

tion to the interior of this interesting country, its productions, and its original inhabitants. The narratives of several of these journeys will be given hereafter, but so much of what they learned as is general, together with such additional information as was gained from other sources, will form an appropriate introduction to the account of their tours.

The interior of the country, for a distance of sixty or eighty miles to the north and south of Sydney, presents the same characters which have just been described, except that deep gorges are from time to time met with, and that some parts of it are of a more undulating character.

On proceeding inwards from the coast, the country at a distance seems to be traversed by ridges, but on approaching their apparent position, they melt away into rounded elevations, of very gradual inclination. Still farther to the westward, the undulating region is bounded by inaccessible declivities and lofty mural precipices. These are the edges of the Blue Mountains, which are seen from Sydney, skirting the horizon like low hills, which have so little appearance of elevation that it at first seems to be difficult to conjecture how they came to be called mountains, when seen only from the coast. This ridge runs north and south, and rises at some points to the height of three thousand five hundred feet.

It is not many years since this ridge was considered as inaccessible, and the deep gorges which intersect its sandstone rocks as impassable. Its peaks rise in many places abruptly, and present such difficulties, as to have deterred travellers from attempting to scale their summits, or from seeking a passage through the ravines, which in the season of rains are swept by impetuous torrents.

The same description will apply to the mountains which bound the Illawarra district to the west, where sandstone also occurs, broken into precipitous heights, and deep gorges. At the Kangaroo Pass, the Illawarra Mountain is nearly two thousand feet high; its rapid acclivity is covered with a dense vegetation, until within three hundred feet of the summit; whence upwards a perpendicular face of rock is exposed. The path through this pass winds among the narrow breaks of the rock, and is toilsome to both beast and rider.

In one of the gorges which open upon this pass is a beautiful waterfall. The deep narrow glen opens abruptly upon the passenger, and exhibits its bare rocks, and the tiny stream is seen leaping from one projection of the rocky shelves to another, which break its headlong course, until, lost in spray, it reaches the bottom, where its waters collect, at the depth of two hundred and fifty feet below its upper edge,