showing us among other things, the Observatory. Caught the boat at 12.15 & had a long ride, calling at Balmain, & Greenwich eventually landing at the Atlas Wharfe Woolwich having passed Goat Island & Garden Island.

Where the Government Powder magazines are - Walked to the house in company with the Rev Mr. James & his wife On arrival we were introduced to Mr Roebuck of Geelong & Mr Frank Down. + our hosts' Children - Went "a-digging" in the garden - got a few larvæ & other things - After dinner we went for a ramble round the district, the house is close to the sea among a tangle of vegetation, + rocks, with pools of water down to the sea - The shrubs & trees have a very strange aspect to me - The Eucalypti are especially so, instead of shedding their leaves like any rational

tree they shed their bark which peels off in shreds, and giving the trunk a bare appearance. The seed pods are like minature water-pots and are mimicked by the cocoon of an insects as shown to me by Skuse afterwards. Some are of very fantastic shape & resemble a dogs head with long ears. I made sketches of the most noticeable ones. One spine species - Banksias - a huge teasel-like production of 8 or 9 inches in length grows bolt upright. There were some pendulous nests of hornets but (at this season) the insects are sluggish, there were plenty of spiders and ants, some of the former were very large

and I obtained one of the harmful species
with the red spot on the under & upper surface of the Abdomen
Our greatest success however was in turning over stones I caught 3 species of Lizards Lygosoma Guichenoti. (Dum + Bib) very common both young and adult and also some eggs just hatching.. Lygosoma aequale. (Gray) is glassy like a slow-worm but the legs are well developed I only got one example and the Creature snapped off its tail as I caught it. The 3rd species of which I only obtained one was the beautiful long-tailed Lygosoma taeniolatum. (Wiegm)

with conspicuous longitudinal markings. Several fine & large Butterflies were flitting about but I had no means of securing them. Rain came on and drove us in. Although I had been out only an hour I had reason to be satisfied with my first collecting experience in Australia, we had tea & concluded a pleasant evening with music. Frank Doron being a professional. We left by the 10.15 pm Steamer amid much rain and beautiful lightning the effect of its reflection in the water producing a very magnificent & striking spectacle in walking from the Quay to

Clareminis we got badly wetted which was probably the cause which gave Rose Rheumatism and gave her great pain during the whole of the week following,

16. Sun. After breakfast we had a stroll round Rushcutters Bay I got young & adult examples of Lygosoma Guichenoti under stones, this lizard appears to be very common and is to be met with in the Out work shops & spirit rooms at the Museum. Several grasshoppers similar to the one obtained at the University flew round & against walls &c with great force. There were plenty of

frogs croaking around but I reserved them for future investigation. Close to the water a number of Rays were stranded or thrown there by fishermen. Noticed the Castor Oil plant growing and the peculiar arrangement of the seed vessels. Rain drove us home & kept us indoors during the rest of the day -

17. Mon: Commenced work at the Museum - at 9.30 I put in my first appearance as one of the staff. I left word that Dr Ramsay was to be told that I was in the building about 12.0 I called on him but he said he would send

for me when he wanted me so I went over the Museum & spent the day now in one department, now in another being with Cooksey & Whitelegge. The Curator did not send for me at all. At 5. I went to the station to meet Roze & Mrs Gilthrist but they came late and we had to wait until 5.37 for the next train to Tempe. A great of the evening was taken up with dinner. We played Cards and left at 11.20. took a Cab to Bayswater Road. This day I made a drawing of Belideus scirueus, a Flying Phalanger. in pencil from

an example in the Museum-

18. Tues. Dr Ramsay never sent for me, he appears to take but little notice of & small interest in any of the Staff & I am told that I must not expect to receive any instructions from him but shall have to shape out my own course for myself. I made a pencil drawing of a Superb Warbler (Malurus cyaneus.) In the afternoon I worked with Whitelegge who has practically had charge of the Fishes & Reptiles since Ogilby was discharged. I am told that I am at present one of the luckiest fellows in the

Museum, Had the appointment not been made last year - the post would not have been filled up for in consequence of the great retrenchment by the government, the Museum grant has been reduced from £7000 to £4000 and may even be still further touched. All expenditure will have to be cut down, Salaries will no doubt be reduced and some of the employees will probably have to go but Hedley says that having only just brought me out they could scarcely begin on me and I shall be in a much stronger position than anyone appointed in the

Colony.

19 Wed: Commenced work in the Spirit = room my first business being to preserve a Death Adder (Acanthophis antarcticus.) which had just come in I made a water color sketch of it. The weather is now very warm and I am wearing my lightest clothes. The people here do dress they seem to try and get as much flummery about their persons as possible quite regardless of taste or adaptability, the girls are all darkish skinned and is it quite amusing to see them wear thick blue veils to preserve! their complexions.

straw hats are very largely worn by the men & some of them have an array of stuff wound round them which cannot be of any possible use and is only on a par with the gaudily over-dressed women.

20 Thur: I had placed the negatives of the groups taken on the Ormuz in the hands of Harris one of the men in the Museum, he would print & mount them at 6d each I saw him to day when he had a large number ready & would deliver them at our apartments which he afterwards did. I paid him £2 on a/c.

and posted some of them to Ormuz passengers. at night Whitelegge lent me his MSS 'Fishes' for the purpose of copying The skies here on a fine day are as clear and blue as in Italy, but when it rains there is no mistake about it, one knows that it is raining

21 Fri. To day I was given a room at the Museum. After leaving I went down to have a last look at the Ormuz before sailing as she is to leave at noon tomorrow. Mr & Mrs Paterson took Rose & I to the Criterion Theatre to see the 'Village Priest' Commenced to copy Whitelegges M.S.S. of Australian Fishes.

22 Sat. Spent the afternoon in house-hunting but we were no more successful than on former occasions.

23 Sun. Having arranged to go to Maroubra with Whitelegge I met him at Finsbury Rd at 10.30 am. Took a tram for Coogee and on arriving, with 3 other fellows who have been in the habit of going every Sunday for years, walked to the Bay over a 2 mile tract of what one might call moor. Covered with vegetation of one kind or another. It is roughish country, with very varied Scrub among which the Banksias are conspicuous. The

most noticeable plant is the Grass Tree the lower portion consists of a multitude of fine ribbon-like leaves spreading from the centre and stretching outwards, from the middle up shoots a long shaft 7 feet or more in height, the upper fourth being occupied by the head like an elongated tapering Bullrush. Even at this late season of the year there were many beautiful flowers among the scrub. I saw a very big bug on a fence, the creature was 1½ inches long but I was warned not to touch it. The only Birds I saw were some Honey Suckers or Eaters (Melornis

Novæ hollandiæ) They clung to the long rush heads & extract honey from the flowers. I saw large numbers of them On the round we found a small snake recently killed (Hoplocephalus Sp.) and on descending to the beach many Largish Lizards (Lygosoma Whitei) were basking on the rocks. I caught one afterwards, no easy matter. but it parted company with its tail. We next had a walk round and looked in at the people fishing. The species caught were Green Eel (Murana afra) Rainbow Fish (Coris lineolata) of beautiful colour. and Sweep (Scorpus aquipinnis)

The Bay is surrounded by rock which stretch out into the sea and at low water the rocks sometimes yield good results at the head of the Bay which is only shallow the rocks are high & are set back, there being a stretch of sand between them & the water in one part the rocks are absent and the sand forms a high ridge not unlike the stretch between Pasnigton & Spurn in England. We returned to the camping place overshadowed by the high rocks & made tea in the 'Billy' my first introduction to the famous Australian Institution. Afterwards I visited the Rock-pools with a hand net but

the tide was too high for much work to be done and we got but little. Quite a number of Toados were swimming in a little Creek in which I was wading they were easy to catch in the net but I took only one away - (Tetrodon hamiltoni.) There were numbers of Sea Slugs and anemones in the pools, caught a small Blenny (Lepidoblennius geminatus) and a young Black Fish (Girella tricuspidata) a walk on the sand at high water mark was of interest, Several sponges had been washed up, pieces of pumice lay strewn about, I picked up a Physalia (Physalia pelagica) the swim bladder being distended

and so remained when dried. Stuffs cast up from ships such as Bananas Bottles, Bungs &c were in profusion A Shag visited the Bay during our stay. the day was gloriously fine at length we packed up, walked to Coogee & took tram home where I arrived in time for tea.

