

in a limpid pool. This gorge opens to the westward, and looks out upon a mountain range.

Seven miles further, a descent by a similar path leads into the Kangaroo Valley. This valley is nearly twenty miles in length, and has an average breadth of about three miles; it is surrounded on all sides by vertical precipices, from one thousand to one thousand eight hundred feet in height.

In consequence of the aridity which has been mentioned as a character of the soil about Sydney, and which is also a prevailing character throughout the rest of the country, there are many continuous miles of waste lands, which by the inhabitants are called "forests." These are very different from what we understand by the term, and consist of gum trees (*Eucalypti*), so widely scattered that a carriage may be driven rapidly through them without meeting any obstruction, while the foliage of these trees is so thin and apparently so dried up as scarcely to cast a shade. Thus miles may be traversed in these forests without impediment. A few marshy spots are occasionally seen, covered with thickets of brush; and in other places there are tracts so dry that even the gum tree will not grow upon them, and which receive the direct and scorching rays of the sun.

The exceptions to this general character are found in the occasional rising of basalt in conical peaks. The productions of the soil where this rock prevails, are in striking contrast to those of the arid lands of the sandstone formations; and the geological character of a basaltic ridge can be detected at a distance by the luxuriant vegetation with which it is clothed. These ridges become more and more frequent as the distance from the coast increases, and are occasionally interspersed with granite.

The latter rock is first seen in the Clwyd Valley, near Mount Victoria, and about eighty miles from Sydney. This valley lies in the western mountain range, which separates the waters that flow towards the east and west. The land falls gradually to the westward, until, in the Darling Valley, at a distance of four hundred miles, it is only about four hundred feet above the sea.

For some distance beyond Mount Victoria, granite characterizes some extensive ridges, and basaltic mountains are occasionally combined with those of granite.

Beyond Bathurst, about one hundred and twenty miles to the west of Sydney, a compact limestone, in which there are many caverns, occurs between ridges of granite and basalt; but, according to Major Mitchell, the sandstone reappears on proceeding further west, towards