

to wander about at night, which, with other suspicious movements, had alarmed the natives, who, under the influence of their terrors, had murdered him.

Thus ended the useful life of one who had raised himself to eminence by his own exertions, and had, by his virtues and scientific acquirements, gained the esteem of all the pure and good of the colony, by whom he will be long affectionately and honourably remembered.

These grounds have many pleasant shady walks, and afford an agreeable promenade for the inhabitants of Sydney; and one of them encircles the whole, with occasionally a rural seat and arbour.\*

The aspect of the country around Sydney is sufficient to prove that New South Wales is very different, in its general features, from other parts of the globe. This is chiefly owing to two causes: the aridity of its climate, and the prevalence of sandstone rock. This rock may be readily examined at the Heads of Port Jackson, and on the shores of the many coves that surround this beautiful harbour. Its colour is pale yellow or drab, and it lies in beds nearly horizontal and of various thickness, whose upper surface, except where broken by ravines and water-courses, forms a table-land. The average elevation in the neighbourhood of Sydney is from three hundred and fifty to four hundred feet. At this level it extends in gentle undulations to a great distance inland.

This arid soil yields but a scanty growth of vegetable products, which, consisting of burnt pasture, and thinly-scattered trees and shrubbery, give to the whole region a look of desolation. The grass does not every where conceal the bare rock, and the thin soil supports only a few gum trees (*Eucalypti*), and bushes. Throughout the wide plain there is little to relieve the eye, except here and there a small cultivated spot.

As I did not consider it necessary that any of the naturalists should accompany the squadron on its southern cruise, they were left at Sydney, with orders to visit such parts of the country as might appear to offer the best opportunities for making collections in their respective departments.† This enabled me to obtain much information in rela-

\* At the end of the walk around the government domain, the following inscription is calculated to excite a smile: "Be it recorded, that this road round the inside of the government domain, called Mrs. Macquarie's Road, so called by the Governor on account of her having originally planned it, three miles and three hundred and seventy-seven yards in length, was finally completed on the 13th day of June, 1816."

Governor Macquarie has literally put his mark on the town of Sydney, where hardly a single street, square, or public building can be passed, without seeing his name cut in stone.

† For orders, propositions of officers, and letters respecting their employment, see Appendix XI.