24 Mon. Made a Water-Color sketch of Tetrodon hamiltoni. Frazier promised to take me to the meeting of the Linnean Society of N.S.W on Wednesday next

25 Tues. An example of Sirella simplex was brought to the Museum and I made a drawing of it. I commenced to draw the Lygosoma taeniolatum obtained at Woolwich. Mr Etheridge sent an invitation

to Rose for us to dine at Summer Hill on Sunday next.

26. Wed. Drew £ tenvolatum. Mr. Dowson called & invited us to dine with them on Saturday We had heard the the grant to the Museum would be reduced by £3000 but grave rumours were to day afloat that £6000 was the figure which reckoning the endowment would leave only £4000 not sufficient to pay salaries and wages. I was told the surprising news by Whitelegge that although he had been there 6 years Brazier 14. they only received £200 while Skuse, ~~Forth~~, others, & myself received £250. I having only just

come out. and that no officer excepting the Curator and Secretary received more than that. Brazier took me to the L.S's meeting in the evening when I was introduced to some of the members.

27. Thur.- J Young the agent of the house in Glen View St. called at the Museum to see me, he said the house had been £70 but was reduced to £60 = £1-3-1 per week. he promised to let me know if he had another applicant

28. Fri. A. Fistularia serrata Caught in the Harbour was brought to the Museum and I made a drawing of it. Bought a small Gladstone Bag second hand for which I paid £1- 5- 0

29 Sat. Received our cheques mine being 14 days pay. We all trooped down to the Commercial Bank to get cash. Rose called on me & I left at 11.45 proceeded to Mr Down's office but he was unexpectedly detained so we made our way to the Quay & caught the 12.15 boat on which were 2 daughters of Mr Down, On arriving at the Atlas Wharf Woolwich we walked to the house, I with the youngsters went out. found L taeniolatum very common under stones. Got a small L Aquale but as with my former example, the tail afterwards came off. Under almost every stone were ants of many

species but one species only under a stone, there were some Big fellows (Bull-dogs) nearly an inch in length and others so small as scarcely to be seen. Then there were huge mounds alive with ants which rushed out in myriads when their nests were poked. These nests extended for many yards. Other nests of some species of ant were small conical mounds with a single hole in the apex not unlike a minature volcano. No one however unobservant could fail to notice the spiders, or at any rate some of them, the largest were enormous creatures which spun their threads from tree to tree, threads stronger than

anything of the kind I could have imagined and had no difficulty in believing when I was told that small birds are caught in them and eaten by the fabricators. Secured a specis of Tarantula? its legs extending to 2 or 3 inches and yet its body so depressed that it. I should say. could get into a crack shallow enough to keep out all but the smallest insect if it only extended sufficiently. Evidences of Termites were not to be sought for the creatures were under stones whence their galleries extended up the bark of trees high up into the branches where perhaps the nest would be seen

looking like a huge excrescence much larger than a football in area & encircling part of the branch. I climbed up to one of them it would stand any amount of weathering but did not resist the poke of a finger. When broken into the inhabitants rushed to the breach like true Ants, & they were also to be seen on breaking open one of the galleries up the trunk of the tree. I got 2 species of Frogs under stones, one (Pseudophryne ~~labroni~~ australis) with a conspicuous red patch on the head & red spots all over its body on the limbs were yellowish spots & the underside was marked with conspicuous white blotches, all on

a dark ground, The other I did not know it was greenish with darker markings down the back Took a Mantis from the branches of a Eucalyptus. Took hold of a lepidopterous Cocoon covered with short black spikes which entered my finger in large numbers causing great irritation. On returning to the house we found Dr Carroll (an old Ethnologist) there, Spent the evening with music + remained overnight not retiring until after 1.0 am -

30 Sun - Up late, We left at 11.0 with the old Dr took boat to the city thence walked to the station & Caught the 12-35 train to Summer Hill, where we were met by Etheridge

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- proceeded to his house. introduced to Mrs Etheridge & the 2 boys, the Eldest Bertie is engaged at the Macleay Museum in the University and is an enthusiastic ornithologist After dinner we walked down to Cooks river and were almost in the bush across the river is a large tract of real bush to which friend R.G. promised us a Saturday afternoons investigation. The walk along the river side is very pretty, the water itself is muddy but is overhung with trees of quite tropical appearance. Found L toeniolatum. & heard immense concord of Frogs From the higher land we could easily see the Blue Mountains although more than 30 miles distant

After an enjoyable ramble we returned. Bertie had set a small Bird-trap and caught several Red heads and 2 or 3 Malurus cyaneus all females, a single male visited the trap in which was a female but he would not go into it. The boys showed me their Collections of Eggs and Insects & we returned by train, to Claremont late at night.

May. 1. Mon. An example of Serranus dæneli was brought to the Museum and I made a Water-Color drawing of it. In the evening house hunting was again indulged but with our accustomed ill-success. There are very large numbers of Chinese in Australia

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and they are most useful members of the Community. Some of them keep laundries and down by the Quay a lot of them are shopkeeper but the greater number are Market Gardeners and supply all the vegetables consumed in Sydney. I am told that they can grow stuff where no Englishman or Australian can and work much harder than either. Certainly the loads they carry in the Streets are surprising they use a long pole & from each end suspend their baskets crammed with fruit so heavy that it is all one can do to raise even one basket from the ground & yet they look anything but strong. However this heavy work tells upon them

for they do not live very long.

2 Tues. Drew Pseudophryne australis and the other frog obtained at Woolwich on April 29th This Crinia signifera evening we peregrinated in the direction of Darling point but all the houses were Mansion-like In walking the streets one meets many Aboriginees, far more I am told than in the bush they are dressed like other people & in such costume look somewhat out of place after seeing photos in which men & women are absolutely naked. The natives get to hear what a fine place Sydney is and come down to it, once there they never leave, they begin to smoke, and learn to drink

Whisky, the result is they do not live long and the race is fast disappearing

3. Wed. Cristceps australis was brought to the Museum. Played cards in the evening with Mr & Mrs Paterson Now a word about the Australians On the 19th prox I wrote a little not entirely in their favour. At any rate we find them hospitable very fond of enjoyment great patrons of the races & Theatres but especially of pic-nicing a holiday is taken on the slightest pretext and is spent in journeying to many of the beautiful places around Sydney. However hard times may be money seems to be found sufficient for enjoyment, and times are hard people are leaving the Country the

berths on the home boats are fully taken up. The inhabitants are leaving their houses & going into smaller ones and there are any number of empty houses. This I am told was not the case a year ago. One never hears bad english as is heard at home for I suppose the emigrants were not drawn from the very lowest classes. Even educated people have a perceptible 'twang' something (say) between the Cockney and the Yankee but very slight. The servants and tradespeople are not nearly so deferential as in England and talk to you on terms of equality, they seem to consider themselves quite as good as their employers

4 Thur. Made a drawing of Cristiceles australis. Cousin Arthur called at the Museum to see me. House hunting absorbed our available time in the evening

5 Fri. My 27th birthday - getting on in life - went to look at the house in Glen View St & in spite of the agent's promise to give me the refusal of the house, we found it occupied. Proceeded to Womerah Avenue & looked at 2 or 3 houses in the dark to be seen again tomorrow Received a letter from father.

6. Sat. Went to the Fish Market at 5.30 am. The building is very large & the fishermen bring in their fish & sort them into heaps dividing their property by a chalk

from others. the ground is simply one mass of fish. There are 5 or 6 Auctioneers & they take the lots seriatum & continue until all the fish is disposed of to Shopkeepers or Street hawkers. the room is surrounded by tanks in which the fish may be cleaned. After the fish have been removed the place is cleaned & closed until next day there being no retail sales at the market. I made acquaintance with the following species.

Schnapper.	Pagrus unicolor
Flathead	Platycephalus fuscus
Leather Jacket	Monacanthus ayraudi
Garfish	Hemirhamphus intermedius
Nannygai	Beryx affinis
Yellow-tail	Caranx trachurus

(This species I caught at Albany.)

Sea Mullet Mugil
Sole Synaptura nigra
Rock Cod
Mackerel
Bream.

Cooksey invited us to tea next Wed. Received a drum of fish from Lord Howe Island which took me some time to identify then had to leave me or two species, Spent the afternoon in inspecting houses in Wonerah Avenue entered into conversation with a Mr. Thomas of No 42. He advised us to look at a house in Barcom Avenue. We did so & found it more agreeable than in Wonerah in the latter the rent is 20/- per week but in a dusty street with houses on both sides. In Barcom

the rent is 21/- but in front of the house is large private park & the generall situation is more desirable, moreover the yards at the back are much larger. In the evening we called at the Landlord's house but saw only his housekeeper agreed to take the house in Barcom provided certain things were put into order. Straw hats are very generally worn so I invested in one at 3/6.

7 Sun. As on the 23rd I spent the day at Maroubra with Whitelegge & party. The tide was high so we could not work the rock pools This visit I did not see any Lizard. And only one species of bird the whole day, a Honey Eater

(Melitonis Nova hollandiæ) & these swarmed all over the place with the stick gum I procured 2 Males. Within 10 Minutes of my placing them on the ground the ants were running over them I wandered away behind the Sand hills, there were some lovely swamps redolent with frogs - some bright yellow locusts? were flying about, they did not go far - it was not difficult to run them down, one I secured, I had noticed that when I shot the Melitonis, the honey ran out of their mouths & was quite sweet on our way home I cut one of the long rushes? and got my hands cut with the ribbon-like

leaves at the base. landed at 6.0 & after tea I skinned the birds. arranged with Paterson to go to Berowera Creek on Saturday and stay Sunday - Mon. The Ants are by no means confined to out-of-doors if I put a dead insect on the Mantle shelf in my room it swarms with ants in no time, they seem to eat out its interior leaving only the "shell" remaining. In the evening we had a walk round Rushcutters' Bay and saw a bird which I believe was a kingfisher

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9 Tues: Saw our new landlord who said that in a short time he would have another house

at liberty in Barcom Avenue at the same rent, lower down & therefore in a better position

10 Wed: At 6.0 am I went into the fish market met Ogilby & Harris identified the following species additional to those seen on the 6th.

Jew fish	Sciæna neglecta
Tailor	Temnodon saltator
Sand Mullet	Mugus elongatus
Blackfish	Girella tricuspidatus
Tarwhine	Chrysophrys sarba
White Trevally	Caranx georgianus
Seageant Baker	Aulopus purpurissatus
Green Eel-	Muræna apra-

Yesterday the board met to consider how to meet the decreased grant from £7000 to £3000 a year

the whole staff expected to be re-
-duced but were not prepared for
the result we learnt this morning
Barrow & Brazier were to leave
we could understand Barrow's
case & he had quite expected it
he being the artist & there being
no money to publish he would
not be needed for illustrating
Everyone was surprised & shocked
at Brazier's dismissal, he has
a father & mother (in law?) his
wife & 8 children to keep and
sympathy is felt for him all
through the institution. It seems
that he has got out of favour
with the Crown Trustee (Chairman)
who is interested in Conchology.
(Dr Cox) & he no doubt has

taken this opportunity of doing him the worst harm possible Hedley had warned the that my neighbours Skuse frequently tried to borrow money & if successful the owner saw it 'Nevermore' His salary is reduced from £250 to £200 how will he manage on this reduction he is quite elated however for he fully expected to have to walk for he has been in disfavour with some of the Trustees. Although Woodsey has £250. the government vote is only £220 & the £30 is from the Endowment fund this they take off + £2 which is 10% over £200 the government scale of reduction. If however

at the end of the year the Trustees having any money in hand they will make up his Salary to £250. - Etheridge + myself having £250 are to be reduced to £245 but mine is not to take place until next year consequently after the Curator and Secretary I shall be the highest paid officer for this year - Several of the workmen are to be discharged + nearly all remainder reduced. Paid £75 by Cheque on Com: Bank: Co of Sydney. my allowance for passage money. At 5. 0. we accompanied Cosksey to his house at North Shore by ferry boat in going we

met Dr Booth the first time since landing Spent a pleasant evening with Cooksey & his wife having music, looking at photos &c

11. Thur. After Museum hours I went into the city & by calling at a shipping Agents learnt that the Agents of the "Talavera" are Horrell & Co. Pitt St. Hither I went & made arrangements for them to advise me when she came in being expected in a fortnight wrote to father & enclosed £3. 7. 6 my premium on Insurance. I commenced a drawing of Opisthog-nathus jacksonensis which Ogilby had obtained in the Market. There are a number of Jews in Sydney most of them well off.

12 Fri. Opened an account with the Savings Bank of N.S.W. & deposited £100 being £75, the passage money & £25 surplus Cash. Finished drawing of O. jacksonensis. Received notice of reduction of my salary to commence after Dec 31st Rose joined me as I left Museum & went walked through the Domain & into the Botanic Gardens - had just time to look at the birds when the bell rang (at 5.) & we had to move on -

13 Sat Met Etheridge in Thorpe's room & they asked me if I would accompany them on the 24th (Holiday - Queens birthday) Collecting expedition beyond

Mauley. Rose to spend the day at Summer Hill with Mr Etheridge. At 1.25 pm I left Reafern Station in company with Paterson and other four viz. Dr Ellis, Watham Creed and Cham . On arrival at Hornsby we were met by Crossland (who has a house up the Creek) with a spring cart, this was chiefly useful for taking the baggage for the road was very bad & the horse a wretched old hack. I walked nearly the whole of the 6 miles (the distance of Berowera Creek) mainly for the purpose of getting a shot by the way I had taken both the 12 bore & the stick gun both of which

served me well. The district consists of a high plateau covered with scrub and trees we occasionally saw flocks of small birds among the trees behaving much after the manner of Tits. One flock seemed to consist of one species & the next of another and so on - I shot one

There were in parts many Honey Eaters, I also secured one of these - (Anelobea mellivora.)

In the same part on some low bushes were

One of these also fell to the stick gun. A large flock of Gila Birds (Anthochaera carunculata) flew across the road, some

distance ahead and made a fearful noise, a species of shriek they settled in some tall trees I got one with the 12. bore. Our road wound about chiefly in sand and on nearing the edge of the plateau I shot a ♀ _____ and lost some other small birds which we could not find in the thick scrub. We in time reached the farther point before our descent into the valley of the creek, the horse was taken out of the cart which latter was left at the top under a shed. Then the luggage was placed on the horse pack-wise and followed

us down the steep slopes.
along a winding pathway
Viewed from the top the scene
is very grand, the plateau
terminates abruptly as described
& drops down perhaps for 500
or 600 feet there is then a level
stretch of greensward 150 yards
in extent before the Creek is
reached, on this flat Crossland
has built his house and has
3 boats on the Creek. This flat
is quite the exception for in
most parts the declivity descends
directly into the water being
bordered with huge & imposing
rocks of Sandstone some of
them being weathered out in
a wondrous manner, On the

opposite side the steeps were quite as precipitous and the view looking either up or down was very grand. As soon as we reached the bottom a White Shag flew slowly up the Creek and a pair of Magpies were Chattering from some of the taller trees. We had lunch at Crosslands & it being late and dark, Paterson Ellis & I went out with Candles and set some traps and explored the rocks & trees in the immediate neighbourhood. They showed signs of the existence of some animals but we did not see anything beyond a Cow or two. I got a small frog and a larva like

Papilio machaon which I afterwards gave to Skuse who named it - Danais erippus. & we returned to the house and retired about 11. 0.

14 Sun - Got up very early and visited the traps but they had not detained anything Shot 2

with the Stick gun, there were large numbers of them about Creek, during my absence had seen a Bittern in a tree on the opposite side of the creek he got my gun & fired a long shot just as I appeared. I saw he had hit the bird for it swooped down into the Water but rose again & sat upon

a tree out of shot by a long chalk - We two ran out a boat as we neared the bird it flew further with difficulty, at length we got within shot & I brought it into the water for the tree was a mango, we could not get the boat nearer as the water was shallow & overgrown with weeds. So I waded out & secured the bird

Returned to Shore and had breakfast. Then Crosland packing up the tucker & Billies & we set off for the day. in a boat down the beautiful Creek, the sides extremely ~~and~~, precipitous

and covered with trees & scrub down to the water's edge excepting where broken by immense Sandstone rocks. A beautiful 'Blue Heron' flew across the water 200 or 250 yards ahead & settled on a tree, pulled gently up to the bird & under good cover I got it at a sitting shot. (Ardea Novæ hollandiæ.). Several Shags were about but we could not get within shot, 7 ducks flew overhead at a fair height but out of range. After a couple of hours we pulled aside up a small by-creek fed by a stream of fresh-water &

there filled the billy. We continued our pull, numerous small birds were moving about the banks & occasionally a magpie or other large bird would put in an appearance The day was magnificent & the gentle motion of the boat bringing one into ever changing scenes of beauty, delightful. Sometimes the creek would be seen winding for some distance ahead, then it would appear blocked by an immense wall and it was not until quite close that the outlet became apparent further on it would not be possible to go near the shore

on account of the land being silted up & covered with Mangrove trees which grew out of the water, the bottom would deepen and then stretching away would be another small creek soon lost under the tangled foliage or it would be a wider area forming a bay into such a place we at length turned drawing the boat to the shore we scrambled out & up the rocks, here in a large Cave we found an old man, and placed our billies on his fire of wood burning inside the Cave & the smoke (there being no

outlet / having to roll out through the entrance by which we entered. Passing a word or two with the old chap but not being able to stand the smoke for long we sauntered out & pitched upon some open rocks as our camping ground. As Crosland was preparing lunch I climbed up the rocks in company with Paterson, the exertion being well worth the hard work for huge rocks were excavated beneath forming hollows well out of the way of all rain & from the number of footprints in the sand [illegible] were evidently the sheltering places of many

animals Eluvia was also in evidence, the sand was formed by the disintegration of the rock itself and where weathered was so soft that it could easily be crumpled between the fingers. In this sand the Ant-lion larvae had sunk their pits. I tried to scoop out the creatures but was not successful un-til Paterson showed me that by placing the mouth close to the pit & blowing gently the sand was driven out of the hole & the creature exposed. I obtained several in this way. All illustrations of Ant-lion pits showed the

jaws of the larva sticking out of the sand but in all the pits I examined I never saw anything of the larva until exposed by blowing when I placed them in a chip box they quickly burrowed below the surface going stern first & shuffling the abdomen about to move away the sand I placed a fly with one of them & it at once came out or partially so. seized the fly & drew it entirely beneath the sand the fly being last to disappear, the process was quickly performed - I shot a beautiful ♂ Pachycephala which not being

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quite dead hid under some rocks & it was only by means of a long stick and bared arms that I ultimately secured it Picked up a beautiful little Spider for the most part. fed. After some more rough scrambles we reached the boat Crossland said he had seen a Kingfisher but it had gone. After lunch we again put off & anchored some way out to fish, 2 few fish. (Sciæna neglecta) and a Hathead (Pachycephalus fuscus) were all we got, On the rocks I caught a very agile Crab. Red fingered Crab (Sesarma erythrodactyla) named by Whitelegge to whom I afterwards gave it. Heard a

Magpie making a noise in some trees & directly afterwards saw a large Hawk circling round. After a long pull we once more arrived at our haven & had a hearty tea, Then came our climb on to the plateau got the trap, drove & walked by turns to Hornsby and got the 6.30 train to Sydney. On arriving we went to Dr. Ellis' house in Bayswater Road, had supper. Mrs Ellis gave me about 30 plates of fishes &c from Tennyson Woods book

15 Mon: Took the birds to Thorpe who named them for me. Skinned some of them in the evening. I bought 100 Cartridge cases from

Barrow for 10/-

16. Tues. Skinned the remainder of the birds and made a drawing of Dicotylichthys punctulatus. My late week at the Museum. In the morning Ogilby went into the Spirit room with me & took away 2 type Opisthognathus for examination, When I went back at 2.0 he was helpless & neither of the Specimens could be found.

17. Wed. Harris is one of the men who is to go & I gave him a testimonial re the photos for which he had asked me. & gave me prints from a Negative of New England?

Natives, Commenced to rewrite diary in this book, since our landing (& it is now the 29th.)
After lunch Ogilby was in the same drunken condition
A thorough search in Library revealed the 2 Opisthognathus in empty jars secreted behind some books, these had served him for the 2 days.

18 Thur - Routed out some old fish-family labels & gummed one of each into a book in Systematic Order, I gave the Red Spider to Mr Rainbow who is working out these Creatures Received letters from Father & Wilfrid, the latter from Barkston.

19. Fri. Paid my early visit to the fish Market, being Friday the supply was enormous the following were new to me.
Rainbow Fish.
Pig Fish
do
Long Tom.
Mr. Rainbow brought me a paper written by him On Spiders.
20 Sat. Spent the afternoon at the Museum it being my 'turn on' occupied the time by taking a photo of the "Address" & developing it, it turned out, however, to be overexposed In the evening we visited Mrs Thomas her husband was out. Spent some little time with her. (42 € Womerah Avenue.)

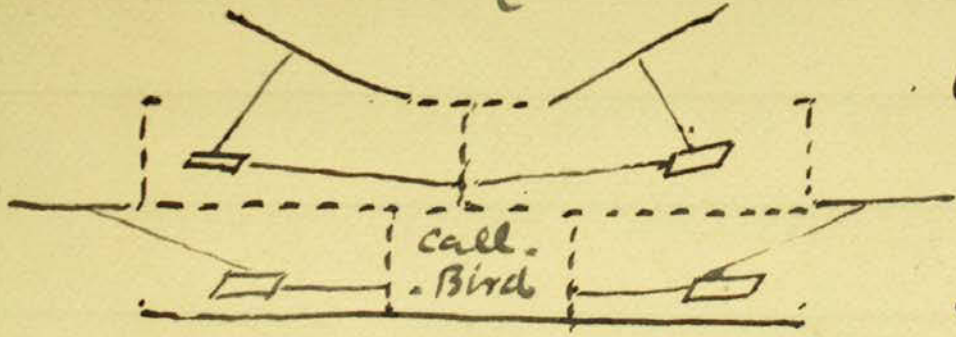
21 Sun- Spent the morning in the Botanic Gardens where we met Hedley. In the afternoon I read 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' for the second time, as interesting as before-

22 Mon: Visited the landlord who said the house would be at liberty on the 29th & he would take a week in which to 'do it up' Some visitors came in the evening and we had much music &c - The horses here both - Saddle & harness have long tails, indeed it would be cruel to dock them for the flies even now appear to be very tiresome what must they be in summer! The 'Ornament' in England is a necessity here -

29 Tues: All the Bank failures frightened Rose so to appease her I let her draw out the money which I had deposited at the Savings Bank of NSW. the place was regularly run on & the withdrawers had to be protected by police in consequence of the robberies which had recently been made upon people issuing from the banks. Saw Etheridge North & Thorpe & arranged that we should go to Hornsby tomorrow instead of Manly - way in consequence of the holiday crush - Saw Dr. Ramsay & asked him about remounting the snakes an unsatisfactory interview.

[54]

24 Wed:- I left the Station with Thorpe at 8.25 am, Etheridge his son (Bertie) and North to join the train later but we did not see them until we landed at Hornsby. In our Carriage were some boys rigged out for Red-head Catching, their trap cages were arranged to catch 4 birds, 2 on the top & 2 below (ie at the sides; thus:-



On arriving instead of striking away as when we went to Berowera we proceeded across the fields & in 1/2 miles were at our ground which was in a shallow valley a beautiful clear stream running

along its course and if it had not been for the different trees & undergrowth, I could easily have imagined myself on the beck at Grathland, At the point where we reached the water the land was somewhat flat but within 100 yards it rose causing the banks to be steep, rocky, & in parts covered with almost impenetrable vegetation. After hiding our impedimenta we arranged to work the bed of the stream for the purpose of shooting birds and to return to our camp at 12.0 for dinner I Wandered down the stream & saw none of the party until 12. O'clock. I had only taken

the stick gun & could therefore only hope to procure small birds. My first shot resulted in obtaining the Australian Thrush, Eopsaltria harmonica truly named, I then went in for some hard scrambling in order to reach the top in some places the Creepers were so thick that I was fastened for some time & to go back was quite as difficult as to go forward & as to breaking the Creepers that was out of all question. At length having got clear & reaching the summit sheltered by huge rocks & tall gum trees I sat down beside one of the rocks, hollowed out, as at

Berowera I found the Ant Lion larvæ had made their pits in similar positions viz in the sand disintegrated from the rock & protected by what it once had been a part of. A large flock a small parrots flew over me, their pointed wings and long tails being very conspicuous. I followed with difficulty a very beautiful little Honey Eater (~~Eolialtria~~ Acanthorynchus tenuirostris) & at last shot it just as I fired I saw a bird struggling within 10 yards of me. On rushing to it, I found it to be a Gill Bird (Anthochæra carunculata) having its legs

entangled in the Creepers it was in a very exhausted condition and had been shot in the leg for as I found afterwards in skinning it Mortification had extensively set in & had reached almost to the body of the poor sufferer, I killed it & then picked up the Honey Eater. I next took a fancy to return to the Valley & while among the rocks I heard a scratching among the Scrub directly, a large bird flew out on to the low limb of a tree & I was certain it was a female Lyre bird. How I wished I had a 12 bore in my hand, however I crept as

close as possible & was in a very awkward attitude when I raised the stick to fire just as I was about to do so my foot slipped off a rock & my finger being already on the trigger the gun went off & so did the bird. Twice was wearing on so I had to track back, caught sight of a Scarlet breasted Robin & rushed into Swampy ground after it but lost it while I was endeavouring to reach terra firma my actions seemed to excite the curiosity of some Honey Eaters Meliornis Sericea quite a party of which came around me, I was among a

lot of reeds twice my height & consequently could not get far enough from the birds to shoot one, they were soon joined by some very little wren-like birds & others then two or three Ptilotis chrysops joined the party & down from the trees above came ——————
making a fearful scream these were joined by more until I had a large number of birds around so close that had they been stuffed I could have put my hand upon them, they were inquisitive & no mistake. I could not much as I wished remain longer so pushed my way out

Assembled at our Camp where Etheridge had lighted a fire & put the Billies on. Roasted Steaks & Chops & had a feed such as a hungry King would have been delighted with, After lunch Etheridge Thorpe & I went down into the valley to look at some rocks, thence after North & Bertie who had gone after Gill Birds, we met a Settler who said that he often saw a hen pheasant (Lyre Bird) about the place, North had been somewhat dubious about my Lyre Bird. in returning he found a nest of P. novæ hollandiæ with an egg & a young bird in it in. it was built in a low bush & is

the first nest of the species he has found in May. having got eggs all other months of the year after another cup of tea we went for the station in going Thorpe shot a Meliornis sericea and a Eopsaltria australis, the latter much damaged he gave them both to me. Not knowing the times we had an hour to wait for a train watched some bats on the wing, in the train a man gave me a Redhead (Estrelda temporalis.) got out at Summer Hill with Etheridge joined Rose at his house, skinned C. harmonica. Returned to Claremins by a late train. Thanks to the Queen for having a birthday!

25 Thur. Thorpe gave me two birds Pachycephala rufiventris ♂ and Petroica leggi ♂, the latter too much damaged to be of use. Spent all my available time in skinning the birds obtained at Hornsby

26 Fri. Took Rose & Mr Gilchrist into the fish market at 6. am a living Pygopus lepidotus was brought into the Museum.

27. Sat. Went into the Market for some Squid for bait the only new species of fish I saw was - *Blue Groper. At 2.10 our party viz: Rose & self. Mr & Mrs & Master Paterson Mr. Wells & Miss Bucklelon left the station for Hurstville. On arriving a two horse coach

was in waiting & we commenced our drive, the first part was not very interesting our route lay along a long red road over undulating country, bordered by trees & scrub, Now and again we ran alongside a clearing * where a settler had built his house & was clearing or planting his land those who had only just settled had to be content with a bare hut until they could build a house the route had a great dameness & it was an agreeable break when we sighted the water Botany Bay on our left we ran for some distance quite close to the water and then on

*

to a promontory the Bay being on our left & Georges river on our right, Saus Soucie was across the water on the left. We had now to cross the river where it joins the bay and as at Southampton we were taken over in a steam ferry together with our trap & 3 carts, The water was swarming with a large light brown Medusæ, While waiting for the ferry I had gone down to the sand & poked out some crabs which burrowed to the depth of about 6 inches they had a blue carapace - Saw a party of 8 divers swimming & diving in the water On

reaching the further side we again trotted off & had much the same character of land until we reached water once more - this time Port Hacking. After making arrangements with the driver we dismissed him & waited for the steam launch coming, in we got & in 20 minutes we were at the jetty 2 minutes walk brought us to Simpsons, our quarters until Monday, his selection is a fairly large one & one of two taken up in that part, all the remaining land - viz:- 40,000 acres is reserved by the Government for the National Park so that Simpson is

well secluded and has a good coast line with sandy beach, towards the sea the land rises & is covered from base to top with trees, nearer the head of the Creek, the land is lower extending to the back of Simpsons where there is a Swamp. After tea we took a boat out and had a fish in the dark but got nothing but some flatheads & 2 large Rays

Rain drove us in and came down properly I dont think it ceased all through the night

28 Sun. Still raining but it clear up a bit later and we were able to go out but all

was damp & rainy at intervals
Got up early and had a stroll
round After breakfast I went
on to the jetty and froked with
a small line I could see
plenty of Sweeps
swimming about & Caught one -
There were also 2 or 3 Toados
I caught one which looked
much darker & found it to be
another Species (Tetrodon hypselogenin)
Wells & I took out a boat some
distance & let down the lines
but did not get a bite - we
returned for Paterson and tried
new ground but got only a
flathead each. Saw some Divers
several Heron & a large Hawk
had a stiff pull back for both

wild tide were against us-
Returned to dinner, found
that a man staying at the
house had shot a Heron &
a dozen fine Birds.. Afterwards
Paterson Wells & I went into the
National Park, saw a bronze
Cockoo, The vegetation is very
fine the Stag horn ferns
grow around the gum trees
in huge clusters encircling
the trees at a height of 20
to 30 feet, We worked up
through the Scrub & rocks
turning over stones as we
went, Centepedes were under
almost every stone & some
were very large attaining
6 or 7 inches. We also saw

numbers of Tarantulas & one I got was a very big fellow. On turning over a big stone on the top of a rock we exposed an example of Gymnodactylus Phyllurus platurus. It seemed torpid & was almost exactly the colour of the rock, I noticed that there was no earth upon the rock where it was lying unlike Lygosoma taeniolatum, several specimens of which we found, this I always found to choose a stone under which was a quantity of earth and in this the Lizard made a groove wherein it lay but not so with Phyllurus platurus

Among other trees we noticed Red & White gums & up many of these Cacti climbed almost to their tops Many of the largest have been wrecked by bush fires evidences of which are to be seen in all directions The Wattles are conspicuous & the flowers sweet smelling, the Banksias also freely grew ferns were numerous and the beautiful rock lillies were quite plentiful, The reeds in the swamps were also worthy of remark, The loose bark of the Eucalypti is a favorite haunt of many kinds of insects. We came across what was pointed

out to me as a Wallaby track in the centre was a square cut groove not deep but quite noticeable & caused by the passage of the Wallaby's tail I was interested in finding a termites nest on the ground it was a black mound two feet in height and so hard that I could not make any impression upon it either with a stick or my boot-heel. On reaching the summit it became evident that we should not get much in that exposed situation for the wind blew in direct from the sea and had bent over the tops of all the trees, as a matter

of fact we did not see anything worth the having On returning I found a Queen Termite but I think she must have been Virgin. We heard frogs all over the Swamps but never saw one so closely do they squat. All around Simpsons place the English Blackberry is growing but like most other English things out of their native place they have become a nuisance, the fruit is larger but not so flavoured as in England. Saw some violets growing wild. Down by the Swamps I watched some small birds climbing up

the trees like Creepers but they had not long-curved bills, Returned to tea, more rain fell & we remained indoors during the evening.

29 Mon- Having to start so soon I was up at 4·30 and had a 'mouch' round at 5.0 we had breakfast & at 6·35 got into a boat and were pulled across, not having the Steam launch at that side, the Sun rose over the water as we were on it. We were across by 7.5. The trap not yet being there, I went poking about and under a stone in an Ants nests I found nests made of leaves

each containing a grub & some food, I took these to be the work of Leaf-Cutter Bees & Shuse afterwards told me I was right when I gave him the nests. As we walked up the hill I saw a Bat flying up & down the road. The Coach came up at 7.10 and away we drove, in one place I saw some long poles set with snares for Parrots and over a fence was hung a spotted Dasyure. Had I had the gun with me I might have got several birds for we saw a good many during the long drive, we crossed the

ferry & the driver said we might catch an earlier train than we intended so he put on a spurt & landed into the Station as the train came in, got 8.17 train for Sydney, Sent Mrs P & Rose home in a Cab & I went to the Museum — As the New Governor, Lord Duff, lands to day All government Offices are to be closed at noon, we got away at 1.0 Spent my holiday in drawing the Tetrodon hypselogenion Mr Doran & Miss Roebuck called & invited us for the 9th June Called on the Landlord but learnt that the people had

not yet left the house. Saw only the housekeeper, Noticed that the Phyllurus raises its tail when annoyed and as this is by far more formidable than the ~~tail~~ head it is evidently a protective action. I had thought that the tail of say Lygosoma taeniolatum always came off at the same point but on taking hold of one it broke only a small part of it away & on retaining my hold of the Lizard, it broke off a further portion. The tail is not broken only when the tail is held for if I hold its body (which

I always) do it can snap off its tail itself -

30. Tues. Wrote to Mr Vause at Tempe, Dr Cox being in the Museum sent for me & asked me what I was doing he also asked me what instructions I had had & on telling him that I had to take over the charge of the Fishes & Reptiles from Whitelegge he further asked me what <u>written</u> instructions I had received. I had to say none and he was evidently annoyed, afterwards Sinclair came up & understood I had been <u>telling</u> Dr Cox that I had received no written instructions, he said that

he would see Dr Ramsay about the matter, I let him know that I did not volunteer the information but only answered the questions asked of me.

31 Wed, Received Cheque on the Union Bank £20. 16. 8 & was paid in notes, not even receiving a 1/2 Sovereign. Saw Landlords housekeeper who said the house would be at liberty next Monday and would be ready the following week, Bought a Silver Shell 6d for use in colouring the drawing of Fishes &c. This evening Brazier & Hedley proposed me as a member of Linnean Soc=

June -

1. Thur - To day I took the Shyllurus out of the box it appeared to be very lethar-gic & when I handled it it did nothing more than raise its tail to frighten me, all of a sudden however it bounded off on to the floor & scudded away quite rapidly, I soon caught it & in the evening I commenced to make a drawing of it. To day a Black Rat, (Mus rattus) was brought in, it is the first example in the flesh I think I have seen unless I saw the one alive in the Leeds Museum -

This Species is not unkommon about Sydney. it is the only one yet found running in the Museum, M decumanus is however Common & as in England and elsewhere it is driving its Smaller & weaker relative to the wall-

2 Fri. At 5.0 am I went into the market While there a Trygon pastinaca was brought in alive. Sinclair handed to me the Mammal and Skeleton registers asking me to take charge of them in addition to my own of Fishes and Reptiles in Consequence of Barrard's removal he having had them previously, Sinclair also Said

that he had seen the Dr (Ramsay) who understood that I gathered my instructions from his Conversation, they were to make myself acquainted by the Frolics and Reptiles of Australia; He had also thought that I understood I had his Consent to mount the Snakes in tubes as I had suggested. Paterson had asked me if I would like to go with him from Sat to Mon to a Selection at Mulgrave. To day however he said he had an invitation from Sam Horden, (the Whiteley of Australia trading as Anthony Horden) to spend Sunday in his steam Yatch' & to

take me with him. Horden had a bad year, last year. he cleared only £70.000 for absolute pocket money, and this was less than he had had for many a year. Rain & heavy rain too fell all day. in the steep hill in Wm St some of the gutters are a yard wide yet they well full & the water rushing down. I bought a duplex pocket lens from pawnbroker for 1/6.

3. Sat: Fine as possible again Dr Cox was at the Museum & sent for me to read a draft letter which he proposed to send to me. I will mention it further when I receive it.

After lunch we walked to Darling Point & I spent the afternoon fishing with small hooks I caught a small leather jacket (Monacanthus and 3 Centropogon australis, these latter were very lively one of them drove its spike into my finger causing a painful wound succeeded by numbness. They were very tenacious of life and one of them lived in water until next day. Made pencil outlines of both species in the evening.

4 Sun. Before breakfast I made a drawing of Centropogon Australis at 11.0 Paterson & I went down to the Wharf and aboard the 'Brougewing' Sam Horden's Steam

launch a magnificent little boat built at Cowes, I.W. beautifully fitted up, runs a dynamo for the electric light. We were quite an Aristocratic party, besides the Millionaire himself & his son, there was the Captain of the Mariposa just going out to San Frisco Tiverton & the Village Priest & Several Doctors & Dentists, with the Waiter & Engineer we were 22 in all. As soon as we got aboard we were all togged up in nautical attire & steamed away towards the heads seeing the fine harbour to perfection in the Sunshine just before reaching the

head we turned to the left up Middle Harbour & Continued for several miles until we got to shallower water when we let down the anchor & then took the 2 boats & pulled further up returned to the 'Brougewing' & had a magnificent dinner At. 3.0 we were off again & landed at the Wharfe at 5.0. In the evening I wrote to Wilfrid Rose doing so to Fanny, Had tea & spent part of the evening at Dr Ellis's

5 Mon. The following I cut from the "Sydney Herald" Jervis Bay 8 hours from Sydney

A four-masted ship, supposed to be the Talavera, from Liverpool, consigned to Messrs. Hoffnung and Co., was reported off Jervis Bay at 4.30 p.m. yesterday, in tow of the P. J. S. Company's steamer Irresistible. The Talavera is in charge of Captain Cleave; Captain Robson, here in the ship last voyage, being now at home superintending the building of a new ship, the Corunna, which he will next command.

JERVIS BAY.—June 4, schooner Willinga still in the bay. Passed: June 3, a schooner with black funnel at 7.30 a.m., south; schooner May Howard at 6 p.m., north; a schooner-ragged steamer at 6 p.m., south. June 4, Oonah (s.) at 12.15 p.m., north; tug Irresistible, with a large 4-masted painted port ship in tow, at 4.30 p.m., north.

At 3.0 I received a letter from Hoffnungs informing me that the Talavera had arrived, I at once went to them & was advised to see the Commissioner ~~of Customs~~ (Mr. Baxter) after a long interview he told me that he would pass my goods in free & that I must make a declaration which Hoffnungs would draw up for me— after dinner (6.30) we went to the Landlords, his housekeeper (Miss Matthews) said

the people had taken out part of the furniture and the remainder would be removed tomorrow, so that we should be able to store the cases in the yard as soon as we could get them taken up. to 43 Barcom Avenue. Received 3 Mercury Supplements from Father. I am now (at the Museum) working at the Typhlopidæ a very difficult and somewhat neglected group.

6. Tues: Received a notice from the Star Assurance Co re payment of premium, also the May "Naturalist" After Museum hours I went to

Hofmanns. They endorsed my Bill of Lading and Suggested Bros Son & Smith for the execution of the declaration, the Talavera would not commence to unload until 1. pm tomorrow To day has been fearfully wet, In the evening we saw Mrs Matthews received the unsatisfactory news that in consequence of the wet the retiring tenants of No 43. had not removed their goods. The following Cutting from the Sydney Herald of this morning shows the varied & miscellaneous Cargo which she has brought from Liverpool occupying 103 days.

Cutting

7. Wed.
During the morning I went to Bros Son & Smith & Signed the declaration, One of their men took me to Mr Baxter who endorsed the paper for free import, I arranged with him to deliver the Cases as soon as they were out of

the Talavera, at No 43 Barcom Avenue - Etheridge has been appointed Acting Curator during three months leave of absence granted to Ramsay. I spoke to R.E. about another room & he said he would see that I was properly fitted up. On leaving the Museum I walked to 298 Moore Park Road to see R Allum re our house I saw only his wife who said that her husband had told the outgoing tenant that if the goods were not out today they would be removed tomorrow morning to the Auction room - Re

the evening Mr Allum called & said the people were on the move and that his men had taken their implements into the house

8. Thur. After breakfast we went to the house & found all out, the painters were in & I chose the paper & the color of the paint &c &c. I went again at night & found the front bedroom finished, wrote Bros & Co. & asked them to let me have the 5 cases tomorrow if possible & to telephone me in the morning. To day I received the "instructions" worded as follows:——

"

Aust. Museum. 5th June 1893

Sir. You will be good enough to take up a minute examination & study of the Australian Snakes including their habits & life histories more particularly of the specimens in the Museum, to describe such new species as you find in the Collection; & to have a well labelled set exposed for view in one of the show Cases in the Museum. I would point out to you that it is intended to bring out a work on the Australian Snakes & with this object in view it would be as well for you to note all literature &

orginal descriptions & figures so far recorded of existing Species.

These instructions must not interfere with your duties in seeing to the welfare of the Collections of Fishes, Reptiles &c under your care generally."

I am

Yours truly

Ed. P Ramsay.

Curator

E R Waite Esq

Museum -"

Hedley told me that he had to go into Braziers room & had heard that I was booked for his (Hedley's) much better than mine -

I had given my negative of the Naples Biological Station to Barnes to make a negative for the Museum Album but he unfortunately cracked it before I myself had a print of it.

9 Fri. In response to my letter Brod & Co telephoned to say that in consequence of the bad weather my goods might be some time before they were unearthed. However just as I was leaving the Museum at 4.30. they telephoned again to say that 4 cases were on the way to Barcom Avenue but the other one was in the lower

hold + might be done time
went to Claremonts called
for Rose & proceeded to No
43. in due time the 4 Organ
Cases 'came' We had a bad
business to get them into
the yard the gate had to
be taken off & the cases were
very heavy however with
the assistance of another man
we got them in, in the rain
After dinner we returned to
the house & by aid of a
candle succeeded in clearing
one case.

19 Sat. When at the Museum
I asked Etheridge if I might
have an hour off in which
to work at the cases. He

told me to take the rest of the morning. Spent all day in opening the three remaining cases and in transferring the contents to Shelter for it rained very heavily at short intervals - the 2 fine limed cases gave me some trouble but I had bought a Soldering-iron 1/9.

10 Sun. Went to № 43 in the morning looked through the Birds, Eggs, and Insects some of the latter were more or less mouldy, found about 4 picture glasses broken and a few other damages but on the whole all was Satisfactory - In

the afternoon Rose and I dodging the showers under Verandahs we walked to Hoffnungs Wharf at Dawes Point & boarded the good Ship Talavera, a fine and large vessel, She had bad weather or would have made a much quicker passage for she is a Crack boat at sea & usually does 15 knots Some boys had a gull which they had just Caught I gave them 1/- for it and when I got to Clarence's cut the primaries of both wings. It is quite amusing to see its astonishment at not being able to raise

itself. On being put to the ground it made a few attempts to fly & then took to running about the room repeatedly rushed at the brown paper backing my address reared against the wall, after a while however it became much quieter.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

The following donations have been received during May :—

Mammalia.—Grey kangaroo (Macropus giganteus), wallaroo (Macropus robustus), Mr. T. Geale; common pouched mouse (Sminthopsis murinus), Mr. J. Mitchell.

Aves.—Sparrow, with malformed bill (Passa domesticus), Master A. Stephen; 6 beautiful grass finch (Poephila mirabilis), chestnut-breasted finch (Donacicola castancothorax), crimson-winged parrakeet (Aprosmictus erythropterus), rose-breasted cockatoo (Cacatua roseicapilla), Mr. O. Le Bon; collared sparrow-hawk (Accipiter cirrhocephalus), 8 white-backed crow-shrikes (Gymnorhina leuconota), 3 eggs white-backed crow-shrikes (Gymnorhina leuconota), Mr. A. M. N. Rose; white stork (Ciconia alba), 2 rose-winged flamingo (Phœnicopterus antiquorum), black swan (Cygnus atratus), trustees Zoological Society N.S.W.; Satin bower-bird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus), Mr. S. J. Fletcher; green oriole (Mimeta viridis), Mr. H. Newcombe; beautiful grass finch (Poephila mirabilis), Mr. F. W. Stewart; fire-tailed finch (Zonæginthus bella), Mr. A. J. North; satin bower-bird (Ptilonorhynchus violaceus), Mr. H. O. Rotton.

Reptilia.—Carpet snake (Morelia variegata), Stephen's snake (Hoplocephalus Stephensii), ringed snake (Vermicella annulata), Physignathus lesucurii, Mr. O. S. Pedley; 2 Pygopus lepidopus, Mr. A. M. N. Rose; frog (Batrachopis), Sir William Maegregor.

Pisces.—Serranus dœmeli, Mr. D. Macdermott; Cristiceps Australis, Mr. J. Miller; Opisthognathus jacksoniensis, Mr. T. Mulhall; Gobius bifrenatus, Mr. J. D. Ogilby.

Mollusca.—Scutus unguis var. corrugatus, Mr. Icely; collection of land and freshwater specimens (13 species, 86 specimens), Mr. R. Murdoch; 3 Meleagrina margaritifera, Avicula macroptera, Avicula sp., Perna sp., 2 Voluta narissi, 4 Cyprœa caput-serpentis, golden and silver lip mother-of-pearl, Mr. E. C. Hedges; collection of shells from British New Guinea, Sir William Macgregor.

Insecta.—Lepidoptera: Larva of case moth, in case (Metura elongata), Miss C. A. Wade; larva of (Danais erippus), Mr. E. R. Waite: chrysalis of Danais sp., Mr. W. A. Cuneo. Orthoptera: Cricket (Anostostoma australasiæ), Master F. C. Brazier; two Truxalis nasuta, Master E. Brazier. Coleoptera: Aterpus sp., Master E. Brazier; beetle (Calomela sp.), Hon. Dr. Norton. Hemiptera: Gigantic aquatic bug (Belostoma indica), Mr. James Macdonald. Diptera: Two chiromyza australis, Master E. Brazier. Collection of insects, Sir William Macgregor.

Arachnida.—Collection of arachnida, Sir Wm. Macgregor; scorpion (Tityus marmoratus), Master T. Air.

Crustacea.—Red-fingered crab (Sesarma erythrodactyla), Mr. E. R. Waite; two smooth mantis crab (Squilla laevis), Dr. J. C. Cox; two prawns (Penacus canaliculatus), hermit crab (Pagurus punctulatus), Mr. Icely.

Echinodermata.—Star fish (Iconaster longimanus), Mr. E. C. Hedges; 29 sea eggs (Breynia australasiæ), Mr. Icely.

Vermes.—Eunice aphroditois, Mr. A. Jenkins; planarian worm (Bipalium kewense), Mr. E T. Short.

Ethnological Specimens.—Two fishing lines made from hair of aborigines, Mr. E. C. Hedges; leonile, Mr. W. H. Hargrave; aboriginal tomahawk, Mr. G. A. Stonier.

Fossils.—Two large mammoth ivory tusks, Messrs. Burroughes and Watts.

Mineral.—Pebble of chalcedony, Mr. F. Chainie.

Photograph.—Print of Moloch horridus, Broken Hill, Mr. F. W. Wilcox.

SUNDAY TIMES, JUNE 11, 1893.

OUR CIVIL SERVICE.

Parkes and the Museum.

BEFORE proceeding to the consideration of two or three larger departments on which we have not yet touched, we will, in course of this article, remark upon some side errors of the system. By this time our readers, if they have followed us, must have gained a certain insight into the working of that system, and it will be therefore unnecessary to preface the present article with an introductory explanation.

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

first calls for attention. Against the principle of this admirable institution we have nothing to urge, but we must complain that like other branches of the Civil Service, more public money is expended upon it than necessity calls for. In order that our readers may more clearly understand how a little department can be made to cost a lot of money, we quote from the Estimates the following figures, showing the expenditure of the department under notice.

MUSEUM.

Curator	£600 ...	£580
Assistant in Zoology	250 ...	248
Assistant in Entomology	250 ...	248
Assistant in Palæontology	250 ...	248
Assistant in Mineralogy	220 ...	219
Assistant in Conchology, &c. ...	200 ...	200
Assistant in Invertebrate Zoology	200 ...	200
Assistant in Ornithology	200 ...	200
Draftsman and Lithographer ...	225 ...	224
Attendants	400 ...	400
Police Protection—Night Duty ...	256 ...	—
Total	£3051 ...	£2767

CONTINGENCIES

(Irrespective of date of claims).

To meet the expenses of Opening the Museum on Sundays (Note.—£100 of this goes to the Curator)	£300	...	£300
Collecting and purchasing Specimens and for purchase of Books...	1250	...	250
Scientific Catalogues, Museum Records and Printing	700	...	500
Additional Endowment for General Purposes	1000	...	800
Travelling Expenses	100	...	80
Specimen Bottles	50	...	
Temporary Quarters for Curator, during alterations	200	...	200
Show Cases, generally in various parts of the Museum	500	...	
Furniture...	50		
Special vote for cases and fittings for the Palæontological, Geological and Invertebrate Collections in the rooms of the new buildings	3000	...	2130
Total	£20,201	...	£4897

It is very much to be questioned whether the Curator of the institution is justified, under the circumstances, in demanding the services of

SO MANY ASSISTANTS,

each of whom, it will be noticed, is employed as a specialist. It is quite possible to secure the services of scientific gentlemen, who would have knowledge enough to combine the duties of two or more of the functions indicated! Indeed, coming straight to the question of retrenchment, the staff can very well be cut down about one half. Concerning the qualifications of the gentlemen now occupying these positions, we will say nothing. It will be remembered that some years age the Curator's chair was filled by Mr. Kraft, a scientist of undoubted learning and ability. From some cause or other Mr. Kraft and Sir Henry Parkes came into collision. The result, with 'aitchless arrogance on one side and the worldly inexperience of the *savant* on the other, can be readily guessed at. Parkes, whose chiefest aim in life is to pose as a literary man and a patron of genius, brutally ordered Mr. Kraft

which he occupied with infinite credit to himself and to the country, Kraft—a foreigner—imagining that his appointment under Government conferred on him certain legal rights, deferentially refused to go unless at the command of the Government. The minions of the vulgar Parkes, at their master's order, carried the Curator out of the Museum in his chair, and ordered him off. Poor Kraft, whose mind and soul were in the Museum, in a very short time broke his sensitive heart, and died. Parkes, the power-proud *dilettante*, who would have found his natural level long ago in any other country, has lived to offend the ears and afflict the sense of all intelligent people with his

"FIFTY YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY,"

in which the "Hi" that at no very remote period, according to the theory of progressive development, might have been identical with the *Ego* of some chattering chimpanzee, largely prevails. There have been worse men than poor Kraft in the Sydney Museum; men whose devotion to Bacchus was much more intense than their love for science. From one of these persons, whom, we believe, is now elsewhere, it at length became necessary to lock up the methylated spirits used in the Museum for preservative purposes. In fact it is even hinted that this person hastened his removal by finally resorting to the specimen jars in which snakes and fishes are preserved for exhibit for his liquid comforts. This was going for the "snakejuice" with a vengeance. It will be noticed from the Estimates quoted that the contingent expenses have been largely reduced this year, and that in all the cost of the Museum for 1893 is about £6000 less than in 1892. A special endowment of £1000 a year is also voted to this institution